

## Preface

Multilateral cooperation is increasingly indispensable, in terms also of setting norms, to tackle nontraditional security issues such as terrorism, maritime security, and natural disasters, as well as cyber-security and space. At the same time, however, the region has been witnessing a fundamental change of power balance between the United States and China, in the sense that China could challenge the US leading role because of its growing economic, political and military power. Within the context of this potential competition between the two great powers, other countries like Japan are being urged to cope with this emerging new strategic environment, in terms of dealing with maritime and territorial issues. Furthermore, in this region, due to changes in leadership since 2012, the elected leaders are likely forming new security outlooks.

Against this backdrop, the 2013 NIDS International Symposium on Security aimed at exploring similarities and differences of the security outlooks from a comparative perspective, by covering not only the US and China, but also other regional actors like Japan, ASEAN, Australia, India, South Korea, and Russia. Taking the gap of the security outlooks into consideration, the symposium sought out possibilities for multilateral cooperation for the purpose of overcoming that gap. Bearing the existing ASEAN-centered frameworks, like the ADMM Plus and the ARF, in mind, the symposium may possibly develop arguments both in interregional and cross-sectorial terms by offering a comparative perspective with other regional frameworks.

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