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## Co-Chairmen's Report

In celebration of 2003 as the Year of Japan-ASEAN Exchange, the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), Singapore, convened a Symposium in Tokyo on 9–10 October to review the progress of, and prospects for, Japan-ASEAN security cooperation. The Symposium brought together senior officials and analysts from the leading institutes of strategic and international studies in ASEAN and their Japanese counterparts. A list of the participants in the Symposium is attached.

Japan-ASEAN security dialogue stands at a critical juncture at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the 25 years following the establishment of the ASEAN Cultural Fund, a process in which former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda played a key role, Japan and ASEAN established a broad and substantive range of economic and socio-cultural relations within the political and security framework of the Cold War period. The Asia-Pacific region now confronts a new geopolitical environment in the post-Cold War and post-September 11<sup>th</sup> period. There is a need to review the increasingly multi-faceted interfaces between Japan-ASEAN relations and the new and complex geopolitical environment.

Symposium participants highlighted significant shifts in US and Chinese policies towards the Asia-Pacific region and their implications for Japan, ASEAN as well as their relations with each other. Furthermore, the region needs to address a new set of non-traditional security challenges. These changes in the geopolitical environment provide an impetus for Japan and ASEAN to review their political relations and plan how they can more effectively interface their economic and socio-cultural relations with the new political and security realities.

The Symposium identified a number of critical political and security challenges for Japan-ASEAN cooperation. These include:

- a. Counter-terrorism measures;
- b. Export control and transnational crime;
- c. Military modernization and WMD;
- d. Maritime security;
- e. PKOs (including joint training and exercises); and
- f. Regional security frameworks.

The above list of issues, symposium participants stressed, is not exhaustive, as there may be other critical issues that deserve attention, such as aviation security.

These are complex issues that require more studies to be conducted by senior officials from both ASEAN and Japan. Symposium participants therefore recommended that the Japan-ASEAN

Commemorative Summit in December 2003 designate a Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) to study more systematically how these changes in the region's geopolitical environment impact Japan-ASEAN relations and to recommend proposals on how Japan and ASEAN can more effectively cooperate in order to meet these new geopolitical challenges.

Symposium participants also recommended that a Track II network of officials (acting in their private capacities) and representatives of strategic and international studies institutions be established to support the SOM in their deliberations. The Symposium nominated the JIIA and the IDSS to offer their services to their governments, and to convene in 2004 a team of experts from Japan and ASEAN to further study and recommend measures to be adopted by Japan and ASEAN so as to better manage the new political realities and security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Symposium participants recommended that their ministers consider drawing funds from existing Japan-ASEAN funds to support the JIIA and IDSS in convening two Workshops (one in Tokyo and the other in Singapore), leading to a second Symposium in Singapore that will draw up a report and a series of recommendations for consideration by the heads of government when they meet again.

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