TMD, US-JAPAN RELATIONS, AND EAST ASIAN SECURITY

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There has been a certain kind of cooperation between Japan and the US on ballistic missile defense since the late 1980s, but that cooperation has been greatly strengthened and accelerated during the last three years. At the international conference on strategic stability and security held in Rome in August 1999, the joint R&D effort will be conducted on the sea-based Navy Theatre Wide Missile defense system, which will be deployed in 2007 in East Asia. With TMD suddenly becoming something real and undeniable and TMD-related issue, it will increasingly become an urgent task for the US and Japan to engage in serious political talks with China and other countries in the region.

TMD, US-Japan Alliance, and East Asia Security

East Asia is a region with a large number of countries and various kinds of security issues. Currently, the issue of TMD is being widely discussed in East Asia, and how East Asia, and the contents of TMD cooperation as well, will influence the decision-making of East Asia countries and their relations with other countries in the region.

East Asia is a region where the two superpowers, the US and Japan, have a very close military alliance. Since the end of World War II, the US has been exerting its influence on East Asia, and Japan has become the major partner of the US in East Asia. As a result of the two superpowers' close cooperation, East Asia has become a very complex security environment.

East Asia is a region where there are a number of countries that have a close military alliance with the US. Japan is one of the US's closest partners in East Asia. At present, Japan has the US as its closest military partner. Japan has been the US's closest military partner in the Asia-Pacific region. As such, Japan has become a very important player in East Asia, and TMD cooperation is expected to enhance Japan's military status in the region.

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