

**A Message From
Joseph Nye, Chairman of Pacific Forum CSIS
On the Occasion of the
Third U.S.-Japan Sea Power Dialogue open forum:
“An Alliance of Maritime Nations: The United States and Japan”**

Prime Minister Abe, Chairman Akiyama, distinguished participants in the Asian Voices Seminar, colleagues, and friends:

I thank you for the kind invitation to address the third U.S.-Japan Sea Power Dialogue. I am sorry that I am not able to join you in person, but I very much appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts about our bilateral relationship and the vital role that it can and does play in the maritime domain.

As Richard Armitage and I noted in the second Armitage-Nye report, "With half the world's population, one-third of the global economy, and growing economic, financial, technological, and political weight in the international system, Asia is key to a stable, prosperous world order that best advances American interests." I have long believed, like all of you here today, that the future of the U.S. "requires a robust, dynamic relationship with the new Asia of 2020, and the keystone of the United States' position in Asia remains the U.S.-Japan alliance." Indeed, important as our alliance has been throughout the last 60 years in bringing peace, stability, and prosperity to the Asia Pacific region, this alliance will only become more important in the future.

Today, many of the most significant threats to peace and prosperity do not emanate from traditional sources; the risk of interstate conflict is small. Rather, our chief concerns include transnational threats posed by nonstate actors, or the prospect of environmental degradation, or the diminished capacity to govern that results from corruption, or weak and failing states. These new challenges require us to find and create new solutions. To do this most effectively, we need "smart power." By "smart power," I mean we need to better apply the full complement of the instruments of national power --

political, military, economic, diplomatic, and cultural tools; we need to use our hard and soft power together in a smart way.

The nature of the new challenges we collectively face obliges us to find cooperative approaches to problem solving. Single nations cannot tackle these issues on their own; nor should they have to. These are shared concerns in which all nations have a stake. Working together allows us to better utilize the resources we have, gives each nation a stake in positive outcomes, and begins the cooperation and confidence building that can be stepping stones to future collaboration on even more pressing challenges.

The concept of smart power is especially important for the maritime domain. Every nation benefits from freedom of navigation and the rights of safe passage on the high seas, and enjoys the fruits of the seas themselves. It is critically important that each nation identify how it can contribute to the protection of this public good. I applaud the efforts of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation and the Sea Power Dialogue to better understand the importance of the seas and to work out ways that governments can help secure and protect the maritime domain. While our two nations have a special role to play in dealing with such problems, the Sea Power Dialogue is on the right track as it pursues the creation of a consortium of seafaring nations, a group bound by shared values such as freedom, democracy, good governance, and the rule of law.

I again thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about this important and timely initiative and encourage you all to keep up the good work.