

US-JAPAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, DC, February 1, 2010, Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to this second seminar of the US-Japan Research Institute.

When we began our work last September, both our countries were experiencing fundamental political change brought on by elections that captured the imagination of the world. Today our new governments are in place and are now dealing with many of the issues that were still coming into focus when we spoke of them last fall. Some are the result of developments worldwide; others were created by our governments' own new policies. Terrorism evolves; our environment remains imperiled; China rises still higher; the nations of Asia look cautiously at closer ties; patterns of threats and defenses shift; new forms of manufacture, trade, and communication arise; imbalances in growth emerge; new liberties are asserted.

The U.S. and Japan bear a special burden in addressing issues such as these. We have two of the world's largest economies and most functional democracies. We have led the world in the past, and for all our challenges and missteps the world expects us to lead now. To lead requires that we think clearly and boldly. That is the mission of this Institute, and in the months ahead we intend to discharge it at a quickening pace. To do so we need you and others like you. We also need the support of our governments and of the many corporations, foundations, and individuals who care about our world and are prepared to help groom its leaders. So in wishing you success in today's conference I ask also that you continue your commitment to our work, that you bring like-minded friends with you, and that you help with your ideas and influence to expand the base of our material support.

I salute your work and I look forward to your debates.