The dispute over ownership of islands, maritime boundaries, jurisdiction and perhaps as much as 100 billion barrels of oil equivalent and other non-living and living marine resources in the East China Sea continues to bedevil China-Japan relations. Historical and cultural factors – like the legacy of WW II and burgeoning nationalism – are significant factors. Indeed the dispute has become a contest between national identities. The approach to the issue has been a political dance – one step forward, two steps back. Join us for a talk that will explain the East China Sea dispute, explore its effect on China/Japan relations, and suggest ways forward.

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