
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