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1. The center of gravity of the world economy is shifting to Asia, but security conditions in Asia remain unsettled. Military confrontations remain at two Cold War hot spots (Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait), and the progress of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs has exacerbated security conditions.
2. US-Japan-China trilateral relations will be the key for the future of the Asia-Pacific region, where the US-Japan Security Treaty will continue to be essential for regional security. The US force presence facilitated by the Treaty is assuring, while the expansion of China's military power (with the lack of transparency) is a matter of growing concern.
3. Japan's primary strategic goal is to create a community of economic interdependence and cooperation in "East Asia", involving also the United States, Australia, New Zealand and India.
4. Tokyo is prepared to become a global player, taking a leading role in coping with climate change, poverty and other threats of human security. Its economic and technological assistance is already reaching Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East and Africa. Japan seeks permanent membership on the UN Security Council in order to contribute politically to the governance of the world.
5. To change the interpretation of the constitution so as to allow exercise of the right of "collective" defense is a pressing issue Japan will have to address sooner rather than later. Doing so is critical for Japan to fulfill its responsibilities in both UN-sanctioned international peace cooperation and alliance cooperation with the US.
6. Japanese politics is in transition, signifying the culmination of an almost revolutionary transformation that the country's systems of governance have been undergoing since the 1990s: changing from the post-World War II systems to a system more adaptable to globalization and acceptable to the "post-modern" mindset of the people.