

PACIFIC FORUM
INTERNATIONAL

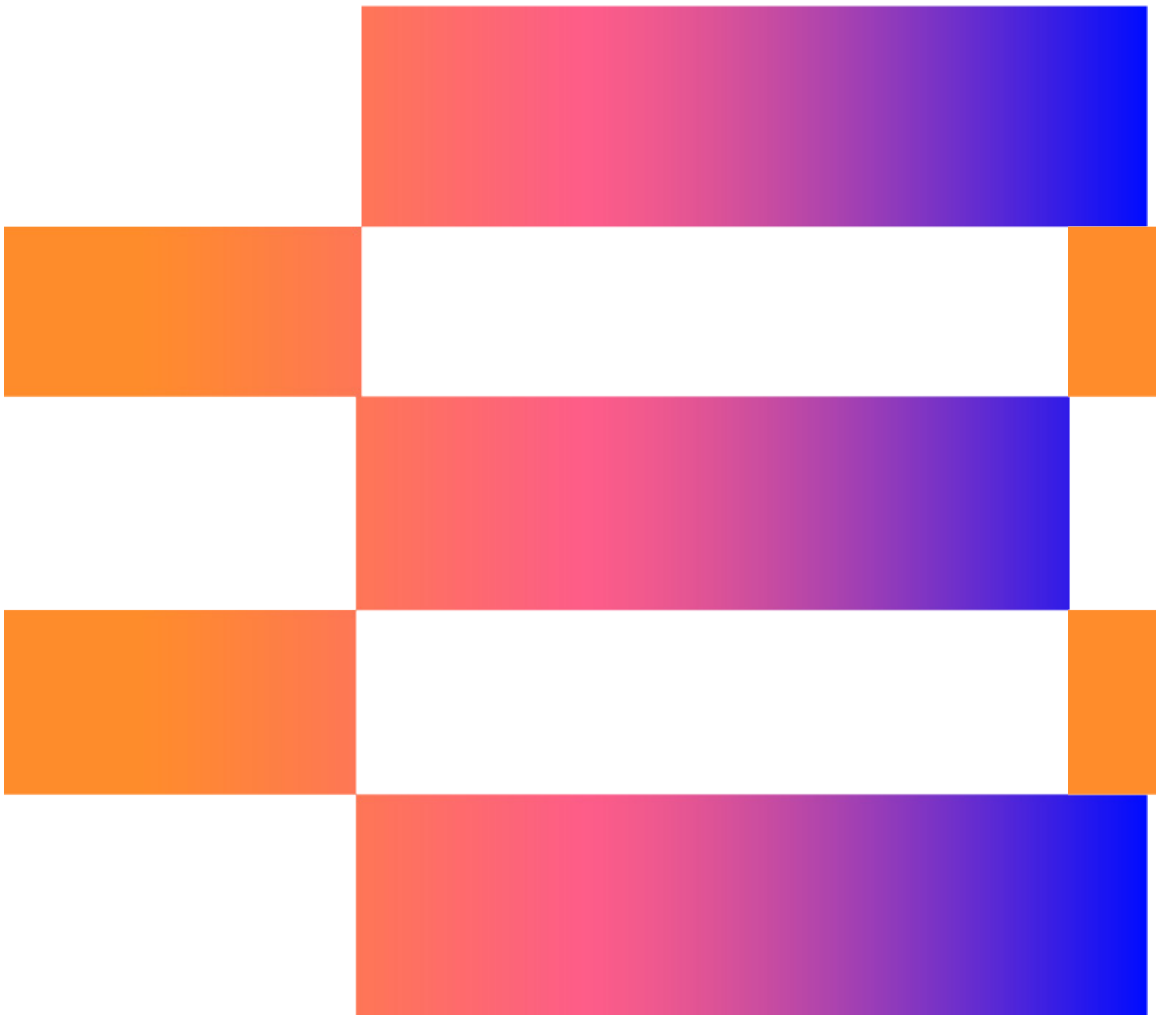


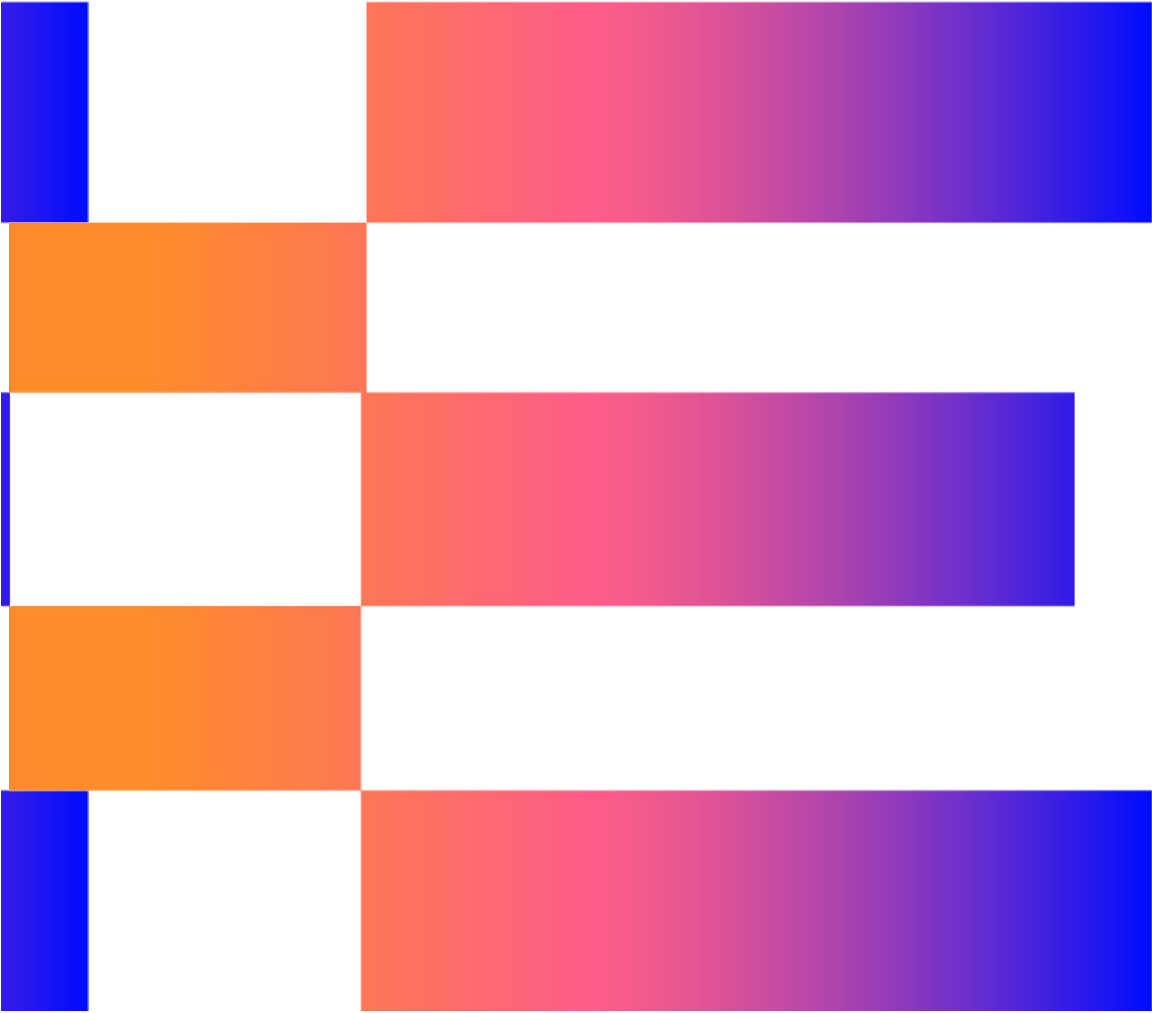
東京大学 先端科学技術研究センター
Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology
The University of Tokyo

CONVERGE

INDO-PACIFIC
CRITICAL TECH
FORUM 2024

October 10-11, 2024
Research Center for Advanced
Science and Technology
University of Tokyo





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Pacific Forum

Based in Honolulu, Pacific Forum International (Pacific Forum) is a foreign policy research institute focused on the Asia-Pacific Region. Founded in 1975, Pacific Forum collaborates with a broad network of research institutes around the Pacific Rim, drawing on Asian perspectives and disseminating project findings and recommendations to global leaders, governments, and members of the public throughout the region. The Forum's programs encompass current and emerging political, security, economic, and technology policy issues, and work to help stimulate cooperative policies through rigorous research, analyses, and dialogue.

CONVERGE: The Indo-Pacific Critical Tech Forum

is supported by the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at the US Department of State and implemented by Pacific Forum's Cybersecurity and Critical Technologies program.



東京大学 先端科学技術研究センター

Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology
The University of Tokyo

RCAST

The Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), the newest institute attached to the University of Tokyo, aims to contribute to the development of science and technology by expeditiously taking on new challenges arising from the advancement of science and coincident changes in society, and by exploring new areas of advanced science and technology for the benefit of humankind and society since its establishment in 1987. More than 40 eponymous labs for a wide variety of specialized fields are pursuing advanced research in science and technology as well as in social sciences and the field of barrier-free research. We extend these research areas over a wide range, from basic and applied fields further to the social system.

For more information, visit
<https://converge.pacforum.org>





CONTEXT

The Indo-Pacific is at the forefront of a technology revolution. In the coming decades, deployment of critical and emerging technologies (CET), such as artificial intelligence (AI) will create trillions of dollars of value for Indo-Pacific economies. Conversely, Indo-Pacific countries will play a pivotal role in the realignment of resilient supply chains essential to CET industries, particularly semiconductors.

Technology collaboration in the Indo-Pacific is also enormously complex. Collaboration and governance occur on multiple interacting levels, including bilateral, regional, and multilateral groupings and institutions. There is a limited understanding of how these interactions affect cross-border research and development (R&D), investment, and commercialization on a practical level. Examining the challenges and opportunities facing different CET actors operating in the Indo-Pacific in these specific technology verticals offers a means to identify best practices for enhancing Indo-Pacific tech cooperation while building trust between existing stakeholders.



CONVERGE

INDO-PACIFIC
CRITICAL TECH
FORUM 2024

CONVERGE is a Track 2 dialogue that aims to BASELINE key technical, policy, and operational approaches of select Indo-Pacific countries on AI and semiconductors to HARMONIZE efforts and to achieve INTEROPERABLE tech collaboration between public and private actors operating in different contexts and borders.

Mindful that tech innovation does not occur in a vacuum, **CONVERGE** will undertake a pragmatic approach to research and dialogue by equally emphasizing research, policy and industry perspectives to ensure that the insights and recommendations generated are feasible in the real-world setting.

CONVERGE adopts an inclusive approach to CET collaboration, engaging experts, practitioners, and thought leaders from government, industry, academia, and civil society in the US, Japan, Australia, India, Singapore, and the Philippines.



APPROACH

As **CONVERGE** aims to benchmark the current state of regulatory frameworks and initiatives to forge closer academia-policy-industry engagements, it will focus on five indicators that are vital to achieving impactful CET collaboration:

- Economic security and supply-chain resilience
- Cybersecurity and risk management
- AI and data governance
- Capacity-building
- International partnerships and collaboration

To further deepen and expand the insights and findings from the forum, select experts from the US, Japan, Australia, India, Singapore, and the Philippines will conduct qualitative and quantitative research based on the five indicators. Using contextual analysis, case studies, and personal reflections, the experts are expected to inductively expand and further enrich the data from the dialogue.



OUTCOME

The key findings and recommendations from **CONVERGE** shall be published in the Critical Technologies Policy (CTP) Playbook to support an evidence-based policy approach and advance risk and trust-based guidelines on the development and deployment of AI and semiconductors among the public and private sectors.

Based on the outcomes of the regional forum, and country-specific research, the CTP playbook balances a general guiding structure to CET collaboration, while embracing nuance and flexibility. Such an approach will allow the CTP Playbook to provide holistic and practical policy recommendations to reduce barriers and identify pathways for a more conducive environment that permits the flow of tech, talent, and investments. The CTP Playbook will contribute to establishing a secure and collaborative innovation ecosystem, thus, building confidence and trust in the Indo-Pacific.



AGENDA


DAY 1

**2F Conference Room, Building #4 Komaba II Campus
Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology
(RCAST), The University of Tokyo**

- 8:30 AM** **REGISTRATION**
Speakers and participants arrive
- 9:00 AM** **Welcome Remarks**
Alan R. Turley
Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs,
U.S. Embassy in Tokyo
- 9:30 AM** CONFERENCE PHOTO
- 9:45 AM** **Session 1: Setting the Context**
Mark Bryan Manantan
Director of Cybersecurity and Critical
Technologies, Pacific Forum

This session will provide an overview of **CONVERGE**, stating the project's main goal of building a collaborative regional environment that supports a dynamic tech ecosystem. It will outline the forum's key questions:

- What are the short- and long-term opportunities and challenges among the US, Japan, Australia, India, Singapore and the Philippines on artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductors?

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- How can the Indo-Pacific region make its approach interoperable to adopting standards and frameworks on technology governance, economic security, data flows, research and development, and capacity-building to enhance international tech collaboration?
 - How can policymakers, professionals, and experts ease regulatory frictions and raise capacity to achieve international partnerships and collaboration?

To ground the forum’s discussions, this session will provide a common definition of AI and semiconductors, and how such technologies relate to one another. It will also outline the thematic structure of the forum based on the five dimensions that are vital to achieving policy interoperability to facilitate collaboration: (i) Economic security, (ii) Cybersecurity standards and supply chain resilience, (iii) AI and Data governance, (iv) Capacity-building and (v) International partnerships and collaboration.

10:00 AM

Session 2: The State of International Critical Technologies Collaboration

To kick off the forum, key experts from the US, Japan, Australia, India, and Southeast Asia will share their perspectives on the current state of tech disruption and innovation from their respective countries with a narrow focus on AI and/or semiconductors.

Chair:
Brad Glosserman,
Senior Advisor, Pacific Forum



DAY 1



Panelists:

Martijn Rasser
Chief Strategy Officer, Datenna

Danielle Cave
Director - Executive, Strategy & Research
Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Masaru Tsuchiya, Ph.D.
Partner, McKinsey & Company

Col. Anurag Awasthi
Vice President of India Electronics and
Semiconductors Association

Maria Monica Wihardja, Ph.D.
Visiting fellow
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

11:30 AM

**Session 3: Economic Security and
Supply Chain Resilience**

With the increasing move towards de-risking, speakers in this session will focus on evolving technology control regimes concerning export control and foreign direct investment screening to semiconductors and AI. It will assess how each country is adapting to the ongoing bifurcation of supply-chains, proliferation of industrial tech policies, and securitization of trade, talent and investments. It will also focus on the opportunities for bolstering resilience and cooperation.

Chair:

Akira Igata,
Project Lecturer, RCAST, University of Tokyo



Panelists:

Erik Pederson
Director of Government Relations,
Samsung Semiconductor

Susumu Shuto, Ph.D.
Expert, Strategic Planning Division, Toshiba

Mary Lyn Serdoncillo
Global Logistics Trade Compliance and
Control Tower – IBM Philippines

Konark Bhandari
Fellow, Carnegie India

George Tan
President, Centre for Asia Pacific Trade
Compliance and Information Security

1:00 PM

LUNCH

**Keynote Address: Indo-Pacific Critical Tech –
Perspective from Europe**

Mr. Michiel Sweers
Vice Minister, Foreign Economic Relations
Kingdom of the Netherlands

2:00 PM

**Session 4: Cybersecurity and Risk-
Management**

This session will focus on the digital and physical security threats confronting AI and semiconductors. Speakers will examine the rising concerns about cyber-enabled intellectual property (IP) theft through cyber operations and/or insider threats. It will also canvass the existing frameworks in place



DAY 1



on international technical standards and risk-management frameworks against cyberattacks, adversarial AI, and supply chain compromise.

Chair:

Mark Manantan, Pacific Forum

Panelists:

Ben Scott

Senior Advisor, National Security College
Australian National University

Daisuke Kawai
Project Assistant Professor,
RCAST University of Tokyo

Manoj Harjani
Research Fellow, RSIS Singapore

Amy Chang
AI Security Researcher
Robust Intelligence

Mina Takazawa
Government Affairs Director, Corporate,
External and Legal Affairs, Microsoft

Tsutomu Shimizu
Sr. Manager
Trend Micro Incorporated


3:30 PM

COFFEE / TEA BREAK

3:40 PM

Session 5: AI and Data Governance

While most countries adhere to a human-centric approach to governing AI-enabled technologies, variances still exist given the different socio-cultural contexts, digital maturity, and innovation



capability of each country. Also, some countries are encouraging data localization and promoting digital sovereignty that may restrict or limit cross-border data flow. Speakers in this session will also explore various mechanisms, and best practices on how the public and the private sector can enhance data privacy and security while still permitting the exchange and flow of data.

Chair:

Merve Hickok
President and CEO, Center for AI and Digital Policy

Panelists:

Hiroki Habuka
Research Professor, Kyoto University Graduate School of Law

Sandy Kunvatanagarn
Head, Asia Pacific
Open AI

Ralph Regalado
Founder and CEO, Senti AI

Isha Suri
Research lead, Center for Internet and Society

5:20 PM

Day 1 Recap

5:30 PM

End of Day 1

**6:30 /
7:00 PM**

RECEPTION DINNER



DAY 1



DAY 2

9:30 AM **REGISTRATION**

10:00 AM **Welcome Remarks**

This session will recap the key findings from Day 1, emphasizing the opportunities and challenges that the USA, Japan, Australia, India, and Southeast Asia may face toward harmonization of standards and frameworks on economic security, cybersecurity, and governance of emerging technologies.

10:15 AM **Keynote address: Raising Capacity in the Indo-Pacific**

Ryo Funakoshi
Director For Information Policy Planning,
Commerce and Information Policy Bureau

10:30 AM **Session 6: Capacity-Building**

The lack of skilled labor is a common challenge among all countries on their tech innovation journey. In this session, speakers will probe various means and strategies to facilitate the smooth exchange of professionals and experts from each country. It will also discuss the role of the private sector in collaborating with the industry and academia to provide upskilling and reskilling opportunities to fill in the widening talent deficit.

Chair:

Kristi Govella, Ph.D.
Adjunct fellow, Pacific Forum
Associate Professor, University of Oxford



Panelists:

Ryo Funakoshi
Director For Information Policy Planning,
Commerce and Information Policy Bureau

Chaitanya Giri, Ph.D.
Fellow, Centre for Security,
Strategy and Technology
Observer Research Foundation-India

Aiko Shimizu
Director of AI National Skills, Microsoft

Louis Alarcon, Ph.D.
Professor, Electrical and Electronics Institute
University of the Philippines

Jeff Penrose
Cofounder and Chief Operating Officer,
EarlyBird

**12:00 -
1:15 PM**

LUNCH AND LEARN

**Discussion of the Critical Technologies Policy
(CTP) Playbook Country Brief**

As a working lunch, participants will be divided into their respective countries to discuss the CTP survey and the playbook using five dimensions: (i) Economic security and Supply chain resilience, (ii) Cybersecurity and Risk Management, (iii) AI and data governance, (iv) Capacity-building and (v) International partnerships.

2:00 PM

**Session 7: International Partnerships and
Collaboration (Public Forum)**

ENEOS Hall, Building #3-S, Komaba II Campus

**DAY
2**



Building on the forum's overall findings and analysis, this final wrap-up session will discuss the path forward to improve policy alignment among the US, Japan, Australia, India, Singapore, and the Philippines to achieve tangible collaboration in research and development, boost foreign direct investments, and capacity-building on AI and semiconductors to cultivate a tech-ready Indo-Pacific.

Chair:

Akira Igata, RCAST

Panelists:

Merve Hickok

President and CEO, Center for AI and Digital Policy

Col. Anurag Awasthi

Vice President of India Electronics and Semiconductors Association

Francis Quimba, Ph.D.

Senior Research Fellow, Philippine Institute of Development Studies

Maria Monica Wihardja, Ph.D.

Visiting fellow

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Susan Travis

Head of Research

Tech Council Australia

3:15 PM

Q&A

3:45 PM

Closing Remarks

4:00 PM

End of CONVERGE

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Alan R. Turley
Minister Counselor for
Commercial Affairs,
U.S. Embassy in Tokyo

Alan Turley is the Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. He leads a team of 36 U.S. Commercial Service professionals in Tokyo and Osaka that is dedicated to promoting closer trade and economic ties between the United States and Japan. The CS Japan team promotes U.S. exports to Japan, encourages Japanese direct investment into the United States, works to improve the trade and investment climate in Japan and advises the leadership in the Department of Commerce on trade-policy issues regarding the bilateral commercial relationship.

Prior returning to Tokyo, Mr. Turley was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for China and Mongolia in Washington D.C., where he was responsible for International Trade Administration (ITA) programs in those markets. From 2002 to 2016, Mr.



Turley was Vice President for International Affairs in Asia Pacific for FedEx Express. Twice a winner of FedEx's coveted "Five Star Award", Mr. Turley helped manage FedEx's rapid growth and expansion in Asia, including the building of China's first international air express hub, the founding of FedEx's wholly-owned operations in China, and the approval of FedEx's purchase of TNT Express.

Mr. Turley's previous service in the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service started in 1986 in Japan, where he headed the Major Projects and Transportation Equipment Unit. Mr. Turley then served as the Director of the Commercial Service's International Marketing Center at the U.S. Embassy in London before moving back to Asia to become Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the American Institute in Taiwan. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. Turley was the Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and after that service he returned to Japan to serve in the same capacity at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Alan Turley was educated in public schools in Cheshire Connecticut and was graduated from the University of Virginia with High Honors in 1983. After receiving his B.A., Mr. Turley spent two years studying Chinese in Taiwan at National Taiwan Normal University's Mandarin Training Center.



Mark Bryan Manantan

Director of Cybersecurity and Critical Technologies, Pacific Forum

Mark Bryan Manantan is the lead investigator of CONVERGE and the Director of Cybersecurity and Critical Technologies at the Pacific Forum in Honolulu, Hawaii. At the Forum, he leads the US Technology and Security partnerships with Japan, Australia, Taiwan, and South Korea as well as the Cyber ASEAN cyber-capacity building project.

Currently, he is a member of UNESCO's AI Experts Without Borders and serves on the institutional advisory board of the Australian National University's Philippines Institute. Mr. Manantan is a non-resident fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Chengchi University, Taiwan and formerly a research consultant at the Asia Society Policy Institute Washington, DC. He has held research fellowships at the Japan Foundation the Center for Rule-Making Strategies at Tama University in Tokyo, Japan, and the East-West Center, Washington, DC.



Brad Glosserman

Senior Advisor, Pacific Forum

Brad Glosserman is deputy director of and visiting professor at the Tama University Center for Rule Making Strategies and senior advisor for Pacific Forum. For 15 years, he was the executive director of



Pacific Forum. He is the author, with Gil Rozman, of *Japan's Regional and Global Role: 2013-2023 A Momentous Decade* (Routledge, 2024), *Peak Japan: The End of Grand Ambitions* (Georgetown University Press, 2019), and co-author, with Scott Snyder, of *The Japan-ROK Identity Clash* (Columbia University Press, 2015). He has a weekly column in the *Japan Times* and has been a contributing editor there since 1991. His opinion pieces and commentary regularly appear in media around the globe, and he has written dozens of monographs on U.S. foreign policy and Asian security relations.



Akira Igata

**Project Lecturer, RCAST,
University of Tokyo**

Akira Igata is a Project Lecturer at the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo. He is also an Adjunct Senior Fellow at Pacific Forum, a US-based think tank, Senior Fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), and a Non-Executive Director at the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC). He advises the Japanese government, bureaucracy, and the private sector in various capacities.



Martijn Rasser

Chief Strategy Officer, Datenna

Martijn Rasser is managing director of Datenna, a company specializing in techno-economic intelligence on China. In this role, he manages the company's U.S. operations. Mr. Rasser previously was a senior fellow and director of the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, director of analysis at Kyndi, and chief of staff at Muddy Waters Capital. He is a former CIA officer.



Danielle Cave

**Director - Executive, Strategy & Research
Australian Strategic Policy Institute**

Danielle has worked in the field of international security - across government and non-government - for two decades. She has led large and diverse teams focused on the Indo-Pacific, China and emerging security challenges ranging from technology & cyber issues to foreign interference and disinformation. She currently leads teams which span the Executive Director's office, project development and large strategic initiatives including the Sydney Dialogue, a geopolitics and technology summit. She is an author of ASPI's largest project, the Critical Technology Tracker. Her work has been published globally, including in the NYT, WSJ, Washington Post, FT and across other outlets.



Masaru Tsuchiya, Ph. D.

Partner, McKinsey & Company

Masaru leads the Semiconductor Practice and Battery Accelerator Team in the Asia-Pacific region. He works across multiple industrial sectors, including batteries, hydrogen, materials, and semiconductors. As a member of our leadership team in advanced industries, Masaru collaborates with clients across sectors on operational, transformational, and strategic initiatives. He also holds leadership roles in our Sustainability Practice, working closely with management to define a plan and deliver impact.



Maria Monica Wihardja, Ph.D.

Visiting Fellow

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Dr Maria Monica Wihardja is a Visiting Fellow and Co-Coordinator for the Media, Technology and Society Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. She has a PhD in Regional Science (Cornell University), an MPhil in Economics (Cambridge University), and a BA in Applied Mathematics-Economics (Brown University).



Col. Anurag Awasthi

Vice President of India Electronics and Semiconductors Association

A graduate of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, Higher Command Course and Indian School of Business, Anurag has over two and a half decades of rich experience in the Indian Army and in the corporate sector.

As Vice President of the premier industry body in semiconductors, he is steering Semiconductor & ESDM Policy to include engagements at both Centre, States and various countries. An accomplished public speaker in national and international events, policy forums and institutes of eminence, he is a very well-known columnist on semiconductors, geopolitics and critical technologies in both national and international media.



Erik Pederson

Director of Government Relations, Samsung Semiconductor

Erik Pederson is Director of Government Affairs at Samsung Semiconductors in Washington, D.C. where he works with Congress and the Administration on the business' policy priorities. Prior to his time at Samsung, Erik was director of government affairs at the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA). He also served in multiple appointed positions at the U.S. Department of State and on Capitol Hill for his home-state Senator Tom Daschle.



Susumu Shuto, Ph.D.

**Expert, Strategic Planning Division,
Toshiba**

Susumu Shuto joined Toshiba in 1991 and has been pivotal in developing NAND Flash Memory. He later contributed to the R&D of novel memory technologies such as FeRAM and MRAM. From 1999 to 2001, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University. Since 2012, he has engaged in activities to enhance work and production efficiency using statistics, data science, and process improvement initiatives, and has also worked on technology planning. He is currently working on export control and economic security. He holds a Master of Science from Nagoya University (1991) and a PhD in Engineering from Yokohama National University (2022).



George Tan

**President, Centre for Asia Pacific Trade
Compliance and Information Security**

George Tan – is a semiconductor and IT industry stalwart, he led the export control team at a PwC and a US legal firm; Bryan Cave, helping to grow and develop that practice in Asia. George started to get involved in export control since 1985. He is familiar with Asian export control regimes and is an advisor to multinational corporations, small & medium enterprises and sovereign clients on strategic goods controls, with a particular focus on compliance and enforcement.



Mary Lyn Serdoncillo

Global Logistics Trade Compliance and Control Tower – IBM Philippines

Mary Serdoncillo is a Trade Compliance Coordinator at IBM, overseeing logistics trade compliance in the Philippines. With over a decade of IT industry experience, she ensures compliance with local and international laws to optimize efficiency and reduce costs. Mary is also the Country Export Regulations Coordinator, focusing on Customs and STMO compliance. A skilled leader, she manages teams, collaborates with stakeholders, and delivers results. Certified in communication, agile, and client service, Mary is an expert in import/export procedures and various compliance areas, including DPL Screening and Internal Compliance Programs.



Konark Bhandari

Fellow, Carnegie India

Konark is a lawyer who contributes regularly to discussions on the semiconductor ecosystem, with his contributions being acknowledged in the SIA-IESA semiconductor “readiness assessment” report under the iCET (initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies) between the U.S. and India. He has also researched certain areas in the digital economy, focusing primarily on approaches to antitrust regulation of companies in the digital realm. He had earlier worked at India’s antitrust regulator – the Competition Commission of India (CCI), where he was a member of the Internal Coordination Committee on the Think Tank on Digital Markets.



Michiel Sweers

**Vice Minister, Foreign Economic Relations
Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Michiel Sweers is Deputy Director-General for Enterprise & Innovation and Director of the Innovation & Knowledge Department at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. Mr Sweers started his professional career in 1996 at the Ministry of Finance as an economic policy adviser. Following this, he worked as deputy head of the Budget Policy Division and as head of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantees Division. Between 2006 and 2010 he was Deputy Director of the Labour Market and Socioeconomic Affairs Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. His last position saw him return to the Ministry of Finance, where he served as Deputy Director-General for Tax & Customs Policy and Legislation. In this capacity, he chaired and participated in several advisory committees on tax reform.

In his current post as Director of the Innovation & Knowledge Department, Mr Sweers is responsible for Dutch innovation policy. This includes national innovation instruments and budgets, promoting public-private partnerships through the 'Top Sector Approach', multilateral and bilateral innovation cooperation, space policy, and intellectual property policy. As Deputy Director-General for Enterprise & Innovation, he is also active in the broader area of enterprise policy.



Ben Scott

**Senior Advisor, National Security College
Australian National University**

Ben Scott is a Senior Advisor at the National Security College. He has over 25 years' experience in diplomacy, think tanks, intelligence and international development. His last job was at the Lowy Institute, where he directed a project on Australia's Security and the Rules-Based Order and at the Office of National Intelligence (ONI), which he represented in Washington, DC from 2016-2020. Ben has published widely on national security decision making, international order, US grand strategy and competition with China, cyber strategy and intelligence.



Manoj Harjani

Research Fellow, RSIS Singapore

Manoj Harjani is a Research Fellow and Coordinator in the Military Transformations Programme (MTP) within the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. Prior to joining MTP, Manoj was part of the Future Issues and Technology research cluster at RSIS, where he worked on building up the school's research agenda and networks at the intersection of science, technology, and national security.



Daisuke Kawai
Project Assistant Professor, RCAST,
University of Tokyo

Daisuke Kawai is a Project Assistant Professor and the Deputy Director of the Economic Security Program at RCAST, The University of Tokyo. He also holds the position of Senior Researcher at the Keio SFC Institute, Asia Fellow at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), and the Strategic Advisor to the Quad Investors Network (QUIN).

Previously, he was a Research Fellow for Indo-Pacific Affairs at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), and Research Fellow at GRIPS. In 2024, he has been nominated as a David Rockefeller Fellow (DRF) of the Trilateral Commission, and the head of DRF Asia-Pacific Group.



Amy Chang
AI Security Researcher
Robust Intelligence

Amy Chang is an AI Security Researcher at Robust Intelligence, where she researches new and emerging threats in the field of AI security and safety.



Mina Takazawa

**Government Affairs Director, Corporate,
External and Legal Affairs, Microsoft Japan**

Mina Takazawa is the Director of Government Affairs at CELA Microsoft Japan, where she has developed advocacy strategies on the company's most critical business and regulatory issues. Her areas for focus are cybersecurity and sustainability. Prior to this, she was a Japanese diplomat since 2003, having served as Senior Policy Coordinator for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Political Counsellor at the Japan Embassy in Russia, and as a First Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Japan Embassy in the US.



Merve Hickok

**President and CEO,
Center for AI and Digital Policy**

Merve Hickok is the President of Center for AI & Digital Policy. She is also a Council on Foreign Relations and Hitachi International Affairs Fellow, conducting AI policy research in Japan. She is a policy expert on AI, human rights and democratic values at UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and OECD. She previously testified at the US Congress and State of California. Merve's book 'From Trustworthy AI Principles to Public Procurement Practices' – is the first book on public procurement of AI. She has been recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award - Women in AI of the Year.



Hiroki Habuka

**Research Professor, Kyoto University
Graduate School of Law**

Specializing in agile governance, Hiroki is the author of the book "Introduction to AI Governance."



Sandy Kunvatanagarn

**Head, Asia Pacific
Open AI**

Sandy is OpenAI's head of policy for the Asia Pacific region. Previously, she held several policy and governance roles at Meta, served as a U.S. diplomat, and led the International Rescue Committee's legal access program for displaced persons along the Thai-Myanmar border.



Ralph Regalado

Founder and CEO, Senti AI

Ralph is the founder and is the current Chief Executive Officer of Senti.AI, the leading AI company in the Philippines. With eight years of experience as an educator and researcher at De La Salle University, Manila, he expanded his boundaries and help organizations adapt to AI. His research work is focused on applying Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence in advancements in Philippine Language, sentiment analysis, and disaster management. He was selected and recognized by Google as one of the global Google Developer Experts for Machine Learning since 2019.



Isha Suri

**Research Lead,
Center for Internet and Society**

Isha Suri is a Research Lead at the Centre for Internet and Society, India where she manages the research verticals on telecommunications, digital competition, internet governance and new and emerging technology. She co-authored the Market Study on the Telecom Sector in India (2021), commissioned by the Competition Commission of India and is a member of several research bodies including the Data Governance Network, India, and the India Internet Governance Forum. She has also worked as a consultant with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India.



Ryo Funakoshi

**Director For Information Policy Planning,
Commerce and Information Policy Bureau**

Since April 2024, Director Funakoshi have been working on AI policy at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Previously, he worked as a patent examiner at the Japan Patent Office (JPO). At JPO his responsibilities also included negotiations with foreign patent offices regarding intellectual property data, conducting patent application technology trend surveys, and supporting corporate IP strategies. He has experience working as an economist at the OECD, and he also worked in intellectual property operations in the medical healthcare field at Osaka University.



Chaitanya Giri, Ph.D.

**Fellow, Centre for Security,
Strategy and Technology
Observer Research Foundation-India**

Fellow at the Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation, India.



Kristi Govella, Ph.D.

**Adjunct Fellow, Pacific Forum
Associate Professor, University of Oxford**

Kristi Govella is Associate Professor of Japanese Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of St. Antony's College. Her research examines the intersection of economics, security, and governance in the Indo-Pacific, including economic statecraft, government-business relations, regional institutions, alliances, and global commons governance. She is an Adjunct Fellow at East-West Center and Pacific Forum and Editor of the journal Asia Policy. She previously held positions at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Harvard University, and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.



Aiko Shimizu

**Director of AI National Skills,
Corporate, External and Legal Affairs
(CELA), Microsoft**

Aiko Shimizu is the AI National Skills Director at Microsoft and an Adjunct Fellow at the Pacific Forum.

Prior to her current role, Aiko held various roles, including at Twitter, BMW and Daimler urban mobility joint venture SHARE NOW, Bloomberg, the United Nations, and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Aiko received her graduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). She received her Bachelor's degree with Honors in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Chicago.



Susan Travis

**Head of Research
Tech Council of Australia**

Susan leads the Tech Council's research program. She is an economist with experience across the public and private sectors. At the Tech Council, Susan leads the work on major reports such as 'Shots on Goal' and ongoing initiatives including the official tech jobs numbers in partnership with the Australian Government.



Jeff Penrose

**Cofounder and Chief Operating Officer,
EarlyBirds**

Jeff is an experienced private and public sector executive leader and manager and seasoned innovator. His first career was in the Australian Federal Government in law enforcement working in transnational and organised crime. He then moved to the private sector operating from the UK and Australia for global IT startups, large multinational tech companies, systems integrators and consulting before creating EarlyBirds with Kris Poria. In recent years, he has been engaged with Australian and allied nations defence, national security and Fortune 500 companies assisting them to develop and implement critical technology enabling strategies and solve 'wicked technical problems'.



Francis Quimba, Ph.D.

**Senior Research Fellow,
Philippine Institute of Development Studies**

Dr. Quimba is a Senior Research Fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. He is concurrently the Project Director of the Philippine APEC study center network (PASCN). His research interests include trade and industry development, innovation, e-commerce, and regional integration. He has contributed to chapters to books and published papers related to Philippine industry development and innovation activity.

His most recent book contribution is the Philippine perspective published as a chapter in "The Making of the Indo-Pacific Economic Frameworks (IPEF)"



Tsutomu Shimizu

**Sr. Manager,
Trend Micro Incorporated**

Started career in cybersecurity at Trend Micro in 2011. Currently leading a group of threat researchers in Trend Micro Cybersecurity Institute. Also experienced in cybersecurity incident response, and capability building.

A corporate representative at Japan Cybercrime Control Center.



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EXPERTS



Ayako Takemi, Ph.D.

**The University of Tokyo, Research Center
for Advanced Science and Technology
(RCAST)**

Dr. Ayako Takemi, MPH, PhD, is an associate professor at the University of Tokyo's Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, leading the Global Consensus Making Policy lab. Her research focuses on global coordination, rule-making, and implementation for transnational issues, including health security and economic security. Previously, Dr. Takemi consulted for the World Health Organization and World Bank, and worked at McKinsey & Company. She holds a doctorate in law from the University of Tokyo and a Master of Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Takemi's expertise spans international policy, health security, and science and technology capabilities.



Riko Hisashi
Senior Adviser
CISTEC

Hisashi Riko, based in Tokyo, has been with Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) since 2011 after 36 years tenure with Mitsubishi Corporation (MC), and currently holds the position of Senior Adviser after 6 years tenure as a Member of the Board , General Manager of Exporter Service Department, where he oversees all aspects of export controls related services.



Wilhelm Vosse, Ph.D.
International Christian University

Professor of Political Science and International Relations at ICU, Tokyo, Japan.



Willem Thorbecke
RIETI

Willem Thorbecke is a Senior Fellow at Japan's Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry. Prior to this he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Asian Development Bank Institute and a professor at George Mason University. He has written papers investigating the determinants of trade flows in Asia and the rest of the world, the impact of shocks on global value chains and the spillovers that result from trade.



Ariel Stenek

**PhD Candidate, National Graduate Institute
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Ariel Stenek is a PhD candidate at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, where her research focuses on maritime domain awareness capacity building in Southeast Asia. She was a 2023-2024 Indo-Pacific Maritime Fellow at the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (Department of the Navy), and a 2024 summer graduate fellow with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Southeast Asia Policy Division (J52). She holds an MA in International Relations from Queen Mary, University of London, and a BA in Global Politics and Societies from the University of San Francisco. Her research interests include maritime security, Southeast Asia, and U.S.-Japan relations.



Maria Rona Ambal

Manager

Toshiba Information Equipment (Phils) Inc.

Maria Rona Ambal has been working in Toshiba Information Equipment Philippines Inc. for the last 28 years. She's currently the Manager in Strategic Planning Department managing Investment Planning and Export Control. She has a Masters Degree in Business Management from De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines and B.S. Industrial Engineering from University of Santos Tomas, Manila, Philippines.

YOUNG LEADERS



Ankush Wagle

**Functional Intelligence Analyst
Pinkerton**

Ankush is currently working as a corporate intelligence analyst for a Big Tech client monitoring geopolitical risk across the Asia-Pacific region. He was previously a research analyst at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at National University of Singapore (NUS) where his research focused on the Indo-Pacific. He has interned at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, AmCham Singapore, and the Asia-Europe Foundation. Ankush has co-authored 2 book chapters and published articles with the Pacific Forum, The Jakarta Post, Australian Outlook, The Strategist, and The Conversation.

Ankush has a Master in Public Policy (as a Li Ka Shing Foundation scholar) from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (NUS) and a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the University of Western Australia. He is a Pacific Forum Young Leader and was selected for the inaugural Pacific Forum US- Singapore Next Generation Leaders Initiative.



Katrina Guanio

**Program Specialist
Grameen Foundation**

Katrina Guanio manages and executes a portfolio of Bankers without Borders (BwB) project activities of the Grameen Foundation. She coordinates with micro-finance institutions, social enterprises, and nonprofits in Asia and the Pacific as well as with U.S. corporate partners. She focuses on projects on women's economic empowerment in the island countries of Palau, Nauru, Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu. She also manages similar projects in the Philippines, India, and Ghana. She is completing her master's degree at the University of the Philippines. She has been part of Pacific Forum's Young Leaders Program since 2023. Her research interests are non-traditional security concerns of migration, climate change, and gender in the Indo-Pacific.



Rei Koga

King's College London

Rei Koga is a Ph.D. candidate in International Political Economy at the Department of European and International Studies, King's College London (KCL) as well as WSD-Handa Research Fellow at Pacific Forum. Prior to joining King's, she studied at the University of Bristol and was awarded a Master of Research in Global Political Economy with Distinction in 2022. During her master's study, she was a Rotary Global Grants Scholarship student. She also worked for the Cabinet Secretariat from 2016 to 2019.



Sun Young Park

Ph.D Candidate / Emerging Leaders

Program Manager

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Kelly Park is a Ph.D. candidate at National Chengchi University in Taipei, specializing in international relations and political economy. Her research focuses on the strategic role of the semiconductor industries in shaping Taiwan and South Korea's policies amid the intensifying U.S.-China technology rivalry. In addition to her academic pursuits, Kelly leads the Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program at the Hawaii Asia-Pacific Institute in Honolulu, where she fosters leadership and policy-oriented training for mid-career professionals from the Asia-Pacific region.



Timothy Joseph Henares

Project Manager

Asia Society

Timothy Joseph G. Henares is a Project Manager at Asia Society Philippines, collaborating with AidData on the financial implications and media narratives of China's investments. He previously led the International Programs Desk at the Dangerous Drugs Board, focusing on drug abuse prevention initiatives with organizations such as the ASEAN Secretariat, USAID, and the International Narcotics Control Board. His research examines the impact of Chinese and Japanese infrastructure investments



in Southeast Asia, along with sustainability challenges related to lifestyles, fashion, and chemicals. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals (e.g., Energy Strategy Reviews, Energy Research & Social Science, Data in Brief) and by organizations (e.g., AidData, the Philippine Navy, De La Salle University). Timothy holds a BA in International Studies from De La Salle University (2019) and an MPhil in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (2023), where he received the Asian Future Leaders Scholarship. He is a Bai Xian Asia Institute Scholar, Salzburg Global Fellow, and Pacific Forum Young Leader.

CORE TEAM



Chrissy Fisher

Pacific Forum

Chrissy Fisher is a Program Manager at Pacific Forum and will support the newly established Honolulu Defense Forum (HDF). Previously she served as the Defense Support & Engagement Officer and the Executive Assistant to the Consul-General & Public Diplomacy Officer at the Australian Consulate-General in Honolulu. In these roles, she managed VIP events and visits, handled office management, and spearheaded public diplomacy initiatives, including overseeing the consulate's digital presence.

Her career has spanned diverse industries, including management consulting, telecommunications, IT, and renewable energy across Australia, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States.



Jeff Otto

Pacific Forum

Jeff Otto coordinates Pacific Forum's Young Leaders Program and next-gen engagements. He is an alumnus of the Master's in Asian International Affairs program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). Additionally, Jeff received the degree of Master of Arts in Second Language Studies at UHM in 2021. He has participated in study abroad



programs in both Japan and Taiwan, as well as being a participant on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. Prior to joining Pacific Forum, Jeff was a Research Fellow at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI-APCSS).



Shanna Khayat

Pacific Forum

Shanna Khayat is the Communications and Outreach Manager at Pacific Forum. Her role revolves around connecting diverse audiences with our insights, fostering collaborative relationships, and ensuring that our mission to promote dialogue and understanding in the Indo-Pacific region reaches wider horizons. With a passion for effective communication and a dedication to promoting peace and security, Shanna is a proud Hawaii Pacific University alum, where she received her Master's in Strategic Communications. She bridges connections being fluent in four languages.



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