

Greetings

by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defense

This is YAMASHITA Yoshihiko and a Parliamentary Secretary of the Defense Agency, Japan as introduced by NIDS President Shinkai just now. It is a great pleasure for me to have an opportunity of addressing my words of welcome to all of the visiting guests from overseas countries at, and participants in, the Fourth International Symposium on Security Affairs.

After the end of the Cold War, ‘globalization’ is undoubtedly going on, problems of the security have become complicated. It is the times where ethnic conflicts and religious antagonism in distant districts, failures in politics and economy, or a large scale of natural disasters give serious influences on the peace and stability of the respective nations and their security policy.

The concept of a word ‘war’ that had been used for the meaning of a battle between the states was changed itself, and the use of military power and subversive activities by actors other than the state have become a serious security problem.

Terrorists’ attacks that occurred simultaneously at several places in the United States resulted in making us strongly conscious of a change in the concept. I wish to express my sincere condolences to the victims of this detestable terrorism and the people of the United States.

In Japan, the anti-terrorism legislation came into effect on October 29th last year. Defense Agency of Japan as well as the Self-Defense Forces are making cooperation with, and giving supports to, the U.S. military forces by means of our naval vessels and aircraft, under recognition that terrorism is a new threat to the states in the 21st century. We are also aware of that it is not simply a matter of disasters or protecting the people, but a matter of the situations concerning individual security and safety.

While strengthening our measures against urgent situations based on such close relationship in a form of cooperation between the United States and Japan, our Defense Agency and the Self-Defense Forces are contributing to the promotion of the international peace and cooperation. In addition to that, we are

positively encouraging dialogues on security and exchange of defense personnel with relevant countries, to build up a more stable environment for security.

The National Institute for Defense Studies is also endeavoring to contribute to the enhancement of mutual understanding and confidence with the respective countries by exchanging various security studies between two or multiple countries with foreign research institutes and discussing frankly from the viewpoint of a researcher.

I believe it is very significant, in thinking of the security of Japan in the 21st century, that a discussion meeting under the theme of “Essence of the Military Power” takes place at the International Symposium on Security Affairs held by NIDS under such circumstances. In two days of this Symposium, well-known scholars or specialists of the history and security issues from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Israel and Japan will present many valuable papers mainly from an academic viewpoint and exchange frank opinions. I expect, as an individual engaged in defense and security matters, that many creative ideas with respect to significance and roles of the national and regional security and military power would be yielded out of free talks which are not bound by fixed concept.

I hope that various basic references essential to discussions about the security such as “State,” “War” and “Military Power” are developed from this Symposium, our recognition thereof are enlightened, and debates on the security of the world and Japan are enriched.

Last of all, I should like to thank you again for your participation and possible valuable comments.

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