Japan’s Role on Regional Security and Order Maintenance as Public Property Initiative for the Regional Security & Order Coalition

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SUMMARY

1. Security Environment of the Asia Pacific Region … its state and prospects. The region presents wider varieties and complexities unlike those of the Europe, and faces various traditional and untraditional threats for security and order.

2. Responsibilities and obligations of Japan in regional security and order maintenance with sympathizers as public property … needs and roles.

   a. Raised awareness of the needs of regional security and order maintenance. For regional “security and order,” how relevant countries take cooperative measures would be the urgent issues in terms of regional peace, stability and development.

   b. Regional security and order maintenance by Japan as “public property.” Japan has already been displaying its will and ability to act as regional public property on “security and order” maintenance, and would be welcomed to take the initiatives on regional “security and order” maintenance with sympathizers as public property, starting to share “common concerns” with others.

   c. “Maritime order” maintenance as the best regional issue of common concerns. “Maritime order” maintenance could be the most suitable regional “issue of common concerns,” and there will be no reason for regional countries to refuse cooperation on “maritime order” maintenance.

3. Developing concrete actions and the issues of future establishment of “Regional Security & Order Coalition.” The most appropriate approach will be to start “voluntarily” the cooperative activities based on “the spirit of serving the region” by those countries who have will and ability, then

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starting with “regional order coalition,” which would be the best way to step up to “regional security and order coalition,” aiming a goal of “regional united nations.”

SECURITY ENVIRONMENT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION – ITS STATE AND PROSPECTS

The Asia-Pacific region encompasses a vast area consisted of the Asian Continent, islands, and oceans, which embraces large and major part of global population, all major religions, and many countries made up of many different ethnic groups. Their political regimes vary from democracies to military dictatorships, communism, and kingdoms, all with different historical backgrounds. Their views on security issue differ widely. Some countries view their domestic anti-government movement greater problem to national security than neighboring countries, while others perceive threats from different sources. Undoubtedly, the Asia-Pacific region presents wider varieties and complexities totally unlike those of the European region.

The region has experienced a substantial change in diplomatic relations since 1990’s, as many contentious bilateral relationships of the past improved significantly or normalized. In recent years, regional countries seem to further deepen and expand mutual dependencies, which have enhanced to the development and strengthening of bilateral and multilateral coalition and cooperative relationships, especially in economic aspect, including the proposal of free trade agreements (FTA).

In this region, economic situation has a great influence over the security issues. Backed by their drastic economic growth, many regional countries have been able to develop and modernize their military forces by increasing defense budgets and introducing new equipment. In particular, China has intensively promoted the reform and opening policies to introduce a socialistic market economy, and as a result continues to expand its role as a major player of this region in politics and economics, while attaining the status of a major military presence that is worthy of attentions from other countries.\footnote{1}

On the other hand, the financial and currency crisis of this region in 1997 made the region’s smooth economic development stagnant, and not a few countries experienced turmoil not only economically but also politically. Despite the basic trend of economic recovery, some regional countries are still in the process of improving governance capability in