US-Japan-Asia Space Security Relations: Strategic Imperatives for Cooperation

Crystal D. Pryor
Ph.D. Student, Political Science, University of Washington
Japan Studies Fellow, East-West Center in Washington
Overview

- Global Outer Space Environment
- United States
- Asia
  - Japan
  - China
  - SE Asia
- Potential for Peaceful Cooperation?
Global Space Environment

- 8 Countries with launch capability
  - U.S., China, Japan, Russia, France (Europe), India, Israel, Iran
- 50+ countries own satellites
- 100+ countries have share in satellite
- 1,000+ operational satellites

Launch capability (orange)
Own satellites (green)
(Source: METI)
Global Space Environment

• **Importance of space:**
  – TV, high-speed communications, weather, disaster relief, reconnaissance, missile early detection

• **Threats to space:**
  – Space debris
  – Anti-satellite attacks (spoofing, jamming, radars, kinetic, etc.)
USG Orgs Involved in Space

• White House
  – Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
  – National Security Council (NSC)
  – Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

• Congress

• State Department

• Department of Defense

• Intelligence Community

• National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Chart of Major USG Orgs in Space

From Secure World Foundation’s “Space Sustainability” guidebook
U.S. Military & Space

• Military’s increasing dependence on space
• BUT economic cuts/budget pressures
  – Interagency cooperation
  – Commercial/public-private partnerships
  – International cooperation
Japan’s Space Program

- Japanese space budget = $3.8B
  - BUT industry relies on govt demand
- 1998 “Taepodong Shock”
- National security/defensive use of space?
Role of Industry

• U.S. regulations
  – “Super 301” trade law provision
  – 1990 U.S.-Japan Satellite Procurement Agreement

• “Market to Military” thesis
  – Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
Changes in 2008-2009

• **2008 Basic Space Law**
  – New space law led by politicians

• **2009 Basic Plan for Space Policy**

  **Stated Goals**

  1. Ensure a Rich, Secure and Safe Life
  2. Contribute to Enhancement of Security
  3. Promote the Utilization of Space for Diplomacy
  4. Create a promising future by promoting R&D of the forefront areas
  5. Foster Strategic Industries for the 21st Century
  6. Consider the Environment
Basic Space Law Objectives

- Pulled JAXA out of MEXT
- 「もの」 ⇒ 「こと」 Technology → Its Use
- Prioritization and focus
- Basic Plan for Space Policy
  - First time to talk about “space security”
New Space Strategy Office

- **Established Aug. 2012**
  - Sits in Cabinet Office
  - “Control tower” for space
  - Nov. 2012 Remarks by head of Space Office
Ministries in Space

• Role of **MOFA, METI, MOD** in space?
  – 2+2 meetings with MOFA, MOD + U.S. DoD, State
  – MOFA, METI space office
  – MOD: No space person
Looking Ahead

- Japan’s next space strategy (Space Basic Plan for 2013-2017)?
- JAXA’s role in national security activities?
- Japanese relations with U.S.?
  - Autonomy vs. promoting the “use” of space
- Dec. 16, 2012 elections
- Space budget?

『天は自ら助くる者を助く』
Heaven helps those who help themselves.
Japan-Asia cooperation?

– Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster-Relief (HA/DR)
  • APRSAF & Sentinel Asia
– India, China, Myanmar
  • No clear lines b/t civil & military
– Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia (more later)
China

- Space diplomacy & natural resources
- PLA involved in space development
- Multilateral institutions
  - United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS)
  - International Charter on Space and Major Disasters
  - International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISEC-G)
South East Asia

• Target for Japan’s “Space Diplomacy”
  – ODA – “Package infrastructure”
  – Vietnam = first for Japan
• Malaysia, Indonesia
• Thailand?
• Strategic/political vis-à-vis China
• Europe as Japan’s competitor in SE Asia
Potential for Peaceful Cooperation

- New entrants in space
  - Norms
    - Code of Conduct?
- How to avoid China containment?
- HA/DR
- Space situational awareness (SSA)
- Why Japan?
  - U.S. “Pivot to Asia”
    - Japan as “the lynchpin”
  - Japan’s “package infrastructure”/ODA approach
Conclusion

• Fiscal constraints and nature of outer space environment mean cooperation is not only beneficial, but necessary

• In this crucial transition period, Japan needs to step up its strategic game and make its imprint on international space relations

• United States should support Japanese strategic objectives and expand opportunities for cooperation (in SSA, HA/DR, etc.)
以上
The End