Japan’s View on Indian Military Space Capability

Kazuto Suzuki
Hokkaido University Public Policy School
kazutos@juris.hokudai.ac.jp
Bilateral Relationship

- Distant relationship until 2000s – lack of shared identity as “Asia”
- From “self-sufficiency” to “open market” made perception of India different
  - Japanese behind South Koreans to penetrate Indian Market
- India as a counterweight to the emergence of China
  - Koizumi, Abe and Aso Administrations put emphasis on strategic relationship with India
- Quasi-alliance relationship
  - Comprehensive partnership – Security/economic partnership
  - 2+2 dialogue – Only granted to Australia and India
  - Promotion of Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
  - It is still “strategic”, less “military” cooperation
Joint Security Cooperation

- 2007 – Strategic Global Partnership Agreement
- 2008 – Joint Statement on the Advancement of the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India
- 2008 – Joint Declaration for Security Cooperation between Japan and India
  - Filling the gap in Asia while the US fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
  - Dealing with the emergence of China
    - Pearl necklace strategy – strategic allocation of Chinese footholds
  - Joint approach to UN Security Council Permanent membership
- Cooperation in space – JAXA and ISRO cooperation
  - “soft security” – disaster monitoring and humanitarian aid
Japanese Expectation for Cooperation

- At civilian level, JAXA and ISRO have established a firm relationship
  - On the assumption of ISRO as civilian agency
  - Cooperation at APRSAF and other international fora

- Japan has a lot to learn from India
  - Japanese Basic Law for Space Activities focuses more on “application-oriented” approach where India has longer experience

- Japan has a lot to offer to India
  - Science missions – Kaguya and Chandrayaan
  - Use of satellite imagery for disaster monitoring etc.
Civil Nuclear Cooperation

- Change of government
  - First time in 50 years, Japan has experienced the change of government
  - Pro-China Hatoyama and Pragmatic Kan – no coherent strategy for diplomacy for DPJ government

- Dilemma for DPJ
  - Economic decline – export of competitive goods – railroad network and civil nuclear plants
  - India’s absence from NPT regime made it difficult to approve export of nuclear technology
  - Eventually, Japan chose to intensify cooperation with India
Cooperation in Space and Missile Defense

- Space is a good area where Japan and India can cooperate because of the dual-use nature
  - India and Japan did not share the same objectives for space development – Application- and technology-oriented programmes
  - But the gap will be narrower in the future because of recent changes of space policy on both sides

- For missile defense, it would be difficult for Japan to cooperate with India
  - Legal constraints does not allow Japan to cooperate with India on this subject
  - Many Japanese expert on India regards that missile defense in India would not be so successful
  - Japan is against the weaponization of space and any ASAT test
Conclusion

- Japan would be in dilemma if India decided to develop ASAT capability
  - Welcome Indian military capability to counter China
  - Against the principle of peaceful use of outer space
- Japan would remain as security partner through dual-use nature of space
  - Contribute to the development of “soft security” which would benefit for both Japan and India