Symposium Ⅱ

The Maritime Environmental Security and the Collaborative Confidence Building in the Northeast Asian Region

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The topic of this session is "Making a Sea of Peace: the Collaborations for Human Security. And therefore I want to emphasize the words such as sea, peace and human as reflecting my hope that individuals, groups of people, and countries can enjoy and utilize the sea in a peaceful manner. The term sea here does not necessarily mean the ocean we see on the beach. The sea means the entire world. The sea is not always calm and peaceful like we imagine our holidays at sea. I've served in the navy for 20 years but am still afraid of the ocean, because it is never predictable. Nevertheless, the sea reminds us of the words such as happiness, calmness, rest and peace.

The sea is the origin of life and even life itself. Humans are also born from the little sea called mother's womb. The world we are living in is also the sea of life. Students are living in the sea of school system; salary men are swimming in the sea of competition. Although we stand on the ground, we are like swimming in pursuit of happiness in a sense.

Today, I am going to talk about making a peaceful sea. It's an effort to bridge the sea, the ground and humans. Particularly, I'd like to mention how we can live a happier lifetogether with the sea in the Northeast Asian region.
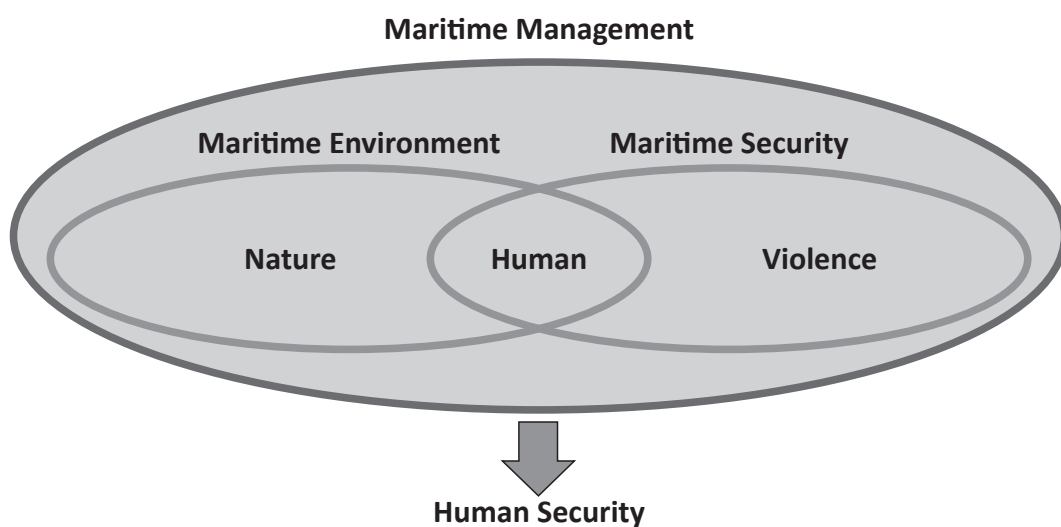
New approach and conceptual expansion of the maritime environmental security

To collaborate for the sea in Northeast Asia, we need a new approach and conceptual expansion about the sea. Today's maritime paradigm was changed from liberty paradigm to

management paradigm. According to Mare Liberum in the 16th century by Hugo Grotius, the sea, particularly high seas, cannot be possessed by an individual or a country, and everyone has freedom to use and develop the ocean infinitely. However, as times passed by, people came to acknowledge that the sea can be easily polluted and we must well preserve the sea for the next generation. The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea: UNCLOS in the late 20th century offered us the new perspective how we could control the paradigm of Mare Liberum and manage the sea well.

Management paradigm is an approach to newly define the relation between human activities and the ocean in a given situation. The scope of Maritime Management includes both Maritime Environment and Maritime Security. Maritime Environment focuses the relation between the conditions of human survival and the nature. On the other hand, Maritime Security concentrates on human efforts for survival, conflicts, violence and wars. Therefore, I believe we can expand the concept of Maritime environmental security to security area beyond the environmental concept.

The concept of Maritime environmental security can be expanded into human security the non-traditional security field because Maritime environmental security also has humans in the environments and violence as the common factor. We cannot limit Maritime environmental security to resource wars between countries or destructive activities in international relations from the environmental preservation or traditional security point of view. In Maritime environmental security, maritime ecological security is rather important, which is interested in the negative changes of environment that influence the conditions for human survival and existence. In addition, Maritime environmental security belongs to both national and human securities; thus we must understand that traditional security and non-traditional security are complementary to each other.

Maritime Management

Maritime Environment   Maritime Security

Nature   Human   Violence

Human Security

The new maritime environmental security issues & the maritime management regime

As maritime environmental security on the basis of maritime management principles

emerged, new maritime environment security issues were discussed. Generally, major international issues in maritime environments are maritime pollution, weather, sea level rise, fishery resource management, whaling, deep seabed mineral resources, coastal management, etc. Major issues in maritime security are maritime jurisdiction, islands conflict, military activities in the sea, public safety, piracy, sea route protection, etc.

These days, most conflict issues occurred in the ocean are related to protecting the lives and properties of citizens from marine ecological dangers such as fishing stock or competition over maritime resourcesrather than direct conflict of naval power between countries. Likewise, environmental and securities issues overlap in various areas.

To manage this new maritime environment security issues, today's marine management regime evolves differently from that in the past. Since the marine management regime on the basis of freedom of the seas and open-pool resource is transformed into common-pool resource regime, we need a new collaboration system.

For instance, maritime resources such as fisheries, submarine minerals and maritime space have the characteristics of common resources which have strong rivalry and weak excludability. Hence, maritime powers come to possess a larger portion of ocean resources. Thus, we need to manage the ocean as shared resource at the international level. Plus, we need preventive maritime management which costs less and solves problems more easily and effectively than restoring after the marine ecosystem is damaged.

Complexity and limitation of maritime management in the Northeast Asian region

We need a new collaborative maritime management system in the Northeast Asian region. The Northeast Asia has a complicated constraint factors as well as opportunity factors in ocean management. Since inter-state relation was established through the medium of the seas in Northeast Asia for geographical reasons, the countries have both exclusive interests and shared interests in the oceans. In this region, the ocean causes political and military conflicts while making economic, social, cultural coexistence possible. The ocean will lead us to various conflicts as well as collaborations in the future.

As mentioned, the maritime issues of Northeast Asia are multi-layered, so not easy to solve. For example, there are disputes over the dominium of islands and maritime jurisdiction, including the 4 northern islands between Japan and Russia, Senkaku Islands, and Paracel and Spratly Islands between China and Southeast Asian countries. We also have the potential instability of Sea Lines of Communication derived from the coastal states' demand for expansion of maritime jurisdiction. Maritime crimes such as piracy, maritime terrorism, human smuggling, drugtrafficking and illegal fisheries are also significant issues. These crimes seem like traditional securities issues, but actually include non-traditional security elements. This is why we need a new collaborative system.
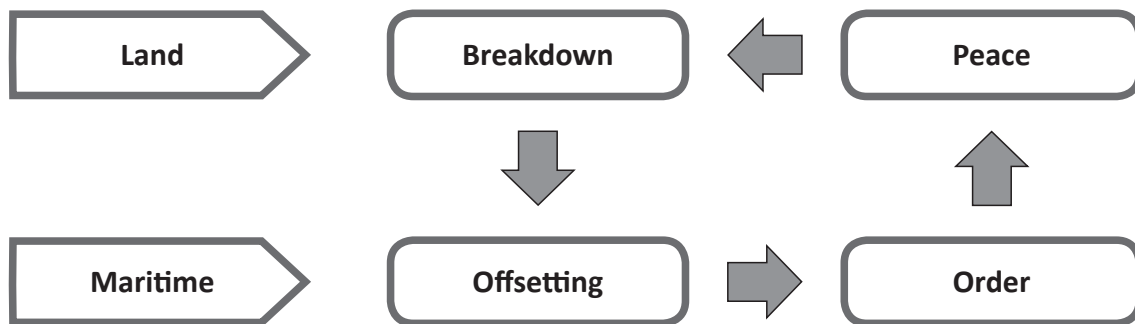
There are prerequisites for maritime cooperation among the Northeast Asian countries. First

of all, we must prevent possible maritime conflicts which can be caused by the unilateral and illegal assertion of a particular country. Secondly, related countries must thoroughly abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to solve maritime issues reasonably and legally. Lastly, the countries must respect the marine areas of other countries and understand the importance of public ownership of the ocean for its peaceful use. Not only the governmental efforts but also collaborative academic efforts from the private sector are required. In this sense, I think today's seminar has a significant meaning.

Turn of the maritime environmental security to achieve a maritime cooperation

I mentioned about maritime environmental security, which may sound unfamiliar to many people. I'd also like to propose the turn of maritime environmental security for maritime cooperation in Northeast Asia. It means the close connection between the order both in the land and in the ocean. Maintaining the good order in the ocean will bring the good order in the land, and vice versa.

I expect that cooperative interdependence and confidence building will serve as a factor promoting the inter-state cooperation in the region not only in non-tradition and human security but also in traditional security. Confidence building through maritime cooperation will help in that countries can coexist by collaboration and harmony, and not just conflicts or confrontations. Particularly, the confidence building on the ocean in Northeast Asia can play a positive and preventive role in the inter-state relations.

The confidence building through the open seas is critical in terms of building peace in Northeast Asia. In Northeast Asia, there are many conflicts and cooperation in different fields regarding the ocean due to the multi-layers of states-districts-enterprises-individuals. Thus, for the peace of this region, we need to acknowledge the value of open and flexible human-oriented maritime environmental security, rather than closed and fixed traditional security on the basis of inter-state relations.

We should create more opportunities to promote maritime governance at the small unit such as civic groups and academic circles, not to mention implementing declaratory measures. Through these opportunities, we will establish a long-term roadmap which reflects the political,

social, economic, cultural, historical interests of this region as well as conduct broad research and discussion to build architecture for confidence building regarding the ocean. Above all, these efforts must be made not just for once but on the constant and gradual basis. I hope the confidence building efforts in Northeast Asia through maritime environmental security collaborations will bring all the people living in Northeast Asia the opportunity to swim in the sea of peace.