Part I  Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Section 5  Southeast Asia

1  General Situation

Southeast Asia holds key positions for traffic linking the Pacific and Indian Oceans, such as the Straits of Malacca, the South China Sea, and is an important region for Japan. The countries in this region are making efforts to achieve political stability and steady economic growth, and lately have realized overall economic development to varying degrees. Such economic development has deepened the relationships of interdependence within and outside the region. However, this region still has destabilizing factors, including the territorial dispute over the Spratly Islands, ethnic minority issues, separatist and independence movements, and Islamic extremist groups. Moreover, there are incidents such as piracy by which the safe passage of ships is obstructed. In order to cope with these problems, the countries in the region are working to build sufficient military forces not only for traditional national defense but also to address new security issues such as anti-terrorism and piracy. In recent years, against the backdrop of economic development, they have been modernizing their military forces, particularly their navy and air forces.

In this region, the United States is developing relationships of confidence with Southeast Asian countries and working to strengthen their readiness through numerous joint military exercises such as the multinational military exercise Cobra Gold and Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) and the provision of military technology and military assistance.

(See Fig. 1-2-5-1)

2  Defense Policy of Each Country

1  Singapore

Given the concentration of people and their property in limited national land space and deepening economic interdependence with other countries, Singapore identifies diplomacy and deterrence as the twin pillars of national defense for maintaining peace and stability, and gives high priority to national defense, with defense spending accounting for about one-quarter of its national budget. As its national defense policy, Singapore declares that it will strengthen dialogue, confidence-building and cooperation with armed forces of countries within and outside Southeast Asia and promoting Total Defense.

Faced with the need to appropriately and flexibly respond to war, terrorism, peacekeeping activities, and humanitarian crises, Singapore is working on the transformation of the 3rd Generation Singapore Forces to implement effective responses with limited resources, and is striving to modernize equipment and enhance operational capabilities.

Singapore is making aggressive efforts to modernize military equipment, including the earliest introduction in Southeast Asia of early-warning aircraft, air refueling tankers and a submarine rescue mother ship. Regarding enhancement of operational capability, it conducts training by stationing its troops overseas on an ongoing basis to overcome constraints on training areas due to limited land space.

Singapore makes efforts for regional cooperation based...
Fig. I-2-5-1 Comparison of Forces Strength and Defense Budget between Southeast Asia and Japan/China/ROK 2010

Notes:
1. The size of each block indicates relative size using Japan as the base size.
2. For Japan, the force strength shows the actual strength of each Self-Defense Force as of the end of FY2010; the number of combat aircraft is the sum of the number of combat aircraft of the ASDF (excluding transport aircraft) and that of the MSDF (fixed-wing aircraft only).
3. The national defense budget of China is from the Finance Minister’s Budget Report to the National People’s congress in 2010.
5. The national defense budget of China and the ROK is expressed in U.S. dollars and is calculated at the FY2010 Ministry of Finance announced-exchange rates of 94 yen to the dollar, 14 yen to the yuan, and 78 yen to 1,000 won.
6. The Japanese national defense budget is expressed in U.S. dollars converting 2010 figures at the FY2008 Ministry of Finance announced-exchange rate of 94 yen to the dollar.
Section 5 Southeast Asia

Chapter 2 Defense Policies of Countries

Singapore concluded a Defence Cooperation Agreement with India in 2003; as well as other similar agreements with Germany in 2005; with China and Australia in 2008; and with New Zealand, Vietnam and the ROK in 2009. In December 2009, Japan and Singapore signed a Memorandum on Defence Exchanges.

Singapore has been actively participating in international peace cooperation activities as well. Though on a limited scale, in addition to U.N. peacekeeping operations, it has dispatched personnel, aircraft, and naval vessels to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Gulf of Aden.

Indonesia

While there is a perception that within the next several years there is yet to be any indication of a conventional military threat from outside, the intensity of trans-national security threats has actually significantly increased in the past few years. Indonesia states that it treats non-military security issues as a part of national defense issues. To that end, Indonesia is promoting Total Defense through both military defense and non-military defense activities under the idea that all people utilizing all resources available, maintaining Indonesia’s independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unification. Furthermore, Indonesia is implementing military reform, which includes the prohibition of the involvement of military officers in politics and business activities, and the separation of military and police roles.

In foreign policy, Indonesia emphasizes cooperation with other ASEAN states and pursues independent and proactive diplomacy as its basic idea.

In its diplomatic policy, Indonesia emphasizes cooperation with other Southeast Asian countries, and lays out as its basic principle the development of an independent and active
foreign policy. In its national defense policy, Indonesia makes it clear that it does not leave the safety of the nation to another nation. However, Indonesia regards defense and military cooperation with the United States as significant for the development of the country’s defense force, not only for the interest of Indonesia but also for its regional security interest, and has strengthened cooperative relations with the United States in such fields as military education and training, and military equipment procurement in recent years.

Though International Military Education and Training (IMET) with the United States was temporarily suspended due to disputes over the activities of Indonesian forces in Timor-Leste, the United States in November 2005 decided to resume IMET and also decided to resume arms exports to Indonesia.

In January 2009, the Indonesia Navy Special Forces conducted a joint exercise with the United States, and in June 2010, the two countries concluded the Framework Arrangement on Cooperative Activities in the Field of Defense. In July the same year, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visited Indonesia and held talks with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Minister of Defence Purnomo Yusgiantoro, where they agreed to strengthen military cooperation, including commencing cooperative initiatives with Indonesian army special force command (KOPASSUS).

Indonesia believes that participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations promotes Indonesia’s presence in the realm of international relations and is actively dispatching personnel to such activities.

**Thailand**

Under its flexible omnidirectional diplomatic policy, Thailand pursues cooperation with other Southeast Asian countries and coordination with major countries, including Japan, the United States and China. Thailand’s national defense policy consists of the two elements of 1) enhancement of the defense capabilities of the armed forces, and coordination and integration with other government institutions; and 2) strengthening of security cooperation relationships with neighboring countries, the regional community, and the international community. On this basis, it has adopted the national defense strategy that revolves around the three pillars of Security Cooperation, United Defense, and Active Defense.

Thailand is promoting close security cooperation with neighboring countries, the build up of defense capabilities, and reform of the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence. Thailand believes that while risks of traditional threats such as a large-scale invasion have decreased, the risk of non-traditional threats such as international terrorism are on the rise, and in particular the insurgency in southern Thailand by separatists poses a national challenge going forward. Thailand also has border disputes with neighboring Myanmar and Cambodia, and the disputes occasionally heighten tensions between Thailand and Cambodia. The insurgency in the south is raising realistic concerns for Thailand, but in the area of build-up of defense capabilities, it is modernizing the armed forces centering on the naval and air forces and is the sole owner of an aircraft carrier in Southeast Asia.

With respect to relations with the United States, which serves as the core of security cooperation, Thailand believes the presence of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region provides security assurances for many countries as well as security concerns for some states. Thailand has established a good relationship with the United States by maintaining cooperation with the United States since the Cold War era. Since the conclusion of the Military Assistance Agreement in 1950, Thailand and the United States maintained the cooperative relationship, and they have been conducting the joint military exercise Cobra Gold since 1982. Cobra Gold became a mul-

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13 IMET provides the military personnel of U.S. allies and friendly nations with opportunities for studying and training at U.S. military educational institutions. In action against Indonesia’s suppression of independence movements in Timor-Leste, the United States in 1992 suspended IMET for Indonesia. Though sanctions against Indonesia were partially lifted in 1995, the United States suspended IMET again in 1999.
14 Specifically, this agreement integrate existing cooperative activities in such areas as security dialogues, education and training, defense industries, procurement of military equipment, maritime security, and other mutually areas of cooperation.
15 As of the end of May 2011, Indonesia has dispatched a total of 1,799 personnel on U.N. peacekeeping operations, including 1,434 to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and 192 to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).
16 According to Defence of Thailand 2008, United Defence means the consolidation of national power by the armed forces in every dimension including military, political, economic, socio-psychological, and scientific and technological aspects, for national defense. Active Defence means that the armed forces prepare, reinforce, develop, and administer all military resources so that they are self-sufficient and ready to be used as a deterrent to solve problems and to settle disputes.
17 Based on Defence of Thailand 2008.
18 In February 2011 and from April to May of the same year, the Thai and Cambodian armies clashed at the Preah Vihear Temple and surrounding areas, resulting in injuries and casualties on both sides.
19 The aircraft carrier Chakri Naruebet was built in Spain and commissioned in 1997. The flattop has a full displacement of some 11,500 tons, and is some 180 m long and some 30 m wide. Its main tasks are search and rescue operations and EEZ surveillance; however, some point out that the aircraft carrier rarely goes to sea due to funding shortages.
20 Based on Defence of Thailand 2008.
tinational exercise in 2000 and includes noncombat missions such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.\textsuperscript{23}

In addition to U.N. peacekeeping operations, Thailand has been actively engaged in international peace cooperation activities, dispatching its troops to Iraq and Afghanistan.\textsuperscript{22} In 2003, the United States designated Thailand as a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA)\textsuperscript{23} in appreciation of its proactive participation in the U.S.-led war on terror. In October 2010, Thailand also dispatched two naval vessels, for the first time, to the Coast of Somalia in the Gulf of Aden as part of counterpiracy measures.\textsuperscript{24}

Section 5   Southeast Asia

Chapter 2 Defense Policies of Countries

Thailand, the United States, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, the ROK, and Malaysia participated in the Cobra Gold exercise in February 2011, with some 60 personnel taking part from Japan's Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces.

As of the end of May 2011, Thailand has dispatched a total of 866 personnel for U.N. peacekeeping operations, including 821 for the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and 18 for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA), which was a status established by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Nunn Amendment of 1987, allows designated countries to receive benefits in military areas such as eligibility to have military equipment. A status of MNNA also strongly represents a designated country’s close military cooperation with the United States. Apart from Thailand, the 13 other countries of Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, ROK, Jordan, New Zealand, Argentina, Bahrain, the Philippines, Kuwait, Morocco, and Pakistan have been designated as MNNA.

In light of the fact that the number of Thai commercial and fishing vessels that were attacked by pirates off the Coast of Somalia in 2009 totaled six, Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs dispatched navy vessels and special forces from September 2010 to January 2011 to protect Thai ships and crew using sea routes in that area, and to share responsibility as a member of the international community and contribute toward resolving these international security problems.

The all-people national defense is described as efforts to build up defense capabilities by combining the unity of people and the political system under the guidance of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The Philippines perceives terrorism by domestic anti-government armed groups as the most serious threat to national security. Since 2004, the country has been implementing reform programs in the areas of defense planning, improve-

\begin{itemize}
    \item Thailand, the United States, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, the ROK, and Malaysia participated in the Cobra Gold exercise in February 2011, with some 60 personnel taking part from Japan’s Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces.
    
    \item As of the end of May 2011, Thailand has dispatched a total of 866 personnel for U.N. peacekeeping operations, including 821 for the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and 18 for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).
    
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    \item The all-people national defense is described as efforts to build up defense capabilities by combining the unity of people and the political system under the guidance of the Communist Party of Vietnam.
    
    \item Based on Vietnam National Defence 2009.
    
    \item The United States amended the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, opening the way for exports of non-lethal defense articles to Vietnam on the condition of case-by-case licenses or approvals.
\end{itemize}
ment of operational and training capabilities, reform of military structures and modernization of forces in accordance with a defense reform program called the Philippine Defense Reform (PDR).

The Philippines and the United States have a history of a close relationship and maintain a long-standing, tight military cooperation relationship. The two countries maintain the cooperative relationship, with the continuation of the mutual defense treaty and military assistance agreement, even after the eviction of U.S. forces in 1992. The two countries have been conducting the large-scale annual joint military exercise Balikatan since 2000 with the aim of improving combat readiness and interoperability. The Philippines and the United States have also conducted other joint exercises, including Balance Piston and Talon Vision. The United States designated the Philippines as a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA). In January 2011, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell visited the Philippines and held the first Bilateral Strategic Dialogues. At the Foreign Ministerial Meeting held between the two countries in June 2011, U.S. Secretary of State Clinton urged all involved countries to exercise self-restraint on the basis of recent incidents in the South China Sea, and underscored the U.S. commitment to the Philippines’ defense.

3 Military Modernization in the Region

In recent years, Southeast Asian countries have been modernizing their militaries against a backdrop of economic development and other factors.

In May 2009, Singapore took the first delivery of four U.S.-made F-15 fighters for the detachments in Idaho, United States. Singapore plans to have a total of 24 F-15 fighter jets, all of which are scheduled to be delivered by 2012. Singapore has also participated in the joint development program of the F-35 fighter, the first Asian country to do so.

As for the naval strength of Singapore, all six French-made Formidable-class frigates with stealth capability were commissioned in 2009. Singapore also purchased two secondhand Swedish-made submarines in 2005; the first submarine was launched in 2009, while the second submarine was launched in 2010.

Malaysia started introducing Russian-made Su-30 fighters from 2007, and the delivery of all 18 of them was completed in 2009. As for naval strength, Malaysia’s first submarine (the Scorpene-class submarine jointly developed by France and Spain) was commissioned in January 2009, and a second one in November 2009. The six German-made Kedah-class corvettes ordered in 2000 were all commissioned in 2010.

Indonesia introduced five each of Russian-made Su-27 and Su-30 fighters by 2000. Regarding naval strength, in 2009, Indonesia completed the commissioning of four Dutch-made Sigma-class corvettes. In addition, in September 2007, Indonesia agreed with Russia to strengthen military technological and defense cooperation, and signed an agreement to purchase $1 billion worth of Russian-made weapons with government loans. The agreement reportedly covers such weapons as two Kilo-class submarines.

Thailand in 2007 decided to purchase Swedish-made JAS-39 fighters as well as two aircraft with early-warning systems. Of these, the initial six JAS-39 fighters were delivered.

28 The Philippine Constitution states that “foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines,” unless the Senate formally approves a treaty and furthermore, if Congress requires it, that the people of the Philippines vote for the treaty, since the end of the Military Bases Agreement in 1991. However, in addition to the mutual defense treaty and the military assistance agreement, the Philippines concluded the Philippines–United States Visiting Forces Agreement in 1998 and the Mutual Logistics Supply Agreement in 2002, maintaining close military relations with the United States.

29 When the 1947 Philippine–U.S. agreement on military bases was revised in 1966, the time limit for the presence of U.S. military bases in the Philippines was set for 1991. Negotiations regarding the Military Bases Agreement began in 1992 but were difficult, and furthermore Clark Air Base was rendered unusable due to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. Although the two nations signed a U.S.–Philippines friendship cooperation treaty the same year, the Philippines Senate rejected it, and since they could not agree on an alternate treaty, in December 1991 the Philippine government announced, with U.S. agreement, that the Military Bases Agreement would be terminated. Clark Air Base Field was returned in November 1991, followed by the return of the Subic Naval Base in November 1991. U.S. forces stationed at the two bases were moved to Guam, Okinawa, and other locations. Subsequently, the two countries signed the Visiting Forces Agreement in 1998, providing for the legal status of U.S. military personnel visiting for joint military exercises in the Philippines.

30 Balikatan has been conducted since 1991, but it was suspended between 1995 and 1999 due to the domestic conditions of the Philippines. It was resumed in 2000.

31 See Note 22.
in February 2011.\footnote{1} Thailand does not own any submarines at present, but it is reported to have started considering the purchase of a submarine.\footnote{4}

Vietnam purchased four Su-30 fighters in 2004, and there are reports that the country is making an additional purchase of the fighter jet.\footnote{3} In December 2009, Vietnam was reported to have concluded a contract to purchase six Kilo-class submarines from Russia.\footnote{4} In March 2011, it was reported that one of the two Gepard-class frigates, under the building agreement concluded with Russia in 2006, was commissioned.

Many Southeast Asian countries have expanded the growth of their defense spending in recent years, and this is considered one of factors that make the modernization of military equipment possible. Aside from this factor, there are views that sensitive relations among Southeast Asian countries to the military buildup, the growing influence of China, and the limited effectiveness of the regional security institutions as a confidence-building measure, are behind the ongoing military modernization in Southeast Asia.\footnote{5}

### 4 Trends Concerning the South China Sea

In the South China Sea, there are territorial disputes between Southeast Asian countries and China\footnote{1} over the Spratly Islands\footnote{2} and Paracel Islands. In addition, there has been growing concern among the international community in recent years over issues such as the freedom of navigation in the Sea.

Although China had initially pressed for bilateral negotiations on the abovementioned issues, signs emerged to suggest that the related countries were taking steps toward the peaceful resolution of these issues. In November 2002, at the Summit Meeting between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, participants signed the “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea”\footnote{3}, which aims for a peaceful resolution of the territorial issues. At the ASEAN—China Summit held in October 2010, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully and effectively implement the Declaration and work towards the eventual adoption, on the basis of consensus, of the “Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.”\footnote{4} China has also actively pushed the related countries to give priority to the resource development in the waters surrounding the islands, setting aside the territorial issue.

On the other hand, with regard to the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands, there is an increase in activities by the surrounding countries aimed at territorial claims, as well as movements in protest of these territorial issues.\footnote{5} In 2010, it was reported that China had positioned the South China Sea
Part I  Security Environment Surrounding Japan

112  Section 5  Southeast Asia

as its “core national interest,” and it was also pointed out that conflicts with surrounding countries arising from tightened monitoring activities by China’s law enforcement agencies. The respective countries have also stated their views on the South China Sea issue; for instance, at the press conference held after the ARF ministerial meetings in July 2010, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke about the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. In addition, at the First ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) held in October the same year, the respective countries spoke about their wishes for a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea issue. In the joint declaration of the 5th ASEAN Defense Ministerial Meeting held in May 2011, the South China Sea issue was brought up for the first time, and the full execution of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and the promotion of formulation processes for the Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, as well as the importance of the freedom of navigation, were incorporated. The South China Sea issue is considered to have a potential impact on the peace and stability of the regional and international community, and attention will continue to be paid to trends in the countries concerned as well as the direction of dialogues aimed at resolution of the issue.

Chapter 2  Defense Policies of Countries

-7 For instance, after 2009, in the waters surrounding the Paracel Islands, the Chinese authorities captured Vietnamese fishing boats several times, and in 2010 as well. In May 2011, it was reported that a surveillance vessel of China’s State Oceanic Administration cut an investigation cable towed by a Vietnamese resource exploration vessel. Vietnam protested to China on this case, calling a serious infringement of Vietnam’s sovereignty and rights of jurisdiction in its Exclusive Economic Zone. However, China claimed that it was just a normal maritime law enforcement activity in the waters under China’s jurisdiction. Vietnam also claimed that it faced similar obstructive activities from China in June 2011, and civilian anti-Chinese demonstrations occurred in Vietnam as a consequence of these incidents.

In the waters around the Spratly Islands, for instance, in March 2011, a research vessel of the Philippines conducting investigations into fuel resources near the Reed Bank was ordered to withdraw by a Chinese vessel. The Philippines protested to China against its obstruction of the Philippines’ activities in its own Exclusive Economic Zone. In May the same year, it was reported that Vietnamese fishing vessels operating in the same waters had received threatening shots from vessels under the Chinese authorities.

On the other hand, there were also cases whereby Chinese fishing vessels were captured. For instance, in April 2010, it was reported that Malaysian naval vessels and aircraft had been tracking a Chinese fishery surveillance vessel.

China has, for instance, deployed its government vessels to the respective departments in charge to these waters, including the Yuzheng 310 responsible for fisheries management under the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (September 2010), Haijian 75 (October 2010) and Haijian 84 (May 2011) responsible for maritime surveillance under the State Oceanic Administration, showing its efforts to strengthen law enforcement activities in the South China Sea.

-1 Based on the principles of the consensus system and of non-interference in internal affairs, ASEAN failed to take effective measures against Myanmar, etc., and thus the direction of organizational reform attracted much attention. The ASEAN Charter has adopted the principle of unanimity as before; thus, when a consensus cannot be reached, the ASEAN Summit may decide how a specific decision is to be made. Furthermore, the Charter prescribed that in the case of a serious breach of the Charter or non-compliance, the matter shall be referred to the ASEAN Summit for decision and that ASEAN shall establish an ASEAN human rights body. The ASEAN Charter strives for the enhancement of its organization and institutions as mentioned above.

2 At the Fourth ADMM held in May 2010, a consensus was reached for the establishment of the ADMM Plus.

5  Regional Cooperation

Southeast Asian nations utilize ASEAN as a multilateral security framework for the region. In addition to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), a dialogue forum on the political and security sectors in the Asia-Pacific region, the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) has been held annually since 2006. Furthermore, at the 13th ASEAN Summit in 2007, the ASEAN Charter was adopted, containing the basic principles for establishing the ASEAN Community by 2015, and entered into force in December 2008 after the completion of the ratification procedures of all member states. At the 15th ASEAN Summit held in October 2009, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)
was formally established, underscoring steady progress toward the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

ASEAN places importance on developing relations with non-ASEAN member states. Besides holding leaders summits with the United States and Russia in 2010, it also held the First ADMM Plus in October the same year. This was an expanded version of the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting, comprising ADMM members, Japan, and eight new non-ASEAN countries. ASEAN is keeping up its efforts to strengthen relation with countries outside the region.

In the Southeast Asian region, multilateral cooperation is being promoted in frameworks other than ASEAN as well, in order to deal with a wide variety of security issues such as transnational problems including terrorism and piracy. The main counter-piracy measures taken in this region includes the “Malacca Straits Patrols” carried out by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. In addition, the “Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia” (ReCAAP) proposed and led by Japan took effect in 2006, and advancements are being made toward the sharing of information related to piracy and the establishment of cooperative systems.

Since 2004, Malaysia, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand have conducted joint exercises including maritime interdiction training within the framework of the Five Powers Defense Arrangements (FPDA).

### 6 Regional Issues

Even amidst the developing cooperative relations among countries in the region, the South China Sea remains an unstable element in the region.

The situation continues to be tense in the area near the Preah Vihear Temple, the world heritage site located between Cambodia and Thailand, where national boundaries are undefined. In response to gunfights that occurred in the area in February 2011, the two countries agreed to the deployment of observers led by Indonesia, the chair of ASEAN. However, large-scale clashes broke out again in April, and negotiations aimed at conflict resolution continued to be fraught with difficulties. Thereafter, although the problem between the two countries was discussed at the ASEAN Summit held in May 2011, the issue was scheduled to be judged at the International Court of Justice as the two countries failed to reach an agreement on their claims.

In the Philippines, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), an anti-government Islamic group that has been fighting over a span of 40 years, agreed to a ceasefire in 2003. In 2004, through the efforts of the International Monitoring Team (IMT), a peace process was set in motion. However, after August 2008, military clashes once again intensified over the resolution of territorial issues, and IMT’s activities were suspended in November the same year. Thereafter, peace negotiations began afresh in December 2009, and at the end of February 2010, IMT activities resumed in Mindanao. Nevertheless, a peace agreement was never realized under the previous Arroyo administration. Under the Aquino administration as well, after March 2011, peace negotiations have been under way, and it is hoped that a final Mindanao peace agreement will be achieved at an early date.

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**Endnotes:**

3 At the 5th East Asia Summit (EAS) that was held in conjunction with the 17th ASEAN Leaders’ Summit in October 2010, an official consensus was reached for the participation of the United States and Russia in the EAS from 2011.

4 The patrol is made up of the “Malacca Strait Sea Patrol” (formed in 2004 by Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore to guard the Straits of Malacca and Singapore from pirates, and in cooperation among the navies of each country, they commenced patrols in their own territories under the “Trilateral Coordinated Patrol.” Thailand was added to the latter in 2008.), “Eyes in the Sky” launched in 2005, a joint patrol undertaken by aircraft, and the “Intelligence Exchange Group” formed in 2006.

5 Aimed at strengthening cooperation among the maritime security agencies through the establishment of systems for sharing information relating to piracy and cooperative networks among the respective countries. As of the end of March 2011, 17 countries are party to the agreement — Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Denmark, India, Japan, the ROK, Laos, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

1 As at the end of March 2011, IMT member countries comprise Malaysia, Japan, Brunei, Libya, the EU, and Norway. NGOs are also members.

2 Japan decided to join the International Contact Group (ICG) in December 2009. ICG comprises Japan, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and four NGOs, and provides advice to Mindanao peace authorities as well as participates as an observer in peace negotiations.