

# East Asian Strategic Review 2016

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## Preface

The *East Asian Strategic Review (EASR)* marks its twentieth year of publication with this edition. Over those twenty years, *EASR* has been issued annually in Japanese and English as the flagship publication of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan's sole national think tank in the area of security affairs. As a rare annual report in which Japanese researchers comprehensively analyze East Asian security issues, it has built up an established reputation both in Japan and overseas, one that is underscored by its citation in scholarly works and its use as a university textbook. At the same time, it has, we believe, quietly contributed to the growth of domestic and international interest in East Asian security, while helping to circulate the term "strategic environment," denoting the medium- and long-range strategic trends in security.

Looking back over the diverse analyses published in *EASR* during its twenty-year existence, it is clear that the East Asian strategic environment has become more challenging during that time. This trend is highlighted in this edition as well, as seen in the analyses of a North Korea that is growing nuclear and missile capabilities, a China that is stepping up its expansionary strategy in the South China Sea, and a United States that faces obstacles in its foreign policy toward China. This edition also examines two topics critical to understanding of the East Asian security environment: trends in the rise of Islamic extremism in the international community, and space security, an issue that is a major focus of attention across the globe, including in Japan. The regular chapters on national and regional trends in East Asia also include commentary on the establishment of the ASEAN Political-Security Community and the challenges it faces, the evolving nature of Japan-Australia defense cooperation, Russia's hard-line stance on military intervention in Syria, the newly revised Guidelines for Japan-US Defense Cooperation, and Japan's legislation for peace and security.

*EASR 2016* comprises NIDS researchers' analyses and descriptions of major security-related developments that took place mainly during the period from January through December 2015, and is based on information compiled from open sources in Japan and overseas. The statements contained herein do not necessarily represent the official position of the Government of Japan or the Ministry of Defense. The titles and ranks of people mentioned herein are, in principle, those

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that were current at the time of the events described. It is our hope that this book will foster greater interest and understanding regarding the East Asian strategic environment surrounding Japan, and serve as a resource for the informed discussion that Japan needs in order to further enhance its security policy.

This edition was written by: Shinji Hyodo (Introduction); Yasuhito Fukushima and Yasuaki Hashimoto (Chapter 1); Masami Nishino (Chapter 2); Tetsuo Murooka and Hiroyasu Akutsu (Chapter 3); Rira Monma and Yasuyuki Sugiura (Chapter 4); Tomotaka Shoji and Hideo Tomikawa (Chapter 5); Yusuke Ishihara (Chapter 6); Hiroshi Yamazoe, Shigeki Akimoto, and Shinji Hyodo (Chapter 7); Shigeo Kikuchi and Hiromu Arakaki (Chapter 8); and Sugio Takahashi (Chapter 9). It was edited by Hiromu Arakaki, Akihiro Ohama, Kouki Kawamura, Masahiro Kurita, Masaki Kobayashi, Tomotaka Shoji, Yasushi Sukegawa, Haruhiko Takada, and Hikaru Yamashita.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank the authors and editors who painstakingly contributed to this year's edition, and the many people who have avidly read *EASR* each year.

March 2016

Shinji Hyodo  
*EASR 2016* Editor-in-chief  
Director, Regional Studies Department