

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies | 13-14 April 2026

As the first in-person convening of the TSC 2026 Regional Security Dialogues, the Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue established a new framework for international Arctic collaboration between Arctic and Indo-Pacific allies on issues of mutual interest. This year's program covered U.S. and allied readiness to secure an accessible Arctic Ocean of the future, building on the Arctic Waterways Security Strategy in the Maritime Action Plan.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Tom Dans** - Chairman, U.S. Arctic Research Commission
- **Capt. Stephen M. Carmel** - Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
- **H.E. Katsuhiko Takahashi** - Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- **Ms. Ggochnim Bak** - Director of Green Diplomacy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
- **Dr. Ruth L. Perry** - Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State

” **Systems do not emerge, they are designed... that is the role of the Maritime Action Plan**

### 3 TAKEAWAYS FOR ARCTIC-PACIFIC SECURITY & DEFENSE

**"Ice-free" doesn't mean free ride**

- The future Arctic ocean will likely retain younger ice, even as multi-year ice diminishes
- Increased wave activity could threaten shipping and shore-side infrastructure with heavier seas and coastal erosion
- These future conditions may elevate, rather than decrease, the risks to Arctic traffic

**Demand shapes presence**

- Maritime systems built on commercial demand could prove more resilient than military-driven models
- Aligning incentives through entities like an Arctic Port League or shared fund could accelerate innovation by bringing government, industry, academia, and Arctic communities to the same table

**Safe & secure is a start to sovereignty**

- Indo-Pacific allies, like Japan and the Republic of Korea, are ready and willing to strengthen international cooperation and Arctic regional stability
- Arctic hegemony, or lack thereof, influences how adversaries employ lawfare tactics in the region to undermine U.S. and allied legitimacy
- Maritime infrastructure challenges remain a concern in responding to adversarial activity and ensuring freedom of navigation and sovereignty



For more information on the Arctic-Pacific Security Dialogue and the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Studies Regional Security Dialogues, please visit the TSC website.

