

# US-JAPAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## Inaugural Symposium

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### Overview of Institute's Research Program

#### **Climate Change for the US and Japan**

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##### **Background, Scope and Objectives of the Study**

The Obama administration has been committed to setting a medium goal for the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The Japanese government has also proposed a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050. Both countries have called for international collective actions on the reduction of GHG emissions.

This study analyzes the economic and social impacts of the introduction of active motions for the reduction of GHG emissions under different scenarios. In particular, the study focuses on the urgent issues embodied in the conflict between alternative energy policies and food security concerns. The objectives of the research are (1) to deepen understanding of food security issues as they relate to energy security and related alternative energy and environmental policies and (2) to produce viable insight and useful policy implications in local, national and international perspectives for both Japan and the United States.

##### **Significance of the study**

There is a great need for an in-depth study on the conflict between energy security and food security. Discussions are also necessary to create policy suggestions for different levels of government. This international collaboration will produce a framework to deal with the problems related to food and energy security in a global perspective, which is important when we deal with global policy issues. National level policies will not only lead to budgetary modifications in sectors of the national economy, but also have influence on the global economy. Local and community level responses to food and energy security concerns are also critical for the successful implementation of national programs. Most studies on food and energy policies so far have largely dealt with macro aspects of issues and approaches. This study will additionally elaborate the roles of communities and local governments in depth.

Heretofore, there has not been a collective effort in academia on the conflict between food and energy security between Japan and the US. This joint research project on a global and urgent subject matter will have a comprehensive agenda, and will likely generate significant impact in the policy decision making circles, as well as the relevant academic circles of both countries. This international project can be also considered as symbolic of a new era for collaboration in global environmental discussions and for determination of post Kyoto Protocol plans.