

CANADA AND ASIA PACIFIC SECURITY**THE NORTH PACIFIC COOPERATIVE SECURITY DIALOGUE****RECENT TRENDS****Synopsis:**

The end of the Cold War has fundamentally challenged accepted definitions of national and global security, although it will take some time before this is fully understood by governments and appropriate policy responses developed.

The traditional definition of security, the need for protection against armed invasion or foreign-supported insurrection, is still valid - as continuing armed conflicts around the globe clearly illustrate. What is needed is an expanded notion of security (or stability) which takes into consideration questions of economics, environment and resource management, uncontrolled and "illegal" demographic flows, human rights, and international criminal activity which has destabilizing effects of producing and receiving states. This expanded notion of security, which Canada defines as a "cooperative security" concept, will be an essential tool for policy-makers in the coming years.

The Canadian initiative for establishing a North Pacific Cooperative Security Dialogue (NPCSD) was first introduced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in speeches in Victoria, Tokyo, and Jakarta in July 1990.

The NPCSD has two tracks - a non-governmental and a governmental element - and focusses on the North Pacific countries of China, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Japan, the Soviet Union, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Canada. This focus was determined following an analysis of the four Asia Pacific sub-regions: South Asia, where SAARC has the potential for developing regional consensus on a wide number of issues; South East Asia, where ASEAN continues to evolve; the South Pacific, with the emerging South Pacific Forum; and the North Pacific. Only in this last sub-region, where there is a significant concentration of conventional and nuclear forces, which is not fully represented in APEC, and where growing instability - centred on the Korean Peninsula - would have an adverse effect on Canada's political, economic, social and environmental interests, is there no multilateral forum to allow the timely discussion of policy.

The NGO track of the Canadian initiative, while encouraging an exchange of views by regional experts, is designed specifically to explore issues and prospects for dialogue and to focus knowledge and awareness on the North Pacific. York University organized an NPCSD colloquium in Victoria in April, 1991 to discuss with academic and NGO experts various research approaches to North Pacific security issues. A series of workshops will be held throughout the next 12 months, leading to a more formal NPCSD conference in the fall of 1992.