

## The 2nd Professional Airmanship Program (PAP)

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On 26 October, the 2nd Professional Airmanship Program (PAP) online, one of the initiatives under the Vientiane Vision 2.0 ※ : the guiding principle for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, was held. Air force officers from all ASEAN member states and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat participated in the program.

The 2nd PAP consisted of three sessions: (1) International Aviation Law and Norms, (2) Security in the Air, and (3) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Officers of Defense Plans/Policies and Programs Division of the Defense Planning and Policy Department (Air Staff Office), Legal Affairs General (Air Staff Office), Operations Division of the Operations and Intelligence Department (Air Staff Office), Senior Legal Staff officer, Air Support Command participated in the program and exchanged views.

In session 1, International Aviation Law and Norms, Japan delivered a presentation on international law concerning the freedom of overflight, as well as several recent events related to international law in the region. The participants exchanged views and promoted a shared understanding of international law and norms from the perspective of upholding and reinforcing a free and open Indo-Pacific, especially to ensure the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.

In session 2, Security in the Air, Japan and participating countries provided presentations on challenges in security in the air and efforts made by air services. The participants exchanged their views and deepened discussion on air defense cooperation and exchanges way forward.

In session 3, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Japan provided a presentation on international disaster relief activities and participating countries delivered presentations on challenges in cooperation in this field. The participants exchanged views and contributed to enhancing cooperation among air services in this field.

※ With regard to defense cooperation between Japan and ASEAN, the Vientiane Vision 2.0 aims to uphold and reinforce a free and open Indo-Pacific through enhancing the Japan-ASEAN Strategic Partnership and contributing to ASEAN centrality and unity by supporting its resilience. The priority areas of cooperation include ensuring the rule of law.

