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EXPERTS ASSESS FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF DPJ VICTORY IN JAPAN ELECTIONS

Seattle, WA – In an advance article from the upcoming issue of *Asia Policy*, a peer-reviewed journal published by The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), three experts seek to answer what changes Japan’s new political leadership—the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)—will bring to Japan’s foreign policy and alliance with the United States in the wake of its August 30th electoral upset over the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Asia Policy authors Leif-Eric Easley, Tetsuo Kotani, and Aki Mori identify five main tenets of the DPJ’s envisioned “independent diplomacy”:

- (1) pursuing a more “mature” and independent alliance with the United States,
- (2) re-establishing Japan as a “member of Asia” through economic and trade initiatives, historical reconciliation, and multilateral institution-building,
- (3) contributing to international security through the UN, with Japan providing financing, peacekeepers, and impetus for UN reform,
- (4) working for nuclear disarmament via international, regional, and bilateral diplomatic efforts, and
- (5) modernizing Japan’s national security apparatus without burdening the taxpayer

The authors argue that because of these tenets the DPJ will not undertake drastic changes to Japan’s foreign policy and will maintain the U.S. alliance, but may scale down the LDP goal of a global security partnership. For more information on the implications the DPJ’s victory has for Japanese foreign policy and the U.S.-Japan alliance and to view NBR’s *Asia Policy* article in its entirety, please visit www.nbr.org.

Leif-Eric Easley is a PhD candidate at Harvard University’s Department of Government, a Visiting Scholar at the University of Southern California’s Korean Studies Institute, and a Kelly Fellow with the Pacific Forum-Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Tetsuo Kotani and Aki Mori are PhD candidates in the Department of Political Science at Doshisha University, and are concurrently research fellows at the Ocean Policy Research Foundation in Tokyo.

Asia Policy is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal presenting policy-relevant academic research on the Asia-Pacific.

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