

# Foreword

It is our honor to announce that the first issue of the *NIDS Security Reports* has been published.

Ten years have passed since the end of the Cold War, however, we have not yet established a new international order. The term “Post-Cold War Era” is very popular, but it represents nothing but the “End of the Cold War.” In other words, the term does not have any constructive implication whatsoever.

Turning our eyes to the East Asia’s security problems, I can point out that major countries are engaging in active diplomatic activities in a changing regional security environment since the latter half of the 1990’s. True, these diplomatic activities are only bilateral in nature for the time being. But, I expect that a framework of multilateral security cooperation should emerge sooner or later from this diplomatic whirlpool. It seems to me that an array of hope for peace and prosperity in the 21st century is to be seen.

Under such circumstances, the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), the main policy research arm of Japan’s Defense Agency, is strongly expected to carry out research on security affairs, so that it should make an important contribution to establish an architecture for peace and prosperity in East Asia.

NIDS is now dedicating itself to meet the expectation on the analysis of subjects which actually have, and may potentially have, a serious impact upon Japan’s national security as well as that of the region. Research staff with different academic and professional background is engaged in research activities not as an outsider but as a participating actor. Furthermore, NIDS, the only research center for military history in Japan, also conducts research in the field of Japanese military history as well as that of other countries. I am proud to say that NIDS staff is working hard, passionately discussing security issues. I hope that a so-called “NIDS school” should be established in the future out of these boiling research activities.

Meanwhile, NIDS is endeavoring to disseminate ideas on security affairs based upon these research activities. The purpose of our efforts in dissemination is to encourage lively discussion within the defense-policy community of Japan and to promote fruitful discussion with our overseas counterparts. We commenced the project for publication since 1997. As some of you are aware, NIDS has published the *East*

*Asian Strategic Review*, an annual publication both in Japanese and in English. The *East Asian Strategic Review* features analyses on strategic environment of East Asia and security issues of importance in the region. In addition, NIDS has published *Bouei Kenkyuzyo Kiyō* (NIDS Security Studies in Japanese) since 1998. This is a journal featuring articles on security affairs mainly by NIDS research staff. Japanese versions are published three times a year.

Now NIDS has managed to publish the first issue of *NIDS Security Reports* in English. This series will be published annually, and carrying articles of international significance selected from *Bouei Kenkyuzyo Kiyō*.

I strongly believe and hope that sharing the views of our researchers with overseas counterparts would encourage objective discussion, thereby promoting mutual understanding and trust in the international community.

Yasuhiro Ohgoshi  
President,  
National Institute for Defense Studies