

DII Program

'Solution Design Phase' SEMINAR

Date : 16:30-18:00 February 4 (Fri.), 2022

Place : **Webinar**

Title : From Africa to Asia: One American's Reflections on Diplomatic Work, U.S.-Japan Relations, and Global Challenges

Lecturer : Mr. Matthew Cenzer (Principal Officer U.S. Consulate Nagoya)

Language : English

Abstract:

Matthew Cenzer, Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Nagoya, will discuss his background and explain how he went from being an academic researcher specializing in African history to U.S. diplomat focusing on East Asian affairs as well as nuclear nonproliferation and arms control issues. Along the way, he'll talk about the kind of work that American diplomats do, how they are chosen, and how they embody American ideals of diversity and inclusion. He'll also highlight the unique role that the Chubu region plays in strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship, especially on the economic front, and talk about how the U.S.-Japan alliance is critical for the peace and stability of the entire Indo-Pacific region. Finally, Cenzer will conclude with some thoughts about how Japan and the United States can deepen their cooperation to face new and emerging challenges both at home and across the globe.



BIO:

Mr. Matthew Cenzer joined the State Department in 2002. During that time, he has focused on strengthening relationships with key U.S. allies and partners in Asia, as well as tackling critical international peace and security issues across the globe. Prior to his appointment to Consulate Nagoya in July 2021, Mr. Cenzer served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, where he managed a broad range of political and economic issues and participated in developing the United States' vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region. He has previously served at the U.S. Embassies in Seoul, Jakarta, and Manila, and as Malaysia Desk Officer in Washington.

Mr. Cenzer also has expertise in international peace and security issues. At the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York, he negotiated numerous resolutions authorizing peacekeeping missions and addressing nuclear and missile proliferation threats. He also managed bilateral and multilateral arms control issues during an assignment in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance. Mr. Cenzer was chosen to participate in the State Department's Pearson Fellowship, where he served for one year as a foreign policy advisor to a member of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Before becoming a diplomat, Mr. Cenzer taught history at Northwestern University. He received a Fulbright student fellowship to pursue his graduate research in Kenya. He is joined in Japan by his wife, Michele, and their two cats. He speaks Japanese, Indonesian, and some Korean. His interests include photography, hiking, art, and golf.

✖If you would like to take this lecture, please contact by e-mail until Feb. 3(Thu).

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