

## *Opening Remarks of the President of the NIDS*

Ladies and gentlemen: I am pleased to have this opportunity to address such a distinguished audience gathered here at this International Symposium on Security Affairs. As president of the National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan, I extend the heartiest welcome to you all.

First, let me briefly introduce our institute. As a research establishment that corresponds to the defense universities of other countries, we undertake the charge of educating senior officers of the Self-Defense Forces and at the same time carry out research into various themes relating to the defense and security of our country as a think tank of the Defense Agency. And results of research of this institute have been made public through *East Asian Strategic Review* and *NIDS Security Studies* regularly published by the institute.

This marks the third meeting of the International Symposium on Security Affairs. It had become fashionable among the people to use words such as “opaqueness” and “uncertainty” to describe the international situation that had developed after the Cold War. Indeed, various incidents and changes relating to the defense and security of Japan have occurred in our neighboring areas. And reflecting such changes in the situation, concern over security issues involving Japan has mounted among the people of this country in recent years. In the hope of gaining the benefit of enlightened views of distinguished security experts invited from other countries — in addition to the findings of published research of this institute — to enhance the quality of security debate going on in this country, we have decided to hold this international symposium on security to hear their spirited debate.

We have decided to take up the theme “International order of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the security of East Asia” during the symposium. This is the first symposium since the turn of the century. In May 2000, the government of President Chen Shui-bian came into being in Taiwan, and in June an inter-Korean summit took place in the Korean Peninsula — and these events had a profound impact on the security of East Asia.

Come 2001, a new government headed by President George W. Bush was

born in the United States, and its policy toward East Asia, in other words, how the Bush Administration will tackle security issues related to East Asia, is drawing attention from all over the world. In the Philippines, President Gloria Arroyo took over the reins of government. Recently, General Secretary Kim Jong Il of North Korea visited China, and developments occurring in the Korean Peninsula are attracting the world's attention.

As the year rolled on into the new century, the situation in East Asia is about to undergo profound changes. With an eye on the currents of the times, we would like to survey during this symposium how the security of East Asia will change and discuss how it should be in coming decades.

Today, we have with us Mr. Yoneda, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense. He will say a few words of greeting after me.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those who took the trouble of coming to Tokyo to serve as panelists of this symposium and to the commentators for the valuable time they are sharing with us today to participate in this symposium. I also would like to thank those who are with us today for the interest they take in our activities.

This symposium will be held for two days, and I sincerely hope that you will actively participate in the debate and help this symposium achieve fruitful results.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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President  
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