Report of the Council for Defense and Strategic Studies for
FY2005-FY2006

Introduction

The Council for Defense and Strategic Studies discussed a wide range of issues concerning Japan’s security in FY2005 and FY2006.

Although the National Defense Program Outline in and After FY2005 approved by the Cabinet in December 2004 had established the scale and function of Japan’s defense capability that would be valid for roughly ten years, this National Defense Program Outline also specified that in five years or in cases important changes in the situation arise, necessary modifications must be made while taking into consideration factors such as security environment and technology trends at the time. A wide range of security issues were thus discussed in FY2005 and FY2006 based on the understanding that it is important to take a course of continued discussions while sharing with the Council for Defense and Strategic Studies the awareness of these issues as provided for in the National Defense Program Outline in order that the Council may also provide useful suggestions at future discussions regarding the review of the National Defense Program Outline.

The common theme during the four meetings held in FY2005 was “Security and Defense Policy Seen from the Perspective of Japan’s National Interests”. The themes of the first meeting (June 20, 2005), second meeting (September 21, 2005), third meeting (December 12, 2005) and fourth meeting (March 3, 2006) were “The New National Defense Program Outline”, “The Six-Party Talks and the Korean Peninsula Policy”, “East Asian Maritime Security” and “Transformation of the U.S. Forces”, respectively, regarding which reports were presented and discussions were held.

The common theme during the four meetings held in FY2006 was “Establishment of Japan’s Security Strategy”. The themes of the first meeting (June 22, 2006), second meeting (October 5, 2006), third meeting (December 18, 2006) and fourth meeting (February 28, 2007) were “Relationship Between Japan’s Security Strategy and the New National Defense Program Outline”, “What is a Strategy?”, “Japan’s Security Strategy in East Asia With a Focus on China’s Impact” and “Toward the Establishment of Japan’s “Comprehensive Security Strategy””, respectively, regarding which reports were presented and discussions were held. As can be seen from the wide range of topics selected for these meetings, the discussions at the Council for Defense and Strategic Studies did not only focus on defense strategy but were also held from a broader perspective, that is, the establishment of a national security strategy.

This report was put together based on the contents of each issue put forth in the reports of all of the above eight meetings and discussions that followed.