

Foreword

In order to ensure peace and stability in East Asia, it is necessary to gain an objective understanding of the security environment of the region. From this starting point, researchers of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) have analyzed the situation from various perspectives and their findings are presented in the *East Asian Strategic Review 2005*. Covering mainly the one-year period from January to December 2004, the *Strategic Review* is intended to provide East Asia experts with topics for active discussion.

Each chapter addresses major events taking place in 2004 in a country or subregion that have an important bearing on the security of East Asia. In addition, the first two chapters analyze the medium- and long-term problems considered critical in assessing the security of the region. Chapter 1 analyzes ongoing and emerging approaches to the question of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in East Asia, with a focus on maritime terrorism as a threat to regional security and on the likelihood of this further aggravating the threat of WMD proliferation in the region. Chapter 2 explores the possibility of forming an “East Asian Community” that could take on great significance for the security of the region and reviews the kind of leadership that would be required of Japan. The remaining six chapters include analysis of North Korea’s nuclear issue; China’s domestic and foreign policies under the government of President Hu Jintao; terrorist activities in Southeast Asia and the region’s relations with the United States; various challenges for President Vladimir Putin in his second term; the transformation of the US military and its global posture review; and the new National Defense Program Guidelines adopted by the Japanese government. We hope that this *Strategic Review* deepens readers’ understanding of the East Asian security environment and, even better, stimulates in-depth debate about the issues raised.

The *Strategic Review* was written and edited by NIDS staff members in their capacity as professional researchers; accordingly, their views do not necessarily represent the official view of the Japan Defense Agency or the Japanese government. It was authored by Jun Tsunekawa (Chapter 1: Section 1), Shin’ichi Ogawa (Chapter 1: Section 2), Masayuki Masuda (Chapter 2), Tetsuo Murooka (Chapter 3: Sections 1 and 2), Takeshi Watanabe (Chapter 3: Section 3), Yasuhiro Matsuda (Chapter 4: Sections 1 and 2), Tomio Kogami (Chapter 4: Section 3), Tomotaka Shoji (Chapter 5), Shinji Hyodo (Chapter 6), Hideshi

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