

Visit of Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai to Italy

For 7 days from May 10 to 17, responding to invitation from Lieutenant General Luca GORETTI, Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, General UCHIKURA Hiroaki, Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force), participated in several events: International AeroSpace Power Conference (IASPC), an event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Italian Air Force; official visit events; and an opening ceremony of a new campus at International Flight Training School (IFTS), where Koku-Jieitai dispatches students.

During the trip, he met with the Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, and confirmed that Japan and Italy share the recognition of security issues in the Indo-Pacific region, and had a wide-range of discussion on future defense cooperation and exchanges.

He participated in a panel in IASPC, and presented severe and complex security environment from the perspective of the Indo-Pacific region as the only speaker from there, bringing attention to the region.

At the opening ceremony of the new facility in IFTS, he had an opportunity to talk with students enrolled in IFTS and he was impressed with well organized and advanced education of IFTS, and confirmed that exchange students from the Koku-Jieitai is highly rated, even though they had just began their training there.

He also visited the Italian Air Force Bases to deepen understanding of the Italian Air Force, which has many common equipment with Koku-Jieitai such as KC-767 and F-35, and gain knowledge about its operations.

Koku-Jieitai welcomes Italy's commitment to the Indo-Pacific region and will further strengthen the bond and collaboration with the Italian Air Force to maintain the rules-based international order.

