WORKSHOP ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE BAY OF BENGAL

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Tokyo / June 13, 2018
Agenda

- From Rebalance to Indo-Pacific
- American Interests
  - Why does the Bay of Bengal matter to the United States?
- American Approaches
  - How do U.S. policy planners approach political and economic issues regarding the Bay of Bengal?
American Interests
American Interests

- **Strategic**
  - Ensuring countries can maintain independent foreign policies

- **Democratic**
  - Concerns about political norms and human rights

- **Humanitarian**
  - Rohingya crisis

- **Counter-terrorism**
  - Local networks and global connections

- **Defense**
  - Naval interactions; HA/DR; MDA
American Approaches
American Approaches

- Strategically incoherent
  - At global and regional level, U.S. does not have a clear view of priorities that integrate security and economic aims
- Structurally agnostic
  - Not particularly engaged in regional organizations
- Deferential to India regarding its neighbors
- Taking a hiatus from multilateral trade policy
- Chastened by the Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor
  - IPEC generated an expectations trap
- Looking to Japan