

## **PREFACE**

### **THE KOREA/CANADA NORTH PACIFIC ARMS CONTROL WORKSHOP 1997 PROCEEDINGS:**

#### **Promoting Peace on the Korean Peninsula through Arms Control: Preventing Regional Conflicts**

Even with the termination of the Cold War and its global implications, the two Koreas, hosting large military establishments, stand face to face along a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) which separates two ideologies and divides a nation. This stand-off constitutes one of the most potentially volatile flash points for armed conflict, both regionally and from a global perspective.

The 1953 Armistice Agreement between the United Nations Command and the North Korean/Chinese combatants was the instrument by which fighting in the 20th Century's third largest war was stopped. Meant to last a year or so as a prelude to a Korean peace treaty, the Armistice Agreement has been in effect for almost half a century. It is one of the last vestiges of the Cold War era.

This series of North Pacific Arms Control Workshops (NPACW), now including participants from China, Japan, Russia and the United States, has been designed with the aim of addressing this dangerous confrontation from the perspective of the role which arms control might play in fostering peace and security in the area and particularly on the Peninsula. With its roots firmly anchored in a low-profile, cooperative, bilateral non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament (NACD) research programme, which was initiated by Canada and South Korea in 1991, these workshops remain unique — they provide the only regional forum dedicated exclusively to the NACD process and its various adaptations. The core of the process is "result driven" by practical research. It is neither a Track I nor a Track II initiative in the sense of other Asia-Pacific forums. This series of Workshops continues to be hosted by Canada and South Korea in alternate years, using Victoria and Seoul as venues.