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Ian Easton serves as a research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, a Virginia-based think tank where he conducts research on defense and security issues involving the U.S., China, Japan, and Taiwan. During the summer of 2013 he also was a visiting fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs in Tokyo. Previously Ian worked as a China analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses in Alexandria, Virginia for two years. Prior to that, he lived in Taiwan and China for five years. During his time in Taiwan, he worked as a translator for Island Technologies Inc. and the Foundation for Asia-Pacific Peace Studies. While in Taipei, he also conducted research with the Asia Bureau Chief of Defense News.

Ian holds an M.A. in China Studies from National Chengchi University in Taiwan and a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He also holds a certification in advanced Mandarin Chinese, having formally studied the language at Fudan University in Shanghai, and National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei. Ian's research has been featured in major media outlets in the United States and Asia, including the New York Times, Reuters, US News and World Report, Huffington Post, NHK, the Diplomat, and the Taipei Times. He has lectured at the U.S. Naval War College and Japan's National Defense Academy.