Special Lecture

“Uzbekistan in a Changing Eurasia: Strategic Balancing, Regional Cooperation, and New Horizons for Japan–Central Asia Relations”



25 November (Wed) 2026
14:00–15:30

Conference Room 1 (304),
Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia,
The University of Tokyo



Speaker

Sodiq Safoev

First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy

Abstract

Eurasia is undergoing profound geopolitical and economic transformations, reshaping patterns of regional cooperation, connectivity, and international partnerships. For Central Asian countries, these changes present both challenges and opportunities to strengthen their strategic autonomy, diversify external relations, and develop new forms of regional and international cooperation.

This lecture examines Uzbekistan’s evolving role in this changing environment, focusing on its approach to strategic balancing, regional cooperation, and the development of mutually beneficial partnerships with major international actors. Particular attention will be given to Uzbekistan’s efforts to promote regional stability, enhance connectivity, and position Central Asia as an increasingly active participant in shaping its own international future.

Against this broader background, the lecture will explore the evolving relationship between Japan and Central Asia. It will argue that the next stage of cooperation should extend beyond traditional diplomacy, infrastructure development, and economic assistance toward more sustained partnerships in education, research, technological innovation, and knowledge production. Universities and research institutions have a particularly important role to play in developing shared expertise, strengthening institutional ties, and creating new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation.

By connecting Uzbekistan’s broader regional strategy with the future of Japan–Central Asia relations, the lecture will offer perspectives on how strategic partnerships can contribute not only to regional development and stability but also to the emergence of a more inclusive and knowledge-driven international order.

Registration by 22 Nov from the QR code.
The capacity of room is 25, so please register in advance.

東京大学
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia
東洋文化研究所

GAS
Global Asian Studies