

Closing Remarks

Satoshi Kikuchi (Deputy Commandant of Joint Staff College, Rear Admiral)

Ladies and gentlemen, I am the Deputy Commandant of the Joint Staff College. My name is Kikuchi. Lecturers, thank you very much for giving us your very precious input and very illuminating discussion despite of your busy schedules and participating in the activities to maintain international peace and security on the ground and this was a very stimulating and a valuable learning experience for me and I thank all of the people in the audience for gathering here today from early in the morning. Your questions, based on experiences, were also a precious input to the symposium. I think we are able to deepen and promote the theme of or the aim of the symposium which is Fusion of Policy, Academia and Field Action.

The Japan Peacekeeping Training & Research Center has only a short history after reorganization, just 2-1/2 years. But, we have been looking at international peace and security, we have learned about history and the current status of this aim which has been the aim that the international society has pursued since the United Nations has been established and we have started various educations to foster effective SDF members based on our learning. We have about 130 graduates, but we can say that our education about international peace cooperation activities is moving forward and is going into gear.

Having said that though, the UN PKO activities still face various issues, as we heard today. From the time that the Cold War ended in the past 20 years, the form and function of the PKO has changed greatly. In the recent decade there has been more focus on the human rights of women and children and last year in this symposium, we talked about the protection of civilians and that is an urgent issue as well. If you look at the recent Libya and Syria situations, it seems that there is a question concerning the state and effectiveness of activities to maintain international peace and security as well as each country's effort towards that goal.

We are not in a stable period concerning UN PKO. As the formal threats against peace and the requirement of the international society and the actions of the member states continue to change and evolve, PKO will continue to evolve in the most appropriate manner in terms of its function, framework, and the actions on the ground. What is important for us on the ground is to acquire accurate information to understand the trends appropriately and prepare from peace time.

I hope that this symposium hosted by the Joint Staff College, Japan Peacekeeping Training & Research Center can be a forum where we can provide the latest and meaningful information to all the experts and activists in this field, not just the Self Defense Forces members. I want to thank all the lecturers and all the audience for your understanding and your cooperation to our center. Next year, at around this time of the year, I look forward to seeing you again to review the latest UN Missions to further deepen our debate about new issues and future direction. Thank you very

much.