

Бондаренко Никита Александрович

1 курс магистратуры

Факультет мировой экономики и мировой политики

Магистерская программа «Социально-экономическое и политическое развитие современной Азии»

The crisis on the Korean peninsula has an obvious influence on the foreign policy of Japan. Although Japan mostly follows the direction of the American administration towards the issue, Shinzo Abe tries to make his own efforts to preserve the stable situation in the region.

There are three directions of Japanese foreign policy around the North Korean issue. First of all, it is Japan-DPRK relations. There was already a progress in dialogue concerning the “Abduction issue” and lifting sanctions. Now it has partly stopped. But there are tendencies of de-escalation of the crisis. USA surprisingly decided to start dialogue with Kim Jong-un, so Japan also can initiate the new stage of communications with DPRK. At least it will be the temporary warming between Japan and North Korea. But even during the last decade sides have reached some preliminary agreements, which may be restored and developed further. Kim Jong-un has demonstrated that he is opened for the dialogue with other countries and wants to restore relations with the world community and develop economic relations. It is connected with the program of the economic development of DPRK, which assumes international economic relations. 2018 may be the year of the beginning of the new era in DPRK’s history.

The second direction is attempts to preserve the balance of power in the region. USA has lost the exclusive and undisputed domination in the world and Japan has to make diplomatic efforts and efforts in the establishment of the strong army. After the consolidation of power Shinzo Abe has a good chance to expand rights of usage of Self-Defense forces. Moreover, there is an aim to establish good relations with Russia to prevent anti-Japanese character of China-Russia alliance with the help of economic cooperation. Also, Russia may be used as the mediator in the DPRK- Japan dialogue.

The third direction is the preservation of US-Japan security alliance. USA still is the most important guarantee of the Japanese security. Although Japan has the 8th strong army in the world, this is still not enough for confrontation to a country with the nuclear arsenal. Weapons of mass destruction can seriously damage Japanese islands. But because Japan is under the protection of the American nuclear umbrella such strikes will be suicidal for the North Korean regime. The national security is the most important part of the Japanese foreign policy, so Japan will follow American steps towards North Korea to confirm the military alliance with USA.