

PART 2

PREFACE

Changes in the global strategic environment after the end of the “cold war” caused appropriate changes in the East Asia as well. As a result, relations between Japan and Russia have become more pragmatic, including those in the military sphere.

Part of the military cooperation between Japan and Russia are the annual exchanges of researchers in the form of bilateral seminars on the issues of regional security and stability between the Center for Military and Strategic Studies of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (CMSS GS) and National Institute for Defense Studies of the Department of National Defense of Japan. The history of the exchanges has continued since 1993.

Based on results of the said research CMSS GS and NIDS in 2000 agreed on development of a joint research project on the issues of security in the Asia Pacific Region. The objectives of the joint research are to assess existing and potential threats to national and regional security in the Asia Pacific, explore prospects of situation development in the region and work out proposals for providing regional security and stability.

During the two year period, from 2005 to 2006, the sides have been independently conducting research as per coordinated plan, which was concluded in 2007 with publication of a monograph in two parts (Russian and Japanese vision of the mentioned issue) in Russia – in Russian and English, in Japan – in Japanese and English. Cross analysis of materials produced by experts of the two countries will make it possible to deeply comprehend common, particular and different assessments of the researched issues.

We also hope that the results of this joint research will contribute towards improvement of mutual understanding between Russia and Japan in the field of providing security and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

We consider it possible and advisable to engage colleagues from relevant research institutions in China, India, two Korean states and the USA, member countries of hexalateral talks on the problems of security in the Korean peninsula to this project at subsequent stages. This will allow to expand and deepen general understanding of regional security problems and contribute to their settlement.

The monograph is published in the author's edition and reflects the viewpoint of the authors' collectives.