

Opening Remarks
by the President of the NIDS

I wish to introduce myself as SHINKAI Masakatsu, President of the National Institute for Defense Studies. It is a great pleasure for me to have an opportunity of addressing to all the participants today as the host of this International Symposium on Security Affairs. Further, I wish to say ‘thank you very much’ for sharing your busy time with us for our common interest.

First of all, I wish to introduce to you briefly about the National Institute for Defense Studies, abbreviated as NIDS.

NIDS takes charge of educating uniformed officers of the Self-Defense Forces as a research organization corresponding to a national defense university in other countries but, in addition, makes investigations and researches on various themes related to the defense and security of Japan as a think tank for our Defense Agency. The fruits of daily studies made by our Institute are publicized through publications such as "*Higashi Ajia Senryaku Gaikan (East Asian Strategic Reviews)*," "*NIDS Kiyō (NIDS Security Report)*," "*Senshi Kenkyū Nenpo (Military History Studies Annual)*."

The present Symposium has been taking place since Fiscal Year 1998 under a sponsorship of NIDS. Its purposes are inviting well-known scholars and specialists on security and history from overseas countries and exchanging free and frank opinions about themes related to regional situations and security keeping abreast with the time.

In this fourth Symposium, we will take up a theme titled “Essence of Military Power.”

Since the end of the Cold War, types of war and recognition of war among people are greatly changing with frequent outbreaks of ethnic or religious conflicts and innovations on information technology as the background. In particular, I believe it is sure that the 9.11 terrorist attack last September followed by the subsequent US-led military actions has given a serious impact on the conventional concept of war and security.

I hope we could discuss various issues such as what kind of efforts each

country must make to build up a stable order of the international society, what kind of roles the military power can play to do so, and further to which form the military power in the 21st century will be changed, taking into account the study of history and the current situations including coping with terrorism.

Therefore, we invited scholars and specialists on security and history as well as those who have been engaging in actual works in these fields for many years from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea and Israel, to give a presentation on their studies. We also invited domestic scholars and specialists for participation in a capacity of discussants.

We also have a guest from the Defense Agency, Mr. YAMASHITA Yoshihiko, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense. He will address his greetings to you in succession.

Lastly, I would like to say ‘thank you very much’ again for your participation and look forward to your lively discussions while staying at the Symposium for two days. Thank you.

SHINKAI Masakatsu

President

The National Institute for Defense Studies