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The Sleeping Giant Has Awoken: China as a Regional and Global Influence

El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice

Japan Briefing Paper

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Introduction:

El Puente Academy of Peace and Justice is a school born from community organizers that promotes leadership for peace and justice through the engagement of members (youth and adult) in the arts, education, scientific research, wellness and environmental action. Founded in 1982, El Puente currently integrates the diverse activities and community campaigns of its Center for Arts and Culture and its Community Health and Environment Institute. Organizing in North Brooklyn and beyond, El Puente remains at the forefront of community/youth learning and development issues and as such, initiates and impacts social policy both locally and nationally. El Puente Academy of Peace and Justice takes great pride in being able to represent the country of Japan in a manner that will not only help to improve current situations, but ignite change through our institutional goals – peace and justice.

Key Points:

1. Contribute to a set of best practices that would help to guide trade and humanitarian aid with both North and South Korea in hopes of denuclearization.
2. Facilitate a plan to ease tensions in the Taiwan Straits and rules for military use and engagement and weapons sales in the future where Japan can help support
3. Secure Japan's citizens with specific guidelines that support the response of possible attacks, COVID-19 aid as well as the rest of the global community

Background:

Japan opened its ports after signing the Treaty of Kanagawa with the US in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. Japan is now a large power that is held comparable to China. After attacking United States forces in 1941, Japan occupied most of the East and Southeast Asia. After Japan's defeat in World War II, Japan has soon recovered in

becoming an economic power and ally of the United States. Today's nuclear challenges have been difficult for Japan to deal with, especially knowing that we are one of the few countries who have suffered nuclear attacks and accidents.

2021 has been an unprecedented period. Japan, along with the rest of the world will continue to face a pandemic and economic crisis, not to mention threats such as the climate crisis and growing concerns over China. The U.S.-Japan alliance can play an important role in addressing some of the serious challenges the two countries face in Asia and beyond. The U.S.-Japan alliance remains a key pillar of America's strategy in Asia. But the alliance faces a number of challenges, including the damaging legacy of the Trump administration.

Committee on the South China Sea

The South China Sea is known for its richness in oil, gas, natural resources, and fishing areas. Due to this, many countries in Asia including Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia, have been trying to obtain full power or authority by slowly claiming islands and zones in the south china sea. China especially has been trying to obtain the full authority of the south china sea by not allowing the freedom of navigation in the south china sea. China has been trying to reclaim land thereby increasing the size of islands and creating new ones as well. They even constructed ports, military installations etc in the islands in the south china sea.

Japan contests Beijing's South China Sea claims. Japan disagrees with China's actions and stands as allies with the United States and several European and Asian nations in formally protesting China's claims. We reject the claim that China has made that the "drawing of territorial sea baselines by China on relevant islands and reefs in the South China Sea conforms to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and general international law. By joining the United States and several European and Asian nations in formally protesting China's claims,

Japan is joining a diplomatic (and maybe operational) effort to reject specific elements of China's South China Sea. In its submission, Japan explicitly rejects China's claim that the "drawing of territorial sea baselines by China on relevant islands and reefs in the South China Sea conforms to UNCLOS and general international law."

Japan's main goal in this committee is to seek safety and freedom of trade and navigation with no chaos or issues. We would like to avoid conflict even though it may seem inevitable. Military conflict in the South China Sea will affect surrounding nations and can be avoided at all costs.

Committee on Taiwan

In 1949, Taiwan and China had their own independent government, which was a military party dictatorship. The communist fought against the Nationalist, which led to the Chinese Civil War. Taiwan was once a UN member until 1971, they were replaced with the communist party (PRC). During the time from 1895 to 1945 Taiwan was under the Japanese colonial rule, as well as the 1895 treaty of Shimonoseki that was signed by China and Korea. Until the Nationalist and communist party came together to defeat Japan, which in 1945 Japan surrendered. Therefore after the war, the Nationalist had to flee to Taiwan in 1949 after losing the Sino Japanese War. The aftermath of the war created a tension between Taiwan and China. Which still to this day, they stay at a distance.

After the civil war between China and Taiwan, their relationship started to recuperate when the country united as one under two different systems. Under this system, Taiwan was given significant autonomy if it accepted Chinese reunification. This method was used to try and get the people in Taiwan back in the mainland (China). This system was established in Hong Kong to be used as something of a showcase to entice Taiwanese people back to the mainland

but over the last year it has come under massive pressure. The Taiwanese refused to join back with China but they eased rules on citizens visiting and investing in china. Years later governmental issues between both sides arise because China finds that Taiwan's Republic of China (ROC) is illegitimate and has prevented government contact.

Taiwan is an independent country but due to the fact that once two million Chinese Nationalist fled to Taiwan and established a government for all of China on the island of Taiwan from that point until 1971 Taiwan was recognized as China. The truth is that unfortunately in many aspects people over the world still see Taiwan as a part of China. While Taiwan has maintained its own control over the island from Taipei since 1949, China still claims to have control over Taiwan. Only about 25 countries recognize Taiwan as an independent country. Due to political pressure from China, Taiwan does not maintain an embassy in the United States, and the United States has not recognized Taiwan since January 1, 1979. Taiwan should be recognized as an independent country.

Taiwan doesn't have international standing bodies like the United Nations or the World health Organization, this is cause by the fact that after The People's Republic of China (PRC) [Mainland China] won the civil war the Republic of China (ROC) [Taiwan] move to Taiwan trying to become an independent country from China they haven't been recognized as independent by the whole world yet many of the big things around the world have this "One china" policy that says that china can only be one nation and that's why they don't recognize Taiwan as independent. The United Nations PROC was admitted to UN instead of ROC and the World health Organization because "China (PRC), refuses to allow that to happen. The PRC claims that Taiwan is a province of China, not an independent state. It says that only the PRC has

the right to represent all of China in the United Nations and other international organizations, including the WHO, that limit membership to states.”(who-exclude-taiwan).

This principle was first devised when it was originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping after he took reins of the country in the late 1970s. His plan being that it would unify China and Taiwan under the one country two systems policy. The idea resurfaced when Beijing had started talking to Britain and Portugal, who were running Hong Kong and Macau. Taiwan rejected this communists party offer due to them always running independently from the mainland of China and Beijing has never given up its claim over Taiwan which made it seem like this policy was bs since their main goal had always been to take over Taiwan. The president of Taiwan, President Tsai Ing-Wen even stated “Both sides have a duty to find a way to coexist over the long term and prevent the intensification of antagonism and differences.

Force cannot be the only pathway to reunify Taiwan. The People’s Republic of China (PRC) [Mainland China] won the civil war the Republic of China (ROC) [Taiwan] move to Taiwan trying to become an independent country from China they haven’t been recognized as independent by the whole world yet, many of the big things around the world have this “One China” policy that says that China can only be one nation and that’s why they don’t recognize Taiwan as independent. China’s growth in nationalism caused tensions in recent years because while the world is in panic they become more independent of the world and made more countries depend on their products and systems.

Committee on Human Rights

The issue occurring in China’s Xinjiang Province regarding Uyghur Muslims is a human rights violation. The chinese government is working in an effort to suppress the Uyghur Muslim minority in Xinjiang China. Members of the Muslim minority say they were detained interrogated

and beaten because of the religion. Japan's Position on human rights and social justice is that individual freedoms are guaranteed. While Japan has no national human rights institutions. Japan is a liberal democracy with the world's third largest economy. Japan also has prohibition based on race, creed, social status or family origin. There needs to be awareness raised towards this issue.

Committee on Development

A key part of addressing the challenges posed by China—as well as many other issues in Asia—will be robust regional institutions. The United States and Japan must work together to enhance regional bodies' ability to address common problems, and they should use those bodies to push back against China's concerning behavior while also encouraging China to utilize multilateral venues constructively.

At the heart of regional institutions is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Under Trump, however, the U.S.-ASEAN relationship has deteriorated. A U.S. ambassador to ASEAN was never confirmed, and Trump failed to attend the East Asia Summit (EAS) for the third time in 2020; in 2019, most Southeast Asian leaders responded to Trump's absence by snubbing the U.S.-ASEAN summit that took place (Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand were the only countries to attend the meeting with the United States). The administration also treated most Southeast Asian countries like pawns in a game against China and focused on narrow interests such as trade deficits rather than shared challenges.

Meanwhile, Japan has continued improving its relationships with ASEAN countries. According to a recent poll, 84 percent of ASEAN respondents viewed Japan as a reliable partner. In some ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, the United States only had a 42 percent favorability rating. Indonesia was one of the first countries that the newly elected Prime Minister

Suga visited, and the two countries agreed to work together on a variety of security, economic, and military issues.

The committee of Development for Japan is the committee tasked with dealing with Japan's economy to make sure Japan remains as one of the most prosperous Nations in the world. Japan's economy is currently facing a recession due to a lack of output of goods by the country in the first quarter of the year, and had an even bigger contraction in the second quarter of the year suffering a shrinkage of 7.8 percent. Though we are not allies with China, we have been great trading partners with them, going back to 1979 when China's Vice Premier Deng Xiaopeng asked Panasonic founder Konosuke Matsushita to help modernize China. The main issue that Japan is facing at the moment is that they are major debt spanning from 1.2 to 1.12 quadrillion yen in debt which is up to 11.4 billion to 114 billion us dollars, making the land of the rising sun the land of the rising debt.

Committee on Trade and Technology

One of the key priorities for the United States and Japan in the next year should be to strengthen regional institutions, in particular the ASEAN-centered EAS. As concerns over China's actions in Asia grow—and as the region faces threats such as climate change, COVID-19, and cybersecurity—only a robust multilateral institution can hope to bring Asian countries together to tackle them. The first step the United States must take is to recommit to having the president attend the annual EAS and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. And as two leading powers, the United States and Japan should work closely together and with others in developing a plan to use the 2021 EAS to revamp the summit and make it more effective, including by empowering ASEAN ambassadors and launching cooperation in tackling COVID-19 and future pandemics.

Over the years China and Japan have restored their trade relationship. Whereas in the past China and Japan have had conflicts with history. With Japan's highly developed technology they export advanced goods to China. China uses this technology to develop parts for electronics. As for the countries in the Pacific area of Asia Japan has become an importer for these countries. During the Pandemic the Southern China Sea has kept its routine with even more ships from different countries like Vietnam passing through. But Beijing and China have been in conflict bringing out military and air forces to demonstrate their power. Over time crucial resources like textiles and foods have decreased over time and more between exports and other Countries. Japan imports Raw food materials and agricultural products. Without these products Japan's agriculture will slow down and the Japanese's agriculture will decline. The goal for Japan's relationship's status with China is to maintain a good status and to keep on importing the goods to remain one of the best economies. Also to maintain the surplus of goods we have to keep on exporting.

Committee on The Korean Peninsula

Japan has an opportunity and self-interest in reenvisioning its traditional oil-, gas-, and nuclear-centered energy agenda at home and in developing countries. A first, consequential step would be for Japan to announce that it will terminate its policy of providing public financing for overseas coal-fired power projects. More broadly, the United States and Japan should scrap their long-standing fossil fuel-centered energy partnership and create a clean energy partnership. This partnership should be centered on a strategy to realign and leverage the countries' foreign assistance, commercial advocacy, and trade finance tools to drive clean energy transformations, particularly in infrastructure-related initiatives in the fast-growth economies in South and Southeast Asia.

Currently North and South Korea are slowly coming to national reconciliation of peace and prosperity together but are quickly failing. As tensions rise due to North Korea's active nuclear missile testing , South Korea along with the U.S are actively trying to de-escalate this problem but North Korea along with major world powers being Russia and China have proved to be a threat since they're close allies due to past treaties and communism. At any moment North Korea can pose to be an immense threat to South Korea and The United States Of America due to its biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. The six party talks are negotiations between The United States, China, North Korea, Russia , Japan, and South Korea that aim to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapon testing. North Korea though have decided to no longer participate in the six-party process in 2009. The main issues in the Korean Peninsula is the past Japan has with North and South Korea including China also. North Korea and its violation of human rights have also been seen as a problem that must be addressed as soon as possible and its nuclear missile testing. The fall of North Korea can also be a threat to China , Japan , Russia , and South Korea due to the possible "massive refugee overflows" to either country. This committee goal is to compensate for the Occupation of Japan in the Korean Peninsula in 1910 and for our horrible mistakes and war crimes we have committed over the years of our occupation. This must not be overlooked as we have acknowledged our wrong-doings countless times.

Committee on Climate Change, Global Health and Resilience

As the global number of coronavirus cases continues to skyrocket and now exceeds 50 million, the United States and Japan should work together to bolster global health and the pandemic response. The United States must first return to the World Health Organization (WHO) and, with Japan, work to strengthen the organization. The two allies then should find ways to

work together with other partners—including South Korea and Taiwan—to build public health capacity, ensure vaccine distribution, provide assistance to developing countries, enhance pandemic preparedness, and share ways on how best to facilitate strong economic recoveries. Japan has already pledged support for the WHO's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator project to help countries access treatments and vaccines; the United States should join Japan in supporting this effort.

As major development donors, the two countries should also come up with a joint approach to development assistance to strengthen the global economic recovery. Relatedly, the United States and Japan, and potentially Europe, should early in 2021 move to coordinate in the boardrooms at international finance institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and regional development banks. In doing so, the countries should drive board direction to assure that institutional policies, resources, and program planning advance climate-centric, green recovery programs in middle-income and least developed countries. Japan and the United States can be leaders in this effort at the Asian Development Bank, in particular. Japan views Climate Change as a real problem but a problem they will be able to handle if they continue to use the method of reduction of GreenHouse Gases and decarbonization. The coronavirus has caused businesses to shut down (which did decrease several unions GDP), as well as several people to leave their jobs/homes, which did get better but are still going on in 2021. Covid-19 is affecting Japan by the total number of citizens deaths but mostly affecting their economy.

The main goal in this committee is to reduce the amount of GHG levels and carbon emissions by burning less fossil fuels, use less transportation, use renewable energy, and reduce

water waste. Although this pandemic is happening we need to worry more about the people than the economy because without the people our economy wouldn't be rising.