

## **NORTHEAST ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE VI**

**Arden House, Harriman, New York, United States**

**April 2-4, 1997**

**University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation**

The purpose of the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD) is to enhance mutual understanding, confidence, and cooperation among countries in Northeast Asia through dialogue. The Dialogue is informal: participants include private academics and government officials who act in a private capacity, not as government representatives. Each country sends a foreign ministry official, a defense ministry official, a uniformed military officer, and two private participants. The informality of the process encourages lively and frank discussion, but as a result consensus reached at meetings is not operational and can serve merely as a suggestion for governments in different countries. The New York session was the sixth meeting of the NEACD process. For the second time since the Dialogue began, the foreign and defense ministry officials met together at lunch to discuss the future of the Dialogue.

To achieve its goal of promoting the habit of dialogue, NEACD rotates the hosting responsibilities among its members. This helps to expand understanding of the NEACD process among officials and citizens in each country. Previous Dialogue meetings were held in San Diego, Tokyo, Moscow, Beijing, and Seoul. The New York meeting included participants from the Republic of Korea, Russia, China, Japan, and the United States. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea attended the preparatory session in July 1993, and NEACD participants would welcome its participation in the Dialogue process.

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

#### **I. National and Military Perspectives on Northeast Asian Security**

The first day was devoted to discussion of perspectives on security in Northeast Asia as presented by two participants reflecting each country's perspective. One presentation focused on the general security situation in the subregion with an emphasis upon developments in the last six months, while the second presentation analyzed the situation from a military perspective. These presentations included the country's policies in the region and its concerns about the policies of other states in the region. Following presentations from each country, there was a discussion during which participants asked questions about matters raised in the presentations, including bilateral agreements, the development and procurement of new military capabilities, domestic political influences on foreign policy, and national responses to crisis situations in the region.

## **II. Defense Information Sharing**

The Seoul NEACD meeting decided to begin pursuing a dialogue on Defense Information Sharing. In New York, preliminary discussions held intersessionally by two participants were reported to the Dialogue. The purpose of this dialogue on Defense Information Sharing, as laid out by the NEACD study project on mutual reassurance measures, is to provide a forum for discussion of current efforts at information sharing and systematic discussions of perspectives on military doctrine, to clarify information currently found in information sharing documents, and to encourage voluntary and unilateral information sharing. The premise of NEACD's approach to defense information sharing is that dialogue is more important than the specific information.

## **III. Energy and Security Workshop Report**

In conjunction with the Seoul meeting of the Dialogue, a two-day workshop examined the strategic implications of energy issues, especially the security implications of rising energy demand and nuclear energy use. This workshop was summarized to the New York meeting and included analysis of follow-up efforts on this topic.

## **IV. Briefings: ARF work on Disaster Relief and KEDO**

The Dialogue participants seek to inform themselves about the activities underway in other multilateral regional organizations. At the New York meeting, briefings were held updating the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) work on emergency and disaster relief and the achievements of the Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

## **V. Regional Economic Cooperation: The Maritime Trade Workshop**

At each Dialogue, a non-security issue is the basis of discussion for at least one session, when potential avenues for regional cooperation are examined. Subjects of past discussions included economic complementarity, the environment, food and agriculture, and energy. In New York, a one-day NEACD workshop examined the strategic implications of the increasing volume of maritime shipping and trade in the sea lanes of Asia, including the legal implications of implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and threats to the security of the major sea lines of communication.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

NEACD VII will be held in Japan in Fall 1997. The agenda will include national perspectives and security conceptions in Northeast Asia, analysis of current security issues (e.g., bilateral alliances, theater missile defense, regional military trends) by Dialogue or outside scholars, and further discussion in the area of defense information sharing. The NEACD also agreed to organize a session on environmental cooperation related to its previous two workshop topics: energy and maritime trade.