

# Japan's foreign policy under the DPJ: What has changed and what not?



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# 1. Earthquake and tsunami impact

Implications for domestic and international politics surrounding Japan.

# 2. Patterns

Learning lessons from the failures in previous governments.

# 3. Foreign policy of Yoshihiko Noda

Reading from the VOICE article on his political philosophy.

- Causing eight hardships for Japanese economy

Historically strong yen, high corporate tax, restrictions on labour movement, sluggish progress in FTAs, insufficient electricity, 25% reduction of CO2 emission, stagnant world economy and political turmoil.

- Accelerating the move to replace Kan;

Noda, chosen as a more stable and reliable leader despite few expectations over strong leadership.

# ***Pendulum Pattern on Foreign Policy***

***Hatoyama***

***Kan***

East Asian Community

Asia Pacific cooperation

FTAs in East Asia

FTAAP and TPP

Emphasis on China

Alliance with US

Moving bases out of Okinawa

clinging to the original

- Noda's foreign policy orientation
  1. Emphasising the primacy of US relations in Japanese foreign policy, and to bolster it, he asserts that the stance on 'protecting our nation by ourselves' should be important.
  2. Transforming political landscape in East Asia, through the changes of leaders in various nations, will create an unexpected and fragile situation surrounding Japan, so there is no need for Japan to launch a visionary concept such as an East Asian community, for a while.

3. Scenarios are stressed as necessary to tackle with critical problems, as seen in the Senakaku Dispute.
4. Despite no comment on TPP, he already expressed his interest in TPP; Maehara (formerly Foreign Minister and now PARC Chairman) and Genba (formerly Minister for National Strategy and now Foreign Minister) are pro-TPP politicians.
5. Interestingly, he sees Masayoshi Ohira as an ideal PM model, introducing a number of policy advisory groups, possibly following this policy-making style?