

Japan's Strategic Vision for Asia and its Partnership with Australia

A Public Seminar presented by Professor Yasuji Ishigaki
Tokai University, Tokyo

Japan's geopolitical context has been undergoing dramatic changes of late. This includes China's rapidly growing political influence and economic power, the continuing reconciliatory policy of South Korea toward the authoritarian North Korean regime and differing attitudes of the ASEAN countries to the major powers in East Asian. Consequently, Japanese leaders face the challenge of adjusting the role in, and vision for, Japan in the Asia-Pacific region. To meet the challenge, what have Japanese leaders been doing and what should they do? How should the Post-Koizumi Government improve relations with Asian nations, particularly China and South Korea? Will Japan be able to continue to assert a strong political influence in the region? As Japan and Australia celebrate the 30th Anniversary of concluding the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, what should be the priorities for enhanced future cooperation between the two countries?

Friday 15th September 2006

12:30 pm

Senate Room

Murdoch University

All Welcome

Yasuji Ishigaki is Professor of International Law at Tokai University Law School, Tokyo, Japan. Prior to entering academia. He was in the Japanese diplomatic service for around forty years (1959 to 2000). During this time he served in various senior positions in Japan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Asian Affairs, United Nations, Economic Cooperation Bureaus) and in overseas missions (USA, Burma, Australia, Thailand, Canada, Brazil). He was Ambassador to the Dominican Republic (concurrently to Jamaica and Bahamas) (1992-94), to Lebanon (1994-97) and to Finland (concurrently to Estonia) (1998-2000). During his service at the Japanese Embassy in Canberra (1976-78), Professor Ishigaki was involved as chief political officer in the final round of negotiations of the Australia-Japan Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. He is an active member of Japan's Council on East Asian Community (CEAC).

Professor Ishigaki's recent publications include the jointly-authored book *International Organizations* (Iwanami Publishing Co), and essays including 'War on Iraq – First Major Test of the Common Foreign and Security Policy(CFSP)of the European Union', 'Development of Voting System, in particular, the right of Veto, in the International Organizations', 'Global Efforts to combat International Terrorism'.

This Special Public Lecture Series, Japan's Role in Asia: New Dynamics, New Directions, is facilitated by the assistance of a 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange Grass-roots Support grant.