Security Outlook of the Asia Pacific Countries and Its Implications for the Defense Sector

The National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan

NIDS JOINT RESEARCH SERIES No. 7
Contents

Preface ........................................................................................................................................... 1
  Eiichi Katahara

CHAPTER 1 .................................................................................................................................. 3
  Indonesia’s Security Outlook and Defence Policy 2012
  Rizal SUKMA
    Introduction .......................................................................................................................... 3
    Indonesia’s Security Challenges ...................................................................................... 4
    Developments in Defence Sector: Improvement Continues ............................................. 12
    External Cooperation and Initiatives ............................................................................. 18

CHAPTER 2 .................................................................................................................................. 21
  Malaysia’s Perspectives and Responses to Strategic Challenges
  TANG Siew Mun
    Malaysia’s Strategic Outlook ......................................................................................... 21
    South China Sea: Dangerous Undercurrents ................................................................. 22
    The Strategic Implications of US’s “Pivot” Strategy .................................................... 23
    Contending with China’s Increasing Military Power ..................................................... 26
    Conclusion ....................................................................................................................... 29

CHAPTER 3 .................................................................................................................................. 31
  The Philippine Security Situation in 2011: Plugging the (very big) holes in external defense while continuing to face internal vulnerabilities
  Herman Joseph S. Kraft
    External Security ............................................................................................................. 32
    Internal Security ............................................................................................................. 37
    Defense Outlook for 2012 ............................................................................................. 40

CHAPTER 4 .................................................................................................................................. 45
  Singapore in 2011: Security Enhancement Amidst Uncertainty
  Lam Peng Er
    Security outlook: the realist paradigm of “hard truths” ............................................. 46
    Singapore’s relations with Malaysia: railway land and water ..................................... 49
    Geo-strategic uncertainties: Singapore’s strategic responses ..................................... 50
    Bilateral and multilateral cooperation: diplomacy and security ............................... 53
    Epilogue: post-Lee Kuan Yew era and “hard truths” ................................................ 54
CHAPTER 5 .................................................................................................................................................. 57
Thailand’s Security Outlook: Next-Door, Indoor, Non-Traditional and Geo-Regional
Thitinan Pongsudhirak
Introduction .................................................................................................................................................. 57
Next-Door: Cambodia ............................................................................................................................. 58
Next-Door: Myanmar ............................................................................................................................... 61
Indoor: Southern Insurgency ................................................................................................................ 64
Non-Traditional: Floods ........................................................................................................................ 65
Geo-regional: Between the United States and China ........................................................................... 66
Implications for the Defence Sector .................................................................................................... 67

CHAPTER 6 .................................................................................................................................................. 69
Vietnam’s Security Outlook
Carlyle A. Thayer
Introduction ................................................................................................................................................ 69
Security Challenges Facing Vietnam ...................................................................................................... 70
Implications for the Defence Sector ..................................................................................................... 82
Prospects for Regional Cooperation ................................................................................................... 86

CHAPTER 7 .................................................................................................................................................. 89
Myanmar’s Security Outlook and the Myanmar Defence Services
Tin Maung Maung Than
Introduction: Elected civilian government and the military in politics ........................................... 89
Leadership transition in the military ...................................................................................................... 92
Myanmar Defence Services and national security .............................................................................. 94
Internal security challenges: from war to peace? ............................................................................. 96
Drug trafficking and narcotics issues .................................................................................................. 99
International security issues ................................................................................................................ 100
Conclusion ............................................................................................................................................ 102

CHAPTER 8 ................................................................................................................................................. 103
Mongolia’s Immediate Security Challenges: Implication to Defense Sector and The Regional Cooperation
Mashbat Otgonbayar Sarlagtay
Introduction ............................................................................................................................................... 103
1. Security Challenges for Mongolia ................................................................................................... 104
2. Implication to Its Defense Sector .................................................................................................... 109
3. Future Prospects for NEA Defense Cooperation ............................................................................ 112
Conclusion ............................................................................................................................................. 113
CHAPTER 9 ........................................................................................................... 117
The United States and the Asia-Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities
Satu P. Limaye

Introduction .......................................................................................................... 117
Identify and Discuss the Top 3 to 5 Important Security Challenges Facing the United States......................................................... 117
Implications for the Defense Sector ..................................................................... 120
Prospects for Regional Cooperation ................................................................. 122
Conclusions .......................................................................................................... 124

CHAPTER 10 .................................................................................................... 127
Chinese Security in 2011
Ryo Asano

2011 Highlights .................................................................................................... 127
Long-term Background: The Rise of China ......................................................... 133

CHAPTER 11 .................................................................................................... 137
Tomohiko Satake

Introduction .......................................................................................................... 137
Japan’s Security Challenges in 2011 .................................................................... 138
Implications for the Defense of Japan ................................................................. 147
Conclusion ............................................................................................................ 153

CONTRIBUTORS .......................................................................................... 155
Preface

This report is based on presentations of the third “International Workshop on Asia-Pacific Security” hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS). This workshop was held on January 17-18, 2012, with distinguished experts invited from various countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and the report is published as part of the “NIDS Joint Research Series.”

The theme of the workshop was “Security Outlook of the Asia-Pacific Countries and Its Implications for the Defense Sector.” Each participant presented a perspective on his or her assigned country’s security outlook, including significant security challenges and their implications for the country’s defense policy, force structure and defense procurement, and future prospects for regional security cooperation.

In the Asia-Pacific region, there has been progress in building regional frameworks such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus. However, unlike Europe, this region lacks overarching security architecture. Traditional security issues remain in the region, while non-traditional security issues like terrorism, natural disaster, and pandemic are also looming large on the region’s security agenda. We hope that this report will contribute to sharing our knowledge about major security issues facing the region, and deepening mutual understanding and cooperation between Japan and Asia-Pacific countries.

The authors of chapters are Rizal Sukma, Tang Siew Mun, Herman Joseph S. Kraft, Lam Peng Er, Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Carlyle A. Thayer, Tin Maung Maung Than, Mashbat Otgonbayar Sarlagtay, Satu P. Limaye, Ryo Asano, and Tomohiko Satake. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NIDS or any institutes with which they are affiliated.
We would like to thank the authors for their valuable contributions and other participants in the workshop.

November 2012

Eiichi Katahara
Director, Regional Studies Department