

SIX-PARTY TALKS AND PROSPECTS FOR NORTHEAST ASIAN MULTILATERAL SECURITY REGIME

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Abstract:

This paper examines the likelihood of founding a Northeast Asian multilateral security regime (NAMSR) based on the successful conclusion of the six party talks on the Korean nuclear issues. Firstly, it starts with a brief review on the process and achievements of the Six Party Talks so far, while emphasizing the concerns of all parties on a nuclear free Korean Peninsula, and the necessity of nuclear energy cooperation in the sub-region thereof.

Secondly, it continues with a discussion on the essential needs of establishing the NAMSR for East Asian regionalization at large. East Asian regionalization is understood here as having made progresses, but with critical limits, in the sense that the mobilizing factors for promoting such are mainly economic, and not so much of security. Drawing from the European (though many would argue the inappropriateness of it to the Asian case) and ASEAN experience, regional integration based common security concerns is of more solid foundation than mere economic.

In conclusion, it is argued that, on the one hand, the NAMSR would meet the needs of two Koreas (for the stability of the Peninsula and the prospect of national reunification), China (enhancing China's regional influences), and even the US (while being excluded from such processes as ASEAN+3 and East Asian Summit, the NAMSR can be a crucial multilateral cooperation scheme in which the US would be involved). On the other hand, the NAMSR could also supplement both the US centered East Asian alliance structure, and the evolving East Asian regionalization centered on ASEAN+3 and the building of East Asian community.