2014 holds important prospects for the US-Japan alliance and Japan's role in the Asia-Pacific. As the result of the last "two-plus-two" meeting from October 2013, the US and Japan are currently working on revising the 1997 Guidelines for US-Japan Joint Cooperation, said to be finished by the end of 2014. China's ongoing military modernization efforts, North Korea's nuclear capabilities, and ongoing regional territorial disputes over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands pose as important regional threats to Japanese forces. Regionally, Japan struggles to better relations with South Korea, while it increases economic and security ties with Southeast Asia and India. In light of these developments, the Project 2049 Institute is hosting this conference to facilitate greater understanding of Japan's foreign policy, clarify Japan's future challenges and objectives, and outline recommendations to promote Japan's global and regional engagements. Discussion topics include US policy objectives for the alliance, Japan's security framework, Japan's role in the global force posture, and regional relations between Japan and South Korea, Southeast Asia, and India, respectively.

2:30 – 3 PM: Opening Remarks
Ambassador Richard Armitage
Former Deputy Secretary of State

3:05 – 4:20 PM: Panel I
The US-Japan Alliance: Challenges and Opportunities

Moderator:
Robert Zarate
Policy Director, Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI)

Dr. Amy Searight
Principal Director for East Asia, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)

Tetsuo Kotani
Research Fellow, The Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA)

Dr. Stacie Pettyjohn
Political Scientist, RAND
4:25 – 5:40 PM: Panel II

Progress and Obstacles in Japan's Regional Engagement

Moderator:
Elbridge Colby
Fellow, Center for a New American Security (CNAS)

Dr. Jennifer Lind
Associate Professor, Dartmouth College

Dr. Satu Limaye
Director, East-West Center
Senior Advisor, Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)

Catherine Lea
Research Scientist, Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)

Please RSVP with Sam Mun at mun@project2049.net.