Nautilus Peace and Security Network – 14 May 2015

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- DETERRENCE: Seoul, U.S. split on North Korea nuclear threat
- DPRK: DPRK SLBM test
- GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY: China's counter-pivot response
- CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY: Protecting Indonesia's forests is a key issue for Paris climate talks

DETERRENCE: Seoul, U.S. split on North Korea nuclear threat, Alastair Gale, Wall Street Journal (13 April 2015)

ROK vice defense minister dismissed US Admiral William Gortney's assertion the DPRK can mount a warhead on a KN-08 missile, stating that the DPRK does not yet have a deployable small warhead. Reliability is key to assessing the credibility of such a capability, should it ever exist.

- North Korea can miniaturize a nuclear weapon, U.S. Says, Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News (7 April 2015)
- Assessing North Korea's nuclear weapons capability, Lee Chun-keun, *NAPSNet Special Reports* (11 May 2015) Korean language version
- North Korea's nuclear weapons: the great miniaturization debate, Jeffrey Lewis, *38North (5* February 2015)
- North Korea's nuclear force roadmap: hard choices, Peter Hayes, Roger Cavazos, *NAPSNet Special Reports* (2 March 2015)

DPRK: DPRK SLBM test, Jeffrey Lewis, Arms Control Wonk (13 May 2015)

North Korea's recent Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) Test likely stems from North Korean domestic politics (since it was covered in Rodong Sinmun) as well as a desire to maintain their internal status quo relatively free from outside interference. Moreover, any kind of submarine attack - whether conventional or nuclear - is inconsistent with North Korea's normal modus operandi as it would represent Kim Jong-un devolving command and control for strategic decisions to a tactical level. Such tests also spur increased US-ROK cooperation and changes to US-Japan defense cooperation guidelines. The technological maturity of the entire chain is likely to be exceedingly low.

- Park calls for a response to North's launch, Ser Myo-ja, Joonggang Ilbo (13 May 2015)
- North Korea didn't launch submarine missile, U.S. officials say, Anthony Capaccio and Sam Kim, Bloomberg Business (12 May 2015)
- Kerry heads to China and South Korea with a heavy focus on security concerns, trade, Matthew Lee, Associated Press (14 May 2015)

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY: China's counter-pivot response, Aaron Jed Rebina, International Policy Digest (11 May 2015)

As the US seeks to conclude the TPP and another component of its Asia Pivot, China has been making its own moves to maintain its influence in the region and beyond, including continuing negotiations on a trilateral FTA with the ROK and Japan. Japanese Parliamentarians are still in the dark about the specifics of the TPP, while the ROK's belated attempt to join the negotiations was rebuffed by the US.

- Chastened vice minister retracts comment about disclosing TPP documents, Daisuke Igarashi, Asahi Shimbun (11 May 2015)
- South Korea asks to join Pacific trade deal. Washington says not so fast, Anna Fifield, Washington Post (15 April 2015)
- Korea, China and Japan to hold new round of 3-way FTA talks, Yonhap (11 May 2015)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY: Protecting Indonesia's forests is a key issue for Paris climate talks, Nirarta Samadhi and Nigel Sizer, The Guardian (8 May 2015)

"We need to talk about Indonesia. Deforestation and land use change drives about 80% of Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions, which makes it the world's fifth biggest emitter." The problem for the rest of the world is that the current forestry moratorium is too small, with too many loopholes. And the new populist president, Joko Widodo, appears to be little more than a puppet of a corrupt precedessor, unable to stand-up to politically- and militarily-connected forestry interests.

- Jokowi must strengthen Indonesia's forest moratorium, not just extend it: activists, Philip Jacobson, Monga Bay.com (25 April 2015)
- Indonesian President Widodo under corrupt thumb of Megawati, Peter Hartcher, Sydney Morning

Herald (28 April 2015)

- Reductions in emissions from deforestation from Indonesia's moratorium on new oil palm, timber, and logging concessions, Jonah Buscha et al., PNAS vol. 112, no 5 (3 February 2015) [PDF, 679KB]

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