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Trilateral Cooperation to Strengthen Extended Deterrence in Northeast Asia

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Objective:
Building on the results of a small trilateral meeting held in Seoul in September 2013, this initiative by the Pacific Forum will help address each country’s specific questions surrounding the U.S. extended deterrent in a changing regional security environment. It will identify ways the three countries can work together to secure their national interests and reinforce that deterrent in Northeast Asia.

Potential topics for the trilateral discussions include assessment of the Asian strategic balance, rebalance in Northeast Asia, impact and perceived impact of the rise of China, impact and perceived impact of North Korea’s nuclear program, dealing with regional contingencies, domestic politics and alliances, and opportunities for trilateral cooperation.

Approach:
The Pacific Forum will host the U.S.-Japan-ROK Trilateral Strategic Dialogue in Summer 2014. Security specialists and officials from each country will explore and examine opportunities and obstacles to trilateral cooperation. U.S. attendees will also hold short bilateral discussions with Japanese and South Korean representatives. Key Findings and a more comprehensive analytic report will summarize the results of these dialogues. The Pacific Forum has conducted a U.S.-Japan Strategic Dialogue for the past six years and a U.S.-ROK Strategic Dialogue for the past five years.