

Foreword

This report is the proceedings of the 11th International Symposium on Security Affairs hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) in February 2009. At the symposium, entitled "The Role of the Military in Peacebuilding: A New Approach to Conflict Resolution in the Twenty-first Century," experts from Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the U.K. and the U.S. explored the future of international peace cooperation activities.

The roles of the military are multi-dimensional and somewhat controversial. Some claim that the main task of the military is to maintain order in war-torn societies, which includes offensive use of force to establish the rule of law. Others stress that the military must fill the gap through humanitarian assistance and reconstruction operations, where civilian aid agencies cannot operate at full strength. Critics also claim that such operations create a security threat for civilian organizations and NGOs. The symposium was attended by a great number of participants and as a result the papers presented have been compiled in this volume. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the panelists and Professors Sukehiro Hasegawa, Hideaki Shinoda, and Yuji Uesugi, who made valuable comments. In order to disseminate the results of the symposium, this report is uploaded in full on the NIDS website.

We hope that this symposium will provide various viewpoints on the role of the military in peacebuilding, and promote public appreciation of Japan's international peace cooperation activities positioned as primary missions of the Japan Self-Defense Forces.

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