US-ROK-JAPAN TRILATERAL
NEXT-GEN STUDY GROUP

Connecting generations, industries, and communities

A platform for dialogue across borders and generations, shaping a sustainable future for the Indo-Pacific. Our third-quarter activities, with updates through early October 2026.

Quarterly Newsletter, 2026 Q3

Key events
Seven events from Seoul to Hawaii

New advisor
Dr. Sanghyun Lee, and our website

Media
20+ articles and quotes

Members
Fellowships, awards, forums

Key events

Symposiums in Seoul, a book talk at Korea University, a visit to Hawaii, and a new partnership with Europe.

Aug 11

Korea-Japan Next-Gen Specialists Symposium

The Study Group and Korea University's Institute for Interdisciplinary Unification Studies co-hosted the "Korea-Japan Next-Gen Specialists Symposium for Peace on the Korean Peninsula." It opened with a congratulatory video message from Rep. Koichi Hagiuda, followed by a dialogue between Professor Shin-wha Lee and former ROK Ambassador to the United Nations Joon Oh on the shifting global order, the North Korean nuclear issue, and Korea-Japan relations.

A next-generation panel explored peaceful coexistence and practical security cooperation. Participants included:

Jinwan Park · Rintaro Nishimura · Donghyuk Shin · Yuichi Yoshida · Nana Nishioka-Ida · Dr. Hyewon Park

Read the Maeil Broadcasting Network article



Korea-Japan Next-Gen Specialists Symposium



Members with Rep. Young-bae Kim

August

Stakeholder engagement in Seoul

Co-founders, joined for several engagements by Seoul-based member Yuichi Yoshida, met with stakeholders from government, industry, and policy research. Counterparts included Bong-man Kim of the Federation of Korean Industries, Political Counsellor Hironori Yahata at the Embassy of Japan, Jio Kang of the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Trilateral Cooperation Team, National Assembly member Young-bae Kim, and Hyeyeon Park of the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies.

Discussions considered practical cooperation in economic security and emerging technologies, and the role of next-generation professionals in sustaining the trilateral partnership.

August

In-person study session in Seoul

The bi-monthly session featured Lt. Col. Sanghyun Ahn (ROK Army) and Taehwa Hong (Princeton). Lt. Col. Ahn discussed defense AI governance and the need for trilateral coordination, while Mr. Hong examined how South Korea can adapt to evolving American grand strategy.

Members exchanged perspectives on what technological change and strategic uncertainty mean for cooperation among the three countries.



Attendees: Sanghyun Ahn, Taehwa Hong, Jinwan Park, Rintaro Nishimura, Joong Eon Ahn, Yuichi Yoshida, Heeryoung Kim, Kie Kang, Seunghwan Kim, Yonkyeom Seo, Jaehyun Lee, Yesun Kim



From left to right: Dr. James M. Minnich, Yuichi Yoshida, Director Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, Jinwan Park, and Dr. Lori Forman

August

Visit to the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies

Jinwan Park and Yuichi Yoshida visited the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies and met with Director Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, Dr. James M. Minnich, and Dr. Lori Forman.

They introduced the Study Group, exchanged views on regional security, and learned about the Center's role in supporting substantive dialogue among professionals from across the region.

Sep 4

Book talk with Dr. Edward Howell

The Study Group hosted Dr. Edward Howell of the University of Oxford at Korea University for a discussion of his book, *A New Axis of Upheaval: North Korea, Russia, China, Iran*. Moderated by Kian Thomas, the conversation examined cooperation among the four countries, including the deepening North Korea-Russia relationship, and its implications for the United States and its allies.

Participants considered both the strategic consequences of these bilateral ties and the differences in interests that may constrain broader alignment.



Dr. Howell giving a talk



From left to right: Jeonghee Lim, Mia Yamakawa Lewis, Yuichi Yoshida, Umi Ariga-Maisy, Jinwan Park, and Ethan Chiu

September

2026 Young Trilateral Leaders Summit

Study Group members took part in the third U.S.-ROK-Japan Young Trilateral Leaders Summit, hosted at the East-West Center in Hawaii. Under the theme "AI and Emerging Technology," participants developed project proposals on economic prosperity, energy security, maritime safety, and regional stability. Co-Founder Jinwan Park joined as a resident expert to facilitate discussions.

The summit strengthened the connections that inspired the Study Group's creation.

Ethan Chiu · Kian Thomas · Se Young Hwang · Umi Ariga-Maisy · Wakana Asano · Mia Yamakawa Lewis · Yuichi Yoshida · Matt Miller · Colby Ko · Haruka Noishiki

Read the announcement

Sep 23

Joint policy roundtable series with ISDP

The Study Group and the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) announced a joint policy roundtable series connecting emerging leaders and established experts across the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions. The virtual discussions address shared security challenges, including regional conflicts, competition over dual-use technologies, and trade weaponization. Public executive summaries are planned after each session.

The first session examined the security environment in both regions. The partnership creates a further channel for sustained dialogue between Asia and Europe.

Read the announcement

New senior advisor and a new website

Two milestones from the quarter.

Dr. Sanghyun Lee joins as Senior Advisor

Announced in July, Dr. Lee is Fellow Emeritus at the Sejong Institute. His appointment brings experience in international security, Korea-U.S. relations, nuclear security, and nonproliferation. He previously served as President of the Sejong Institute and Director-General for Policy Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We are grateful for the guidance he brings to our work.

Advisor information

Our official website is live

Launched in August, the site brings together information on our activities, advisory network, and member contributions. Explore it and contact us about membership, events, and partnerships.

trilateralnextgen.com

Media and insights

Op-eds, research, and press coverage from members, July through September.

September	**Just Security** Co-authored by Ethan Chiu: How Taiwan should set the standard for industrial AI security	Written
September	**Chatham House** Nitya Labh: Escaping the Hormuz trap: What should an agreement to reopen the Strait look like?	Written
September	**Korea Times** Co-Founder Jinwan Park: Yong Hye-in and the prisoner's dilemma, on Korean party politics and representation	Written
September	**Nikkei Asia** Co-Founder Rintaro Nishimura: Coverage of Prime Minister Takaichi's first cabinet reshuffle	Quoted
September	**South China Morning Post** Rintaro Nishimura: Is Okinawa moving beyond anti-base politics?	Quoted
September	**Foreign Policy** Syrus Solo Jin: The Political Cost of Sending Korean Forces to Hormuz	Written
September	**Nikkei Asia** Schoni Song: South Korea's AI diplomacy needs Japan in the room	Written
September	**Japan Times** Kenji Yoshida: The implications of the Iran war for the U.S.-ROK alliance	Written
September	**Financial Times** Nitya Labh: The challenges of de-mining the Strait of Hormuz	Quoted
September	**The Korea Daily** Alexander Eid: Human resource management challenges that come with large-scale Korean investment in the United States	Quoted
August	**Korea Times** Jinwan Park: Can Korea produce its own Zohran Mamdani?	Written
August	**Lowy Institute, The Interpreter** Rintaro Nishimura: What Japan can learn from Australia's cloud sovereignty lead	Written
August	**The Diplomat** Co-authored by Sanghyun Ahn: Interoperability among allied military AI systems	Written
August	**National Strategy** Research paper co-authored by Daehan Lee: The advantages, disadvantages, and strategic use of South Korean nuclear-powered attack submarines	Written
August	**Japan Times** Kenji Yoshida: Interview with South Korea's ambassador to Japan on the importance of closer bilateral ties	Written
July	**United States Studies Centre** Co-authored by Kester Abbott: The Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience: Activities and challenges, two years on	Written
July	**Foreign Policy** Syrus Solo Jin: The Paradox of Self-Reliance	Written
July	**South China Morning Post** Jumpei Ishimaru: Ukraine's request for Japanese-produced Patriot missiles and Japan's defense export constraints	Quoted
July	**Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific** Research by Umi Ariga: Regional Security Outlook 2026: Integrated Technologies, Fragmented Governance - Emerging Escalation Risks in Northeast Asia	Written

Member achievements

Fellowships, awards, and invitations to regional forums.

Ethan Chiu, Kian Thomas, Se Young Hwang, Umi Ariga, Wakana Asano, Mia Yamakawa Lewis, Yuichi Yoshida, Matt Miller, Colby Ko, and Haruka Noishiki participated in the 2026 Young Trilateral Leaders Summit in Hawaii.

Tatsuya Sugiyama received an award in the Liberal Democratic Party's International Politics and Diplomacy Essay Contest for his essay on the rule of law and the international order.

Kester Abbott participated in the ROK Ministry of Unification's Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program, engaging in expert briefings, policy discussions, and field visits on inter-Korean relations.

Rintaro Nishimura was selected as 2026-27 Japan-U.S. Cyber Policy Fellow by The National Bureau of Asian Research.

Gordon Kang attended the third ASEAN Think Tanks Summit in Jakarta as an Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Indo-Pacific Young Leader.

Yuichi Yoshida joined the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's programme on Indo-Pacific security and its implications for Europe, and a Track 1.5 Expert Talk in Hanoi on "AI, Strategic Competition, and the Future of Regional Security," co-organised by Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and KAS Vietnam.

Jinwan Park participated in the international policy workshop on Korea-Central Asia cooperation hosted by Hanns Seidel Foundation and Institute of European Union Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

More than 100 members, one partnership

100+
members

7
key events

20+
media features

Our activities this quarter reflect the Study Group's growing capacity to connect next-generation perspectives with established policy communities. From public discussions at Korea University and stakeholder engagement in Seoul to exchanges in Hawaii and a new partnership with ISDP, members are building relationships that can sustain cooperation beyond individual events.

We thank our members, senior advisors, institutional partners, and supporters for making this work possible. As we continue through the final quarter of 2026, we remain committed to practical dialogue, substantive policy exchange, and lasting connections across generations. We look forward to further discussions and collaborative initiatives, and we ask for your continued interest and support.