

**May 27th 2008 Featured Speakers**

## **Rethinking Yasukuni Problem in Sino-Japanese Relations Implication towards Regional Integration**

### **Speaker**

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### **Abstract**

It is generally taken for grant that the origin of Japan's prime ministerial visit of Yasukuni in the post Cold War era is caused by the emergence of history revisionism and nationalism within Japan. By examining Japan's response towards China's pressure over the Yasukuni issue between 2001 and 2006, this paper suggests that a long term strategic domestic reform and the effort to overcome the political hurdle that resists the reform are the vital factors in understanding Japan's response towards Chinese pressure over the Yasukuni issue. As the case has shown, a two-level perspective analysis, which focuses on the integrated relations between domestic politics and foreign policy, provides the best answer in explaining the continual resistance of Koizumi administration towards Chinese demand on stopping the Yasukuni visit. This paper also argues that the Yasukuni problem reveals the limitation of functionalism, which is the dominant approach in the theoretical discussion on regional integration.

### **Commentator**

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