

multilateral forum to allow the timely discussion of policy. Existing bilateral mechanisms in the North Pacific would be usefully complemented by a wider dialogue, and accepted multilateral processes developed to enhance North Pacific stability could serve as exemplars for other regions.

The NPCSD has a non-governmental (NGO) and a governmental (official) track, and focusses on the North Pacific countries: China, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Canada.

The NGO track of the 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's Centre for International and Strategic Studies is coordinating research activities. An NPCSD colloquium was held in Victoria in April 1991, attended by experts from North Pacific and other interested countries, which identified research themes and suggested a series of workshops to explore these further. These workshops, which will be held in North America and Asia, will examine:

- evolving security perceptions and national responses in the North Pacific;
- the prospect of arms control and CSBMs in the North Pacific;
- unconventional security threats in the North Pacific; and,
- the history, culture and prospects of multilateralism in the North Pacific.

In addition to academic involvement, the participation of other non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise in a number of areas has been sought. These workshops, and the subsequent NPCSD Conference to be held in the fall of 1992 or spring of 1993 will have a direct influence on the development of the Government's policy agenda.

The official track of the NPCSD is intended to explore the merits of establishing a multilateral, governmental, dialogue in the North Pacific. The continuing emphasis of the NPCSD is on consultation and consensus building to ensure that all avenues leading to a more prosperous and stable Asia Pacific are explored. Although the NPCSD is directed specifically to the North Pacific, Canada's concerns are not limited to this sub-region; neither is the NPCSD exclusionary, and Canada continues to exchange views on Asia Pacific security issues with concerned states. The focal point for NPCSD discussions has been the Policy Planning Staffs of the various Foreign Ministries.<sup>3</sup>