Asia for the Asians 2.0:  
China, Japan and a New Framework for Regional Stability

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Shall we focus on the possibility of good news for a change? As a follow-on to our recent panel on tensions in Northeast Asia, Paula Harrell will discuss signs of a continued warming trend in China-Japan relations as new regional arrangements make partnership an increasingly rational choice. China wants Japan to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); Japan is receptive to China's entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). A cabinet level economic summit between the two nations is in the offing, possibly for late March. Geography, established trade interdependence, common environmental and energy problems, China's shift to a service economy, Japan's long experience in industrial and financial management, all suggest the mutual benefits of a bilateral approach. This is precisely the approach outlined in detail in the Fukuda/Hu Jintao statement in 2008, a document reaffirmed in the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Abe Shinzo at APEC in 2014. Is the weight of events now favoring detente? Please join the debate on March 4 on this critically important topic.