

Foreword

This is a report of the proceedings of the 12th International Symposium on Security Affairs hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) on 18 November 2009. At the symposium, entitled “Major Powers’ Nuclear Policies and International Order in the 21st Century,” distinguished experts from China, France, India, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US explored the role of nuclear weapons and the future of international order from various viewpoints. These issues represent some of the greatest challenges the international community faces in the 21st century.

In recent years, international efforts in advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are gathering momentum. US President Barack Obama called for a “world without nuclear weapons” and outlined concrete steps to achieve that goal in his address in Prague on 5 April 2009. In the meantime, in view of the expiration of START I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) in December of that year, the US and Russia engaged in negotiations and signed a new agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons on 8 April 2010. Furthermore, on 6 April the US released the Nuclear Posture Review which significantly reduces the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security. The US also hosted a Nuclear Security Summit and called for international coordination on measures of preventing nuclear terrorism. In addition to the NPT Review Conference held in May 2010, the release of a report, entitled “Eliminating Nuclear Threats” by a joint-initiative of Japan and Australia, the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), and a new international movement called “Global Zero,” bringing together eminent leaders and experts from around the world, have drawn the attention of the international community to the problem of nuclear proliferation.

Seizing this momentum, nuclear-weapon states, including the US, are accelerating their reviews of the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategy. We hope that this report will stimulate the discussion further at home and abroad on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We also hope that this report will provide a framework for thinking about what roles the major powers, including Japan, can play in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The views expressed herein are all personal views and do not represent our institute or the views of the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation again to the authors who participated in this symposium and contributed to this report, and to all those who engaged actively in the planning and management of this symposium.

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