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**Security Outlook of the Asia
Pacific Countries and Its
Implications for the Defense Sector**

The National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan

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Preface

The National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) hosted the sixth “International Workshop on Asia-Pacific Security” on January 21 and 22 in 2015, inviting distinguished experts on security from various countries in the Asia Pacific region. This monograph’s chapters are revised versions of papers originally presented at the workshop. The theme of the workshop was “Security Outlook of the Asia-Pacific Countries and Its Implications for the Defense Sector.” Each presenter provided a perspective on the assigned country’s security outlook, including significant security challenges and their implications for the country’s defense policy, and future prospects of regional security cooperation.

In the Asia Pacific, there has been progress in building security cooperation frameworks, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus. However, traditional security issues remain in this region, while non-traditional issues like terrorism, maritime security, cyber security and natural disaster are also looming large on the security agenda of the region. In particular, there have been growing risks that could lead to serious unforeseen incidents or armed confrontations, especially in the East and South China Seas. We hope that this monograph will contribute to sharing information and analyses about security issues facing the region and deepening mutual understanding, cooperation and policy coordination between Japan and Asia-Pacific countries.

The authors in this monograph are Iis Gindarsah, Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Herman Joseph S. Kraft, Tin Maung Maung Than, Phoak Kung, Lam Peng Er, Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Kiwako Tanaka, Tran Truong Thuy and You Ji . The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of NIDS or any institutes with which they are affiliated.

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Eiichi Katahara

Director, International Affairs and Libraries