



The summer heat is still severe every day, but I hope things are going well for all the visitors to Koku-Jieitai's website.

In early August, welcoming Italian Air Force in Komatsu Air Base, Koku-Jieitai conducted the first Japan-Italy bilateral training. Coincidentally, Typhoon No.6 had been lingering around Okinawa and had become a large wall blocking the path of Italian Air Force to deploy from Singapore, but they managed to deploy with its tenacity and enthusiasm.

The bilateral training was conducted to enhance the tactical skills of the units, promote mutual understanding, and further deepen defense cooperation to realize "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Koku-Jieitai and the Italian Air Force have been developing exchanges at various levels such as unit-to-unit exchanges of crews of aerial refueling tankers and dispatch of Koku-Jieitai's student pilots to International Flight Training School in Italy. In addition, as a partner in the joint development of next-generation fighter aircraft, we would like to continue promoting various defense cooperation and exchanges including bilateral trainings between the Japanese and Italian air services.

Moreover, since late August, we have welcomed Royal Australian Air Force in Komatsu Air Base as well to conduct Japan-Australia bilateral training in Japan. The training has applied the Japan-Australia Reciprocal Access Agreement, which recently came into effect, for the first time in Japan, and will be a symbol of progress in strengthening bilateral cooperation. Such trainings would not have been possible without the understanding of the local governments and the efforts of the relevant organizations including each ministry and agency, and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all concerned in these trainings.

We would like to ask for your continued understanding of Koku-Jieitai.

August 31, 2023

General UCHIKURA Hiroaki

Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)

