

Preface

India is one of the main countries upon which Japan now focuses. Against the backdrop of China's rise, Russia's resurgence and Japan's fragile partnership with the US (visible, for example, in the Futenma base relocation issue), Japan seems ready to build a "natural" alliance with India on the basis of shared democratic values and history, as well as geopolitical considerations such as sea lanes security.

However, few Japanese have any familiarity with India. A Japanese person could legitimately ask: How many Indians would recognize the name and integrity of Radhabinod Pal even though many Japanese are highly appreciative of his dissenting judgments in the post-war Tokyo Trials? Despite being a democracy, how can Indians accept the realities of deep discrimination in their society? Are Indians aware of the fact that India has long loved the concept of "access denial" at sea, which China projects against the US's "freedom of navigation"? Shouldn't doubt be cast upon India's convenient manner of securing sea lanes?

Being "India-literate" is a prerequisite before any discussion about Japan-India relations is possible. The Slavic Research Center (SRC) and its "Comparative Research: Major Regional Powers in Eurasia" project featured the work of two of India's excellent Japanologists on international relations. Both of these analyses are rich and constructive but also realistic and perhaps difficult for Japan to swallow. The reader is made aware that India's mind is on China's rise.

The papers were presented at the international symposium "Indo-Japanese Dialogue on Eurasia" on March 11, 2011. During the symposium, the Tohoku earthquake shook the SRC building in Sapporo and all of the Indian participants immediately expressed their condolences to all of the victims. Rajaram Panda's paper was one of the outstanding fruits brought by India's delegation, headed by Dr. Arvind Gupta, while, Shamshad Almad Khan's paper was finalized here at the SRC during his visiting fellowship as part of the 2010 fiscal year's "Comparative Research" project on international relations. Both researchers belong to the India-based Institute for Defense and Security Analysis (IDSA), one of the most prestigious think-tanks in Asia. Though SRC and IDSA cooperation has just begun, it provides the firm basis for future development thanks to IDSA's excellent contributions to SRC activities.

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Akihiro Iwashita

Slavic Research Center, Japan