

## CHAPTER 13

# *East China Sea Peace Initiative:* From Principle to Practice

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### Abstract

Although standing firmly on the moral high ground in the matter of the *East China Sea Peace Initiative*, President Ma Ying-jeou still requires innovative ideas and persistency to be effective in implementing it as a result of Taiwan's limited diplomatic strength and military capability. Practical operational principles should include: soft issues before hard ones, easy tasks before difficult ones, bilateral before multilateral dialogue, and non-governmental before official exchanges. The primary goal is to keep discussion of the *East China Sea Peace Initiative* alive and active, so as to enhance Taiwan's visibility in regional and international arenas.

Implementation of the *East China Sea Peace Initiative* should be seen as a long-term task involving patience, skill, determination, persistency, inclusiveness, and consistently well-calculated application of "smart" powers among all parties concerned in the region. Taiwan

is committed to facilitating and contributing to regional peace and stability as expressed through the *East China Sea Peace Initiative*.

**Keywords:** New Types of Major Powers Relationship, New Security Concept, Strategic Security Space, Fortress Defense, ECSPI 2.0

## I. Preface

President Ma Ying-jeou and the ROC Government has been a pioneer in proposing rational and practical principles that provide general guidance to manage the growing maritime and airspace disputes in the East China Sea. The *East China Sea Peace Initiative* (the ECSPI or the Initiative hereafter) proposed by President Ma Ying-jeou is the first and so far the only comprehensive diplomatic proposal for regional peace. Not only should the Initiative be commended and supported by involved parties, Taiwan as the initiator, must also come up with feasible measures that can be accepted and carried out by regional actors.

This chapter keeps the focus on the practical side and reviews the bigger picture of the security environment intertwined between the U.S. rebalancing toward Asia and the rising Chinese influence in the region. It highlights the emerging development of President Ma Ying-jeou's Initiative, and identifies the guiding principles for its implementation. In addition, the escalating maritime and air disputes in the South China Sea are examined through the lens of the ECSPI.

## II. Complicated Security Environments: Major Power Relations

Current tensions over the East China Sea and the South China Sea (the China Seas) between mainland China and its Asian maritime