Japanese Approaches to Defense Transparency
and the Lessons for Northeast Asia
March 29-31, 2012
Tokyo, Japan
(Agenda as of March 27, 2012)

Workshop Agenda

Thursday, March 29
Visit to Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) Yokosuka (Planned)
8:30-9:45 am Briefing Session at CMGI
10:00 am Leave for Yokosuka by Bus
11:30 am-12:30 pm Lunch
12:30-3:00 pm Site Visit of Military Facilities and Briefing Session
JMSDF DD / JMSDF Submarine (planned)
5:00 pm Back in Tokyo
6.30pm-9.00pm Welcome Reception and Dinner (Hosted by IGCC and CIGS)
Canion Training Facility

Friday, March 30
8:30-9.00 am Welcoming Remarks: Tai Ming Cheung (IGCC), Kunihiko Miyake and Ken Jimbo (CIGS)
(CIGS)
9:00-10.20 am Session One: The Attitudes and Approaches of the Japanese Defense Establishment Towards Defense Transparency
Panelists: Kazuo Sunaga, Director General for International Policy, MOD
Masashi Nishihara, President, Research Institute for Peace and Security
Teng Jianqun, China Institute for International Studies

Moderator: Tai Ming Cheung

1. What are the key principles and strategies behind Japan’s thinking towards defense transparency and how has this evolved over time?

2. How important an issue is defense transparency for the leaderships of the Japanese Ministry of Defense (JMOD) and the Self-Defense Forces (SDF)?

3. How do JMOD and the SDF seek to promote transparency of the country’s defense posture, capabilities and strategic intentions?

4. What are the mechanisms that are used (white papers, spokespersons, websites, media outreach) and how effective and state-of-the-art are these mechanisms?

5. What are the key weaknesses in defense transparency work in Japan? Which areas can JMOD and the SDF improve upon?

10:20-10:35 am Tea Break

10:35-11:55 am Session Two: Japan’s Approach to the Formulation and Production of its Annual Defense White Paper, Complementary Annual Defense and Security Reviews (Including NIDS annual reviews) and the JMOD Website

Panelists: Yasushi Sukegawa, Senior Fellow, Government and Law Studies Division, National Institute of Defense Studies
Ken Jimbo, Senior Research Fellow, Canon Institute for Global Studies
Philip Saunders, U.S. National Defense University

Moderator: Youngho Kim, Korean National Defense University

1. How does Japan put together its defense white paper?
2. What kind of process is involved in collecting the information and compiling it? How much senior leadership attention is paid to this process?
3. What lessons can be provided to other countries in putting together the white paper?
4. What role is played by other governmental, quasi-governmental and independent defense reports, such as those produced by NIDS and RIPS?

11:55-12:55 pm Lunch


Panelists: Hiroyuki Akita, Senior and Editorial Staff Writer, Nikkei Inc.
Yoichi Kato, National Security Correspondent, Asahi Shimbun
Christian Le-Miere, IISS
Moderator: Tai Ming Cheung, IGCC

1. What is the role of the Japanese media, both mainstream and the specialized defense press, in promoting defense transparency in Japan?
2. What kind of watchdog role does it play towards the defense establishment? Is it a cooperative or antagonistic relationship?
3. Can the Japanese media report on defense and security matters independently and comprehensively or is it subject to restrictions?
4. What is the level of public interest in defense issues?
5. Are there public opinion surveys and other ways to gauge public responses to defense transparency in Japan?

2:15-2:30 pm Tea Break

2:30-3:50 pm Session Four: Comparing Japan’s Level of Defense Transparency with Other Domestic Sectors

Panelists: Hisayoshi Ina, Senior and Editorial Staff Writer, Nikkei Inc.
Kunihiko Miyake, Director of Research, The Canon Institute for Global Studies
TJ Pempel, UC Berkeley

Moderator: Yu Tiejun, Peking University

1. How transparent is the defense sector compared with other important policy arenas and institutions such as the foreign policy, financial, legal, and nuclear sectors?
2. What are some useful ways to compare transparency in the defense sector with other areas? For example, is comparing the website of JMOD with its ministerial counterparts a good indicator?
3. How transparent is Japan overall compared to other developed and Northeast Asian countries?

3:50-4:05 pm Tea Break

4.05-5.25 pm Session Five: Analyzing the Japanese Defense Budget as an Indicator of Defense Transparency

Panelists: Sugio Takahashi, Senior Researcher, The National Institute for Defense Studies
Youngho Kim, Korean National Defense University
David An, U.S. State Department

Moderator: Philip Saunders

1. How transparent is the Japanese defense budget?
2. Is published data as well as the budgetary process open to independent scrutiny and informed analysis?
3. Are there any major gaps in disclosures?

Dinner: 6.30pm-8.30pm (Hosted by CIGS President Fukui)
Saturday, March 31

9.00-10.20 am  Session Six: The Role of the Japanese Diet in Promoting Defense Transparency

Panelists:  Hon. Keiichiro Asao, Member of the House of Representatives (Your Party)  
           Hon. Yoshimasa Hayashi, Member of the House of Councilors (LDP)

Moderator:  Masashi Nishihara, President, RIPS

1. What is the role of parliament in promoting defense transparency, especially for budgetary and oversight issues?
2. Does the Japanese Diet have a strong tradition of close monitoring of defense issues?
3. How does the Japanese political system’s approach to supervising defense matters compare with other Western countries, such as the U.S. and British systems?
4. Are there non-governmental organizations involved in third-party monitoring of the defense establishment?
5. What is the nature of the coordination process between the Japanese defense establishment and the Diet?

10:20-10.35 am  Tea Break

10:35-12.00 pm  Session Seven: Foreign Assessments of Japanese Defense Transparency: Is Japan Doing a Good Job?

Panelists:  Philip Saunders, U.S. National Defense University  
           Ho-Ryang Lee, Korean Institute for Defense Analyses  
           Yu Tiejun, Peking University

Moderator:  Ken Jimbo, CIGS

1. How do other countries in the region assess Japan’s defense transparency?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of understanding Japan’s defense posture?
3. What are the critical issues that need to be addressed that would increase other countries’ confidence in understanding Japan’s defense situation and mitigate potential misunderstandings and misperceptions?

12:00 -12:30 pm  Special Lecture: Japan’s Foreign and Defense Policy under DPJ  
                 Nobushige Takamizawa, President, NIDS

Moderator:  Kunihiko Miyake, Director of Research, CIGS

12:30 – 2:00 pm  Lunch and End of Workshop

The UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation wishes to thank its generous sponsors: the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the Canon Institute for Global Studies.