SPECIAL FEATURE

40th year of ASEAN–Japan friendship and cooperation

- Chief of Staff, GSDF, visits Indonesia and Thailand, and Chief of Staff, ASDF, visits Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia
- Participation in Pacific Partnership 2013
- Entry into force of the Japan–Australia Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)
- Japan–U.S.–Republic of Korea Defense Trilateral Talks (DTT)
- Draft defense budget for fiscal 2013
- Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Kanazawa visits the United Kingdom and Spain
- Introduction to a historical building Hokuyo-kan (Mutsu city, Aomori Prefecture)

Cover Photograph MEETING WITH FOREIGN LEADERS
Exchanges between Japan and ASEAN started in 1973 with the establishment of the ASEAN–Japan forum on synthetic rubber. Thus 2013 marks the 40th anniversary since exchanges began. Through diplomatic routes, Japan and ASEAN have come to an agreement to conduct commemorative events throughout 2013.

The Ministry of Defense, for its part, aims to further strengthen and develop ASEAN–Japan relations through cooperation and exchange projects at various levels and in different fields.

**Chief of Staff, GSDF, visits Indonesia and Thailand, and Chief of Staff, ASDF, visits Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia**

From January 26 to 30, Chief of Staff, GSDF, visited Indonesia, which has been exercising its leadership in the ASEAN region. During the visit, he exchanged views with the Indonesian Army Chief of Staff. In the meeting, they discussed the exchange of personnel such as young military leaders and cooperation in order to deal with issues in non-traditional fields of security, among other issues. The visit cemented relations between the Japanese and Indonesian ground forces. After that, the Chief of Staff, GSDF, visited Thailand from January 30 to February 2, where he exchanged views with the Commander of the Royal Thai Army and other officials, and inspected troops. Building on the foundations of human resource exchanges that have been established thus far, this high-level visit and exchange served as an opportunity to discuss efforts aimed at improving cooperative ties and contributed to strengthening the relationship between the Japanese and Thai ground forces.

From January 23 to February 1, Chief of Staff, ASDF, visited Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia. As part of this high-level exchange, he visited the defense ministers, army commanders, air force commanders, and air force troops of each country, and exchanged views on air defense and security. Through these activities, the visit served to enrich and strengthen mutual trust and cooperative ties.

40th year of ASEAN–Japan friendship and cooperation

Exchanges between Japan and ASEAN started in 1973 with the establishment of the ASEAN–Japan forum on synthetic rubber. Thus 2013 marks the 40th anniversary since exchanges began. Through diplomatic routes, Japan and ASEAN have come to an agreement to conduct commemorative events throughout 2013.

The Ministry of Defense, for its part, aims to further strengthen and develop ASEAN–Japan relations through cooperation and exchange projects at various levels and in different fields.
Q&A ASEAN–Japan defense cooperation and exchange

Q1. Tell us about the significance of defense cooperation and exchange with the ASEAN countries.

A1. The ASEAN countries are located in a strategically important area for maritime traffic connecting Japan with the Middle East and Europe. They have long been traditional partners, having close economic relations with Japan. Promoting trust and cooperative relations for issues in various security challenges with the ASEAN countries is meaningful for both Japan and these countries. Moreover, as the ASEAN countries are core members of the ADMM-Plus and ARF, it is important to build relationships of trust and cooperation with each country, with a view to cooperation in multilateral frameworks.

It is particularly important for Japan to build stronger relationships with the ASEAN countries’ defense officials through bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks in order to develop a stable security environment across the region.

In particular, along with the interaction with Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines, which are detailed in Q2 through Q5, Japan is engaged in active exchanges of opinions with Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand at various levels, concerning approaches to defense cooperation and exchange, and frameworks for regional security cooperation. Furthermore, Japan is also striving to strengthen relationships with Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam and Laos.

(Note)The ADMM-Plus is the first Government-hosted defense ministers’ meeting in the Asia-Pacific region and is an expansion of the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) by adding eight non-ASEAN countries, including Japan, to the ADMM. The first ADMM-Plus was held in October 2010, and the second meeting is scheduled to be held in August 2013. Although originally held every three years, it is scheduled to be held every two years beginning this year. It consists of a total of 18 countries including the 10 ASEAN countries as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and the United States.

Q2. Tell us about Japan’s relationship with Vietnam.

A2. Vietnam is a major power in Southeast Asia, and is one of Japan’s strategic partners for peace and prosperity in Asia. The two nations are strengthening cooperation in the area of not only economy but also security and defense. A Japan–Vietnam Joint Statement was released when Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung visited Japan in October 2011; in addition, in the same month, Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh visited Japan, marking the first visit to Japan in 13 years by a Vietnamese Defense Minister. He held talks with his Japanese counterpart and the two ministers exchanged opinions concerning the international and regional security situations including maritime security. Following the talks, the two ministers signed the memorandum concerning Japan–Vietnam defense cooperation and exchange, and agreed to promote high-level exchanges, regular dialogue at the vice-ministerial level and cooperation in such areas as humanitarian aid and disaster relief, making it an important visit in terms of the development of the strategic partnership. Moreover, in November 2012, Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Kanazawa visited Vietnam where the first Japan–Vietnam vice-defense ministerial level consultation was held. During the consultation, opinions were exchanged regarding defense cooperation and exchange between the two countries, which included capacity-building support and the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Q3. Tell us about Japan’s relationship with Vietnam.

A3. Vietnam is a major power in Southeast Asia, and is one of Japan’s strategic partners for peace and prosperity in Asia. The two nations are strengthening cooperation in the area of not only economy but also security and defense. A Japan–Vietnam Joint Statement was released when Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung visited Japan in October 2011; in addition, in the same month, Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh visited Japan, marking the first visit to Japan in 13 years by a Vietnamese Defense Minister. He held talks with his Japanese counterpart and the two ministers exchanged opinions concerning the international and regional security situations including maritime security. Following the talks, the two ministers signed the memorandum concerning Japan–Vietnam defense cooperation and exchange, and agreed to promote high-level exchanges, regular dialogue at the vice-ministerial level and cooperation in such areas as humanitarian aid and disaster relief, making it an important visit in terms of the development of the
Q4. Tell us about Japan’s relationship with Singapore.

A4. In December 2009, Singapore became the first country in Southeast Asia with which Japan concluded a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchange, and cooperative relationships between the two nations are progressing steadily based on this memorandum.

In terms of high-level exchange, in October 2012, Singaporean Defense minister Dr. Ng Eng Hen visited Japan where he held talks with then Defense Minister Morimoto. At the talks, they agreed to promote cooperation in logistics support between Japan and Singapore; in addition, they agreed to further promote defense cooperation and exchange such as bilateral training and training conducted under the framework of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS). Moreover, both ministers announced support for the ADMM-Plus exercises to be held in Brunei in 2013.

Japan and Singapore have the longest history of any of Japan MoD’s talks with defense establishments of Southeast Asian countries; in November 2011, 12th MM Talks was held in Singapore and various issues including the regional situation and security issues were discussed.

Regarding ADMM-Plus activity, the 2nd EWG on Military Medicine meeting, co-chaired by Japan and Singapore, was held in Tokyo from July 18 to 20, 2012, at which opinions were exchanged regarding cooperation among the member nations in the area of military medicine in the event of a disaster outbreak. Military medicine experts from the 10 ASEAN countries as well as Japan, the United States, China, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and India participated in this meeting.

Singaporean Permanent Secretary for Defence Chiang Chieh Foo visited Japan to deliver the opening remarks for the EWG meeting and held talks with Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Kanazawa.

Q5. Tell us about Japan’s relationship with the Philippines.

A5. As well as high-level exchanges with the Philippines, such as the September 2011 visit to Japan by the Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of National Defense and the June 2012 visit to the Philippines by then Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Shu Watanabe, there have been frequent exchanges among the working level officials, including visits by naval vessels and discussions between the defense authorities of the two countries.

In the Japan–Philippines Joint Statement signed at the summit meeting between the two countries in September 2011, the two leaders welcomed the Japan–Philippines Dialogue on Maritime and Oceanic Affairs, and agreed to promote exchange and cooperation between the defense authorities of the two countries, through such initiatives as reciprocal visits at the naval chief of staff level and a port call in the Philippines by the MSDF vessels. Having been mentioned in the Joint Statement, the MSDF Chief of Staff visited the Philippines in November 2011, while the Flag Officer of the Philippine Navy visited Japan in April 2012.

In July 2012, the Philippines’ Department of National Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin visited Japan, marking the first visit to Japan in 11 years by a Defense Secretary, and held talks with Japan’s Defense Minister. The two leaders signed the statement of intent for Japan–Philippine defense cooperation and exchange, and agreed to step up their bilateral cooperation and exchange to a new level on this occasion.
From January 21 to 26, Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Kanazawa visited the United Kingdom and Spain.

**United Kingdom**

On January 22, Mr. Kanazawa paid a courtesy call to Minister of State, The Rt Hon Andrew Robathan, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Dr. Andrew Murri-son, at the UK Ministry of Defence. He also exchanged views with Permanent Under Secretary, Jon Thompson.

Mr. Kanazawa stated that despite the distance between Japan and the UK, the two countries share strong historical ties and have many things in common as democracy. He also stated that defense cooperation between the two countries has been advancing based on the joint declaration made in April last year during Prime Minister Cameron’s visit to Japan.

Dr. Muririson stated that Japan is an extremely important partner for the UK, and expressed his strong interest in engaging in defense cooperation with Japan in areas including defense equipment and cyberdefense issues. Mr. Robathan and Mr. Thompson stated similar remarks.

The two sides concurred on continuing to share information, as well as deepening Japan–UK defense cooperation at various levels.

**Spain**

On January 24, Mr. Kanazawa paid a courtesy call to Minister of Defence Morenés at the Spanish Ministry of Defence, and exchanged views with the Secretary General for Defence Policy Alvavgonzález.

Mr. Kanazawa expressed his delight in being able to visit Spain for the first time as the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense in this milestone year, which marks the 400th anniversary of exchanges between Japan and Spain. He also stated that there is much potential for defense exchanges between Japan and Spain, and it is important for both countries, which share common values, to deepen mutual understanding.

Mr. Morenés stated that the two countries are great nations positioned in the Far East and in the West of Europe. He expressed his desire to develop strong ties with Japan, and stated that friendly ties between the two countries could serve as a positive message for security in Asia and Africa. In the dialogue with Mr. Alvavgonzález, Mr. Kanazawa also discussed the regional situation and the potential of Japan–Spain defense exchange.

---

### Introduction to a historical building

**Hokuyo-kan (Mutsu city, Aomori Prefecture)**

Hokuyo-kan was built in 1916 as a social hub for marine officers in the Oominato Yoko unit of the Imperial Japanese Navy. It is a western-style historical building with an exterior built using andesite quarried from Mt. Kamafuse, near the Oominato base.

This is a brick-gabled building, measuring approx. 7 bays across (the distance spanned by the traverse beams) and 22 bays in the ridge direction. It stretches lengthwise in the east-west direction, and was designed symmetrically with a driveway positioned right in the center of the front of the building.

The external walls and porch pillars were built using irregularly-shaped stones. The roof is characterized by ornamental protrusions that are believed to be firewalls, and the external walls include stone masonry chimneys. In addition, vertical windows were used for the building.

The roofs of the driveway and entrance hall are fitted with corniced moldings (known as mawaribuchi or finishing board).

This building was designated a famous building of the Taisho and Showa eras by the Architectural Institute of Japan. Currently, the building houses a publicity exhibition room, which is used to convey information on the activities of the MSDF, as well as to store the historical records of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

---

Visit the Japan Defense Focus website for photo and movie galleries that cannot be found in this pamphlet. Also, on the website you can download an original calendar by filling out a short questionnaire.

Please visit our website at: [http://www.mod.go.jp/e/jdf/](http://www.mod.go.jp/e/jdf/)

**For inquiry, contact following office:**

Public Affairs Division, Ministry of Defense, Japan  
TEL:+81-3-3268-3111 (switch board)  
Web:[http://www.mod.go.jp/e/index.html](http://www.mod.go.jp/e/index.html)