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Evolving Asian Perspectives on Space Security

THE STATE OF SPACE SECURITY

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Outlook of Space in Asia

- ◆ Different objectives
 - There is no consensus on why and how nations should develop their space capability
 - China – Space as symbol of national unity, national strength, and demonstrating technological capability
 - India – Space as social infrastructure, science and technological achievement, national pride
 - South Korea – Rapid catch up, symbol for independent defense capability
 - Japan – Shifting from R&D oriented policy to user-oriented (including defense) policy



Outlook of Space in Asia

- ◆ Lack of regional institutions
 - APRSAF – initiated by Japan, forum of space agencies, dealing with technical coordination
 - APSCO – led by China, technology transfer to developing countries
 - APEC, ASEAN etc. – no competence in space
 - There is no forum for discussing issues of space and security



Outlook of Space in Asia

- ◆ **Implicit rivalry**
 - Japan – heavily concerned about the emergence of China as a space power, declining leadership, not so much focus on ASAT, and beginning to develop relationship with India
 - China – concerned about United States, both manned space activities and weaponization of space, seeking international status
 - India – not apparent, but there seems to be certain rivalry against China
 - South Korea – catching up phase, primary objective is to catch up with Japan



Concept of Space Security in Asia

- ◆ Space Safety – Debris issues
 - All states claims peaceful use
 - All states accepts UNCOPUOS debris guidelines
 - China taking no responsibility for debris created by ASAT test – Wide gap between political discourse and reality
 - India – keen on space situational awareness and debris mitigation
 - Japan, South Korea are not clear on debris issues



Concept of Space Security in Asia

◆ Weaponization

- Strong concern expressed by China – US dominance in space and weaponization
- Japan implicitly accepts the weaponization in the context of missile defense
- South Korea may follow Japan under new president



Concept of Space Security in Asia

- ◆ Policy regarding space for security
 - Dynamic changes happening in this domain
 - Japan – from Diet resolution in 1969 defining “peaceful purpose” as “non-military” to new definition of peaceful as “non-aggressive,” using space for peacekeeping and confidence building
 - South Korea – developing capability for surveillance and autonomous intelligence gathering
 - China – space has become central part of modernization of its military



Chinese ASAT Test

- ◆ Clash of ambitions?
 - Chinese ambition – keenly responding to U.S. National Space Policy, maintain free access and use of space, demonstrating capability, concern about U.S. intervention in Taiwan
 - U.S. ambition – secure freedom in space, maintain dominance in space, and protect its own assets
- ◆ Mutual Misunderstanding?
 - China understands U.S. ambition is to deny Chinese access to space
 - U.S. understands Chinese ambition is to be aggressive towards U.S.



Conclusion

- ◆ Asian countries have technological and political potential to create instability in space relationships
- ◆ In the workshop at Tokyo, many proposals for developing mutual understanding and building consensus among Asian countries were made. However, there are no credible institutions to promote such a dialogue
- ◆ It would be very difficult to solve problem by actions of Asian states alone. Global forum may be more suitable approach to managing space security issues
- ◆ Recent changes in policies regarding use of space for security may improve the security of the region