

KEDO is supported by South Korea, Japan, and the United States because, in those countries' view, it contributes to their own national security and to regional, and international security. In the case of South Korea, the financial commitment is quite substantial. Many have noted that South Korea's reasons for this commitment include not only the goal of nonproliferation, but also the criterion of national security. In the view of South Korea, KEDO is a mechanism through which it can begin to have a dialogue with North Korea. Indeed, at the present time, KEDO is the only channel through which the two countries can talk to one another. Through this mechanism, South Korea can extend the dialogue to address related issues such as transportation routes into North Korea in order to bring in people and materials.

From all accounts, the DPRK is cooperating and fulfilling its terms of the agreement, however slowly. Many attribute this cooperation to the desperate economic situation in which North Korea finds itself, rather than to a recognition that nuclear proliferation is considered a violation of international norms by the global community.

The Shanghai Agreement

Another hopeful sign, and a building block approach to regional arms control, is an agreement signed in April 1996 between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the People's Republic of China. The CBMs in the Agreement are intended to strengthen national and regional security and to maintain stability in the border area between Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, on one side, and China on the other. The measures include: information exchanges, prohibitions and/or restrictions on the conduct, scale, geographical limits, and the number of troop exercises and activities, notification of certain military activities and troop movements, and invitational observations of troop exercises on a mutual basis. Other measures provide for inquiries concerning ambiguous situations and opportunities for "friendly contacts" between military and border personnel.

The CBMs are quite remarkable in that in the FSU and China, "transparency" is a foreign ("Western") concept, only recently understood and slowly accepted. Timely and full implementation of these measures will certainly contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region.

South Asian CBMs

An Indian-Pakistani Agreement, "Prohibition of Attack on Nuclear Installations and Facilities," was signed in December 1988; instruments of ratification of this Agreement were exchanged in January 1991, and on 1 January 1992, India and Pakistan exchanged the lists of nuclear installations covered under the Agreement. In July 1990, India also proposed a package of political, communication, and technical confidence-building measures (CBMs) to Pakistan in an effort to improve their bilateral relationship and to prevent the escalation of tensions.