

East Asian Strategic Review 2014

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The National Security Council (Cabinet Public Relations Office)
Aegis destroyers (Japan Ministry of Defense)
P-3C surveillance plane (Japan Ministry of Defense)

Preface

A key part of ensuring peace and stability in East Asia is free and vigorous discussion of the pertinent issues, based on an objective and comprehensive understanding of the region's security environment and security-related challenges. *East Asian Strategic Review (EASR)* is aimed at facilitating such discussion among experts and general readers in the international community by presenting them with analyses of major trends and developments in the East Asian security environment made by researchers at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS).

EASR 2014 analyzes the significant security developments that took place in regional countries and subregions during the period from January through December 2013. Also included are thematic chapters and sidebars that explore medium- to long-range concerns and specific items of interest deemed critical to the study of East Asian and global security.

This book is divided into an executive summary, an introduction, chapters on specific countries and subregions, and thematic chapters. The executive summary highlights the main focuses of each chapter, while the introduction provides an overview of the emerging trends in the East Asian security environment to aid the reader's understanding of the background to the various developments analyzed in the chapters that follow. Each of Chapters 1 through 7 examines a particular country or subregion, analyzing matters such as Japan's new development of its security policy, North Korea's economy and nuclear development issue, trends in the foreign and security policy of South Korea, China's domestic situation and foreign policy, the situations in Southeast Asian countries and the South China Sea, Australia's defense policy and policy toward Asia, the greater emphasis that Russia is placing on Japan in its security policy, and the ways in which the US rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is being put to the test. Chapters 8 and 9, the thematic chapters, delve into two topics of concern in global security that have been attracting the international community's attention in recent years—the security challenges in Afghanistan and the surrounding region (Chapter 8) and the Shale Revolution's impact on the security environment.

It is our hope that *EASR 2014* will encourage deeper discussion of the security challenges facing Japan and other countries in the region, and help foster mutual understanding among all stakeholders in the region.

Preface

This edition was written by: Eiichi Katahara (Introduction); Sugio Takahashi (Chapter 1); Hiroyasu Akutsu, Tetsuo Murooka, and Yukiko Eguchi (Chapter 2); Rira Momma, Masafumi Iida, Yasuyuki Sugiura, and Yasushi Wada (Chapter 3); Tomotaka Shoji (Chapter 4); Yusuke Ishihara (Chapter 5); Shinji Hyodo, Shigeki Akimoto, and Hiroshi Yamazoe (Chapter 6); Shigeo Kikuchi and Hiromu Arakaki (Chapter 7); Takeshi Yuasa (Chapter 8); and, again, Shigeki Akimoto (Chapter 9). It was edited by Sukeyuki Ichimasa, Ken Ohnishi, Kiwako Tanaka, Hideo Tomikawa, Yu Harada, Yoshihide Matsuura, and Rira Momma.

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. The titles and ranks of people mentioned herein are, in principle, those that were current at the time of the events described.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank the authors who painstakingly contributed to *EASR 2014*, and all others who diligently planned, edited, and managed this project.

March 2014

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