

## Official Visit of Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai to Mongolia

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For five days from Saturday, July 1 to Wednesday, July 5, General Uchikura Hiroaki, Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) officially visited Mongolia. General Uchikura made this trip in response to an invitation from Commander of Air Force Ganbat, Mongolian Armed Forces, who came to Japan for the first time in November last year. This is the first visit of Chief of Staff to the country since the establishment of Koku-Jieitai.

During the visit, General Uchikura and CAF Ganbat exchanged views, shared the recognition of security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, and deepened mutual understanding and relationship of trust. They also agreed to continue to promote various initiatives for defense cooperation and exchanges between the two air services.

On July 2, General Uchikura participated with CAF Ganbat in Closing Ceremony of Multinational Exercise, "Khaan Quest 2023." In addition, on July 4 he paid courtesy calls on His Excellency Mr. Saikhanbayar, Minister of Defense, and Brigadier General Ganbyanmba, Chief of General Staff, Mongolian Armed Forces, and discussed defense cooperation and exchanges between both countries.

Japan and Mongolia are like-minded countries which share the universal values such as freedom, democracy, the respect for basic human rights, and the rule of law. Koku-Jieitai will work together with Mongolian Air Force, and contribute to the peace and the stability in the region.

