

East Asian Strategic Review 2013

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Preface

International relations in East Asia have dramatically changed in recent years, particularly with regard to the growing challenges posed by the security environment surrounding Japan. The year 2012 was marked by an unprecedentedly high level of tension in East Asia at a time of leadership transitions in several major regional powers, including Russia, China, and Japan. Contributing to the mounting tensions were missile launches by North Korea, and China's rapid, multi-faceted military modernization and increasingly active maritime operations in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. Against this backdrop, the United States worked toward expanding its cooperative ties with allies and partners in the region under a clearly articulated strategy of focusing on Asia. This period of transition in Asia requires Japan to establish a system for timely, appropriate responses to various challenges, and formulate medium- and long-term security strategies. These efforts must be predicated on accurate situational analyses, informed public discussion of security issues, and dialogue and shared understanding with other nations.

East Asian Strategic Review (EASR) seeks to promote objective, comprehensive understanding of the East Asian security environment by presenting the results of National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) researchers' analyses of major trends and issues in East Asian security.

EASR 2013 is composed of an executive summary, thematic chapters, and chapters focused on specific nations and subregions. The executive summary is a new addition to the *EASR* series that is intended to facilitate the reader's understanding of the main points of discussion in each chapter. The thematic chapters cover topics deemed useful for understanding the context of East Asian and global security. The chapters on nations and subregions explore key security-related events that took place in the year from January to December of 2012, and also include sidebars that further analyze specific topics of interest.

The two thematic chapters for this edition address the security policies of India and Australia. Chapter 1 discusses India's growing role and influence in the region and the international community, highlighting US-India relations, application of the "Look East" policy to security matters, and Indian peacekeeping operations. Chapter 2 analyzes trends in Australian defense policy in the context of the US-

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Australian alliance, engagement with Asia-Pacific countries, and Japan-Australian defense cooperation. Chapter 3 deals with the security challenges that Japan faces as it reviews the National Defense Program Guidelines, particularly with regard to strengthening of Japan's defense posture in the Southwestern Islands, responses to ballistic missile threats, dynamic defense cooperation with the United States, multilayered security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and global operations of the Self-Defense Forces. Chapter 4 looks at North Korea's domestic and foreign policies, which are characterized by provocative acts such as missile launches and nuclear tests, the security policy challenges facing the new South Korean administration inaugurated in February 2013, South Korea's relations with the US, Japan, and China, and its defense policy aimed at developing active deterrence capabilities. Chapter 5 examines China's domestic politics, external relations, and defense policy, analyzing the direction of policymaking under the new leadership instituted by the Communist Party of China's Eighteenth National Congress and headed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, Japan-China relations amid rising tensions over the Senkaku Islands, efforts by the People's Liberation Army to establish joint operations, and developments in China's relations with Taiwan. Chapter 6 investigates the situations in Myanmar and the South China Sea, and the responses of Southeast Asian nations to the United States' rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region. Chapter 7 reviews the second Putin administration's foreign and defense policies from the perspective of Russia's stance toward China and focus on Asia, including examination of issues such as Russian efforts to strengthen its navy in response to China's increased maritime activity in the Arctic region, and Russia's pursuit of maritime security cooperation with the United States and Japan. Chapter 8 explores the challenges that the second Obama administration faces in domestic politics, foreign relations, and security, particularly with regard to defense budget cuts, rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region, and efforts to resolve issues in the South China Sea.

We hope that *EASR 2013* will help deepen domestic and international discussion of the security challenges facing Japan and other countries in the region, and will contribute to the strengthening of mutual confidence and the improvement of mutual understanding between Japan and other countries in the region.

This edition was written by Shigeki Akimoto, Hiroyasu Akutsu, Hiromu Arakaki, Yusuke Ishihara, Marie Izuyama, Shigeo Kikuchi, Yoshiaki Sakaguchi, Tomohiko Satake, Tomotaka Shoji, Yasuyuki Sugiura, Shinji Hyodo, Tetsuo

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The analyses and descriptions contained herein are solely those of NIDS researchers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Government of Japan or the Ministry of Defense. *EASR* is based on open-source information, including domestic and foreign news reports, government or non-government publications, and academic analyses. The titles and ranks of people mentioned herein are, in principle, those that were current at the time of the events described.

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