

play a catalytic role in regional affairs. And Canberra and Ottawa can each claim authorship of many of the principles taken on board by ASEAN. Japan, while slow and appearing at times inflexible in the past, has accepted that open discussion of Japanese security concerns is, for its neighbours, a serious and far-reaching CBM. The participation of the United States, the paramount military, economic, and diplomatic power in Asia Pacific, will be essential to the success of the emerging regional cooperative security dialogue.

V North Pacific Multilateral Institutional Cooperation

The seven countries of the North Pacific share membership in fifteen multilateral institutions (see annex) yet the sub-region remains virtually undefined in institutional terms, particularly in comparison with the South Asia, South East Asia, and South Pacific sub-regions, and with the Asia Pacific region as a whole.

Only two international governmental institutions are designed specifically to address North Pacific issues. Of these, the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, is comprised of only three countries (the United States, Japan, Canada) while the North Pacific Maritime Sciences Organisation (PICES), was established only in 1990. In contrast, international governmental institutions span a number of functional areas in each of the neighbouring Asia Pacific sub-regions.

Most regional international governmental institutions in which the North Pacific countries are members include a significant number of countries from outside the sub-region, and no institution includes all of the seven North Pacific states. Many are subsidiaries of United Nations institutions (e.g. subsidiaries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the FAO, UNESCO, the ILO) and are not autonomous regional organizations.

Among the factors that have contributed to the relative lack of multilateral institutions and multilateralist inclinations in the North Pacific are: a lingering animosity towards and suspicion of Pacific War belligerents; continued political and military tension among several states in the North Pacific, most notably but not exclusively on the Korean peninsula.

Opportunities for functional co-operation in the Asia Pacific region as a whole can be expected to increase as the region comes increasingly to be identified as a single economic entity. The Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference (PECC) has pursued collaboration on the regional macro-economic outlook and on trade policy, agricultural policy, investment, resource processing, fisheries and, more recently, telecommunications and technology transfer. More recently, APEC has embarked on co-operation in trade and