

Opening Remarks by the President of the NIDS

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the faculty of the National Institute for Defense Studies, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for taking part in the NIDS 50th Anniversary International Symposium on Security Affairs. I am also very pleased that the Hon. Norihiko Akagi, Senior Vice Minister for the Defense Agency, has joined us during the period of the ordinary Diet session.

Our Institute was established in 1952 in order to conduct research on Japan's national security, to educate high-ranking officers of the Self Defense Forces, and also to conduct research on the history of modern Japanese warfare. Our Institute has, I believe, achieved much in these areas since its foundation, and we are currently expanding our mission to include the realm of international exchanges such as the symposium we are now holding. We hope that each of you here today will continue to provide us with your invaluable suggestions and cooperation as we work to achieve these goals.

With the end of the Cold War, the role of military force has changed drastically. Therefore, our subjects for research and education have also changed. This is simply because the boundary between military and non-military affairs has become vague. The role of the military is not limited to the conduct of war today. Rather, the international community requires different missions from the military, which is deeply involved in the maintenance of international peace and stability. For instance, in addition to a disaster relief mission, Japan's Self-Defense Force has also extended its range of missions to include peacekeeping operations and the evacuation of overseas Japanese civilians. Furthermore, Japan tasked the SDF with a new mission to conduct anti-terrorism activities following the 9.11 incident. It seems to me that the roles of the military will continue to expand in the new century. About 60 years ago, when the Japanese Imperial Navy was ordered to attack Midway Island on its way back from the attack on Pearl Harbor, it promptly rejected the order, saying that a *sumo* grand champion should not be ordered to buy a bean curd on his way home. It is obvious that this traditional view of the military cannot be applied to the contemporary military at all, because international community today anticipates the expansion of military roles.

The military is facing other challenges today. The military has to pay attention to human rights and national sovereignty, even during campaigns. The military has to defend the international community from the violence of non-state groups. In summary, the military needs new designs and doctrine to combat the new challenges we face in the new century.

The NIDS has hosted the International Symposium on Security Affairs since 1998, and this year is our fifth time. In the past four symposiums, we were able to invite many guests who had the same critical thoughts about international security issues as us. Today, we are pleased and proud to invite His Excellency Fidel Valdez Ramos, former president of the Republic of the Philippines, Dr. Yoichi Funabashi, who is distinguished for his knowledge of international security issues, and distinguished panelists from both Japan and overseas.

Of course, I do not think a two-day symposium is enough for a thorough discussion of the security issues the international community faces today. But I am sure that the discussions among the specialists will produce invaluable suggestions on how we should manage the new security issues. I would like to close my remarks by again expressing my sincere gratitude to all the panelists.

Kyoji Yanagisawa
President, NIDS