

Title: Development of Japan's Arctic Policy: The Third Basic Plan for Ocean Policy

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Abstract:

Japan's Arctic policy has mainly formed based on three pillars of science, diplomacy and business during the 1990s. When the second basic plan for Ocean Policy was decided, it became part of the cabinet matter and affiliated with the Japan's Basic Act for Ocean Policy in 2013. The second plan also brought a strategic rationale among the three pillars. When the Cabinet adopted Arctic Policy in 2015, it further authorized and structured each pillar. With the decision of the third basic plan for Ocean Policy in May 2018, Arctic Policy strengthened its policy profile. This paper shows how Japan's Arctic policy has developed as a governmental policy and argues that the Arctic issues were normalized as a basic component of its Ocean Policy. It also discusses its relationship with other policies.