



SEMINAIRE DE LA FONDATION FRANCE-JAPON DE L'EHESS

Stability and Instability in Japanese Politics: An Assessment of the Kan Government

Arthur Stockwin (Oxford University)

Mardi 3 mai 2011, 19h-20h30

EHESS, 105 boulevard Raspail 75006 Paris (Salle1)

Conférence en anglais, discussion en français

□ SUMMARY

Instability in political leadership has been a serious problem in recent Japanese politics, as indicated by the fact that the present Prime Minister, Naoto Kan, is the sixth person to hold the office since 2006. When the Democratic Party was elected to power in September 2009, ending the long rule of the Liberal Democratic Party, many expected that the cycle of short-term prime ministers would end. Top leadership, however, remained unstable and Mr Kan began 2011 in an extremely vulnerable position. The triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis that began on 11th March 2011, nevertheless placed confrontational politics on hold and gave the embattled Prime Minister an opportunity to show his leadership abilities. How far the system will allow him to rise to the occasion will be the principal topic of this paper.

□ ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Arthur Stockwin has degrees from Oxford University and the Australian National University in Canberra. Between 1964 and 1981 he taught in the Department of Political Science at the Australian National University. Between 1982 and his retirement in 2003, he was Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies and Director of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies at Oxford University. His principal publications are: *The Japanese Socialist Party and Neutralism* (1968); *Japan and Australia in the Seventies* (1973); *Dynamic and Immobilist Politics in Japan* (1988); *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Japan* (2003); *Collected Writings of J.A.A. Stockwin* (2004); *Governing Japan: Divided Politics in a Resurgent Economy* (4th revised edition, 2008).

PROCHAIN EVENEMENT

- "Towards a Life-long Active Society"
Conférence d'Atsushi SEIKE (Keio University)
4 mai 2011, 11h-13h
EHESS, 190-198 avenue de France 75244 Paris cedex 13,
Salle du Conseil (salles A & B)

CONTACT

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