

OSCE

A Study on Risk Reduction and Security Dialogues:

Framework and Practice in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and its Applicability to Asia and the Pacific

Professor Dr.Takako UETA
International Christian University

In view of the rising military tensions and risks in Asia and the Pacific, this study explains the framework and practice of risk reduction and security dialogues in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe(OSCE). In Japan, generally speaking, experiences in the CSCE(Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe)/OSCE have not been well-known or have usually been misunderstood.

The exceptional statesman who recommended the OSCE-type organization is Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera. On July 30, 2013 on the occasion of his visit to the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, he said that Asia needed to have a framework which was comparable to the OSCE with a permanent institution and weekly security dialogues. On August 29, 2013, in his speech at the ADMM (ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting) Plus in Brunei, he referred to his visit to the OSCE, and recommended his proposal for envisaging the establishment of a permanent institution for the purpose of continuous dialogues which should include transparency measures of armed forces. He urged that the ASEAN should learn from the OSCE experiences .

It is noteworthy that the US, Russia, Canada and Mongolia are full members of the OSCE. Almost all the Northern Hemisphere, excluding Japan, China and the Korean Peninsula, has been the part of the OSCE zone of military transparency and institutionalized security dialogues. It includes the systematic computer-based Communication Networks, which provide the OSCE participating states “with a reliable, timely secure channel for transmitting military information to supplement diplomatic channels. “

In Asia and the Pacific, no frameworks on security dialogues have been institutionalized. Every meeting in the region including the ASEAN Regional Forum(ARF) and the East Asia Summit(EAS) need to be scheduled, which has hampered automatic military risk management.

This research suggests the desired measures in Asia and the Pacific which would include:

- ① Communication networks which is the same as the OSCE's and link the member countries and its Secretariat;
- ② Weekly meetings at Ambassadorial level with Military advisors;
- ③ Emergency meetings by Foreign Ministers;
- ④ If agreed, this institution would support implementation of agreed disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, regimes, and related United Nations Security Council Resolutions.