

## **Press Release**

**2 November, 2011**  
**Ministry of Defense of Japan**  
**Ministry of Defence of India**

Indian Defence Minister A K Antony, at Japanese Defense Minister Yasuo Ichikawa's invitation, visited Japan from 2 to 3 November 2011, based on the common recognition of the Japan-India Defense Ministerial Meeting in April 2010. The two Ministers held a meeting on 2 November 2011.

At the meeting, the two Ministers extensively exchanged views, in an amicable manner, on regional and international security as well as defense cooperation and exchanges between both countries and maritime security. They shared the views on the need for both sides to continue to make active contribution to the peace, stability and prosperity of Asia as a whole.

Furthermore, the two Ministers highly valued the progress of defense cooperation and exchanges that had been achieved in a variety of fields and at various levels. They shared the view on the necessity for regularly implementing high-level exchanges and consultations between defense officials and deepening exchanges at unit-level and education and research exchanges to further strengthen mutual trust and increase mutual understanding. Both sides recognized the importance of sea lane and decided to actively pursue consultations and cooperation in the field of maritime security both bilaterally and in association with all other countries in the region.

At the meeting, the two Ministers shared the view that it was necessary to promote cooperation and exchanges, and that they would carry out major exchanges as follows:

(1) Continue to carry out mutual exchange of high level visits. The Japanese Defense Minister will visit India in 2012;

(2) Implement the Japan-India Defense Policy Dialogue (Vice-Minister level) in Tokyo at the earliest date;

(3) Implement Staff Talks between GSDF and Indian Army in 2012. Staff Exchanges between ASDF and Indian Air Force will be held in 2012 and be developed to Staff Talks at the earliest date.

(4) Carry out mutual visits of vessel and aircraft, as appropriate, and conduct bilateral exercise between MSDF and Indian Navy. In 2012, vessels of both sides will make mutual visits and MSDF aircraft will visit India. Bilateral exercise will be carried out on these occasions;

(5) Implement exchanges on peacekeeping operations including exchanges between International Peace Cooperation Training and Exercise Unit of the Central Readiness Force of GSDF and Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), India;

(6) Cadet exchanges between the National Defense Academy of Japan (NDA) and the National Defense Academy of India (NDA);

(7) Implement exchange of ideas aimed at concrete collaboration, such as joint training for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Indian Defence Minister AK Antony expressed gratitude to Japan for the heartfelt and friendly hospitality extended to him and his delegation during his visit to Japan, in particular, that by Japanese Defense Minister Yasuo Ichikawa.