

NORTHEAST ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE VII

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University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC)

Japan National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA)

Japan Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS)

The purpose of the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD) is to enhance mutual understanding, confidence, and cooperation among the countries of Northeast Asia. The Dialogue is an informal, "track two" process: 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 any consensus reached at meetings is not operational; it can only serve as counsel for the governments of the member countries.

The members of the NEACD are 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, but has not participated since. The NEACD participants reaffirmed their sincere hope that the DPRK would participate in the Dialogue process in the future.

The first plenary meeting of NEACD was held in San Diego in October, 1993, and this Tokyo session was the seventh NEACD meeting. Discussion of national and military perspectives on Northeast Asian security are the centerpiece of the NEACD process. Two participants present each country's perspective, one focused on the general security situation in the subregion, the other examining the situation from a military perspective. Following presentations from each country, there was a discussion during which participants asked questions about matters raised in the presentations.

While uncertainties remain, particularly with respect to the future of the Korean peninsula, the general sense of the meeting was satisfaction with the improved political and security climate in the region during the eight months since NEACD VI. Positive developments include the deepening of bilateral contacts among the powers in the region, including summits between the United States and China, Japan and Russia, and Russia and China. NEACD members also commended the initiation of the four party talks on the future of the Korean peninsula.

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 Tokyo, a discussion about a broad range of regional issues related to the environmental impact of energy in Northeast Asia was held.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the NEACD also organizes study projects on issues of common concern and interest to its members. Since the last plenary session, the NEACD conducted study project meetings on Principles of State-to-State Relations and on Defense Information Sharing.

PRINCIPLES OF STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS

Following two years of work by a study project on Principles, NEACD participants agreed to a set of Principles of Cooperation in Northeast Asia. These principles mark a significant step forward in developing a multilateral framework for cooperation in the region.

Principles of Cooperation in Northeast Asia

The states of Northeast Asia share the common objectives of peace, prosperity, and security in the region. To achieve these ends, they advance the following principles for cooperation in Northeast Asia.

1. The states of Northeast Asia respect each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and equality; accept that other countries have different political, economic, social and cultural systems and the right to determine their own laws and regulations as well as other domestic affairs. They also recognize that they are obliged to abide by and implement international agreements to which they are a party.
2. The states of Northeast Asia will refrain from the threat or use of force against each other; will settle disputes through peaceful means; and pledge to use consultation, negotiation, and other peaceful means to prevent conflict between and among each other.
3. The states of Northeast Asia express their commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.
4. To prevent misunderstanding and develop trust, the states of Northeast Asia will promote dialogue, information exchange, and transparency on security issues of common concern.
5. The states of Northeast Asia respect the principle of freedom of navigation based on international law.
6. The states of Northeast Asia will promote economic cooperation and the development of trade and investment in the region.
7. The states of Northeast Asia will cooperate on transnational issues of common concern, such as organized crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, and illegal immigration.

8. The states of Northeast Asia will cooperate in the provision of humanitarian assistance, such as food aid and disaster relief.

DEFENSE INFORMATION SHARING STUDY PROJECT

The NEACD also heard a briefing about the first meeting of the Defense Information Sharing study project, held in September in Honolulu, Hawaii. The study project included defense and academic participants from NEACD states. The purpose of this dialogue was to provide a forum for information sharing and an initial discussion of military conceptions and perceptions and defense policies. The value of the Honolulu meetings was recognized by the NEACD plenary, which decided to continue this military-to-military dialogue. The purpose of the next meeting of the study project will be to discuss information currently found in information sharing documents and white papers, and to encourage further information sharing as countries deem appropriate. This will provide the first multilateral forum for a discussion of this type.

FUTURE PLANS

NEACD VIII will be held in Moscow, Russia in September 1998. The agenda will include national perspectives and security conceptions in Northeast Asia, analysis of current subregional security issues by Dialogue or outside scholars, and a briefing on four party talks on the Korean Peninsula.