

## Preface

This annual review covers the trends of the security environment of East Asia that have developed during the 12-month period ended December 31, 2000. When viewed from the standpoint of peace and stability, the situation in East Asia in 2000 was relatively peaceful. This region is fraught with uncertain factors and is undergoing profound changes. Amid such developments, the two Koreas, divided as a result of the Cold War, have begun to search for ways to bring about peaceful coexistence. This is an encouraging sign that bodes well for the peace and stability of East Asia at the outset of the new century.

To ascertain whether the international environment surrounding Japan will really change its direction toward one that is conducive to bringing about stability is of vital importance in building peace in this region. *East Asian Strategic Review 2001* presents findings of an analysis of the strategic environment of the East Asian region we have made from such perspectives.

The National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), a think tank of the Japan Defense Agency, is conducting researches on international security and military history. It is also carrying out education corresponding to that at defense universities of other countries. In addition, the institute has hosted the Asia-Pacific Security Seminar with the participation of 20 countries in the region, and has been promoting security dialogue with Japan's neighboring countries (China, Russia, South Korea and member countries of ASEAN) through defense study exchanges. We have been taking these initiatives in the belief that misunderstandings among these countries can be cleared up and confidence in one another can be built through discussions of regional security from their perspectives. The institute has been widely disseminating ideas through *NIDS Security Reports* and Web site (<http://www.nids.go.jp>), and this *East Asian Strategic Review* is part of such dissemination activities.

In addition to the chapters dealing with the regional situations in the Korean Peninsula, China and Russia, and one reviewing the U.S. policy toward East Asia, we have added to this year's edition a chapter devoted to the defense policy of Japan. As topics that have a far-reaching impact on the security environment of East Asia, we

took up the inter-Korea summit, U.S. national missile defense (NMD) program, ASEAN, and the revolution in military affairs (RMA).

The present report marks the fifth series of *East Asian Strategic Review*. It is our sincere hope that this report will help readers deepen their understanding of the strategic environment of East Asia and stimulate lively debate on the subject.

The views expressed are solely those of the writing and editorial staff of NIDS, and do not represent an official view of the government of Japan and the Defense Agency. Among the contributors to different chapters are Narushige Michishita (chapters 1 and 5), Shin'ichi Ogawa (chapter 2), Masafumi Iida (chapter 3), Sugio Takahashi (chapter 4), Katsuhiko Mayama (chapter 6), Chikako Kawakatsu (ditto), Tsutomu Saito (ditto), Yoshiaki Sakaguchi (chapter 7), Shigeo Kikuchi (ditto), Heigo Sato (chapter 8), Hideshi Ueno (chapter 9) and Toshiharu Ishida (ditto). The manuscripts were edited by Tomonori Yoshizaki, Chikako Kawakatsu, Masafumi Iida and Takeshi Yuasa.

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