Various issues and destabilizing factors have become more obvious and aggravated in the security environment surrounding Japan; such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of international terrorism, and increasing risks regarding the global commons such as the oceans, space and cyberspace.

With structural changes such as transformation of power balance and the progress of globalization, these issues have become more complicated and diversified, making it difficult for any single country to resolve on their own. As countries, including Japan, can no longer ensure the stability of the international community and the security of their own country independently, it has become even more important that countries sharing strategic interests can address the issues in a coordinated manner. Moreover, as the roles of military forces have also diversified, there are increasing opportunities for them to play an important role in building peace and supporting post-conflict reconstruction, as well as promoting confidence-building and friendly relationships between nations.

In this way, in situations where international cooperation in the security and defense areas is required, and from the perspective of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, the MOD/SDF is required to actively contribute to the security of Japan as well as the peace and stability of the region. Furthermore, active contribution of the MOD/SDF is also necessary in ensuring the peace, stability, and prosperity of the entire international community. Specifically, Japan plans to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperative relations and exchanges, and more actively promote the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations (UN PKO), anti-piracy operations, international peace cooperation activities, and other relevant missions as avenues to address global security issues.

Toward Strategic International Defense Cooperation

Amid the ongoing change in the region, which comprises the balance of power at the global level, peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region is important not only for the security of Japan, but increasingly across the international community. While some nations possess large-scale military power over the region, a framework for regional security cooperation has not yet been sufficiently institutionalized. Also, due to the political, economic and social systems of the countries, visions of security vary from country to country. There have also been an increasing number of cases of unilateral actions in an attempt to change the status quo by coercion without paying respect to existing international law. The issues involving the South China Sea, in particular, cause concerns over the maintenance of the rule of law at sea, freedom of navigation and freedom of flight over the high seas, and stability in the Southeast Asian region. Thus, responses to these issues have become an important challenge in terms of ensuring the regional stability. For such a situation, strategic international cooperation, which promotes bilateral and multilateral security cooperation and exchanges more strategically and effectively, is necessary. The need for such cooperation is increasing in order to build trust between the relevant countries and establish a foundation on which each country works in cooperation to resolve shared regional security issues.

Both within and outside of the region, strengthening trust and cooperation with countries who share strategic interests with Japan such as Australia, the Republic of

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1 On December 16, 2015, at the Meeting of the Ministry of Defense and SDF Senior Personnel, Prime Minister Abe said: “I would like you to advance strategic international defense cooperation boldly and without being caught up in existing ideas. By doing this, I would like you to play a part in the strategic foreign and security policies that I develop as though viewing the globe with a bird’s-eye perspective.”
Korea (ROK), India, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, and European countries is most important.

Japan has developed one of the most progressed cooperative bilateral relationships with Australia. Also, as allies of the United States, cooperation through Japan-Australia and Japan-U.S.-Australia frameworks in a wide range of areas is possible to form regional order and maintain and strengthen peace and stability in the international community. Similarly, with the ROK, an ally of the United States, it is important that cooperation to deal with various issues including the issues related to North Korea is based on the Japan-ROK bilateral relationship with the ROK and the Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral relationship. With respect to India, the world’s largest democratic nation positioned in the center of sea lanes of communication, Japan will strengthen cooperation, for example, through joint exercises in a wide range of areas such as maritime security. Furthermore, through traditional partnership, Japan seeks to strengthen its practical defense cooperation with ASEAN countries in recognition of their proximity to Japanese sea lanes and their significant influence on the peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

Stable relations between Japan and China are essential for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will encourage China to demonstrate greater transparency in its military and security activities and policies, and will work to enhance the mutual trust between the two countries through the promotion of defense exchanges. At the same time, Japan will also promote the construction of the “Maritime and Air Communication Mechanism” between defense authorities in Japan and China to avert or prevent unexpected situations.

Russia is an important neighboring country, and Japan seeks to increase the trust relationship through defense cooperation...
Furthermore, since the stability of the Middle East is, for cooperation to be promoted.

European countries, including cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In light of the high-level defense capabilities and technologies possessed by European countries, more specific cooperation such as joint exercises as well as defense equipment and technology cooperation will be promoted. Furthermore, since the stability of the Middle East is, for equipment and technology cooperation, more specific

### Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Outline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exchange between Defense Ministers and high-level officials</td>
<td>Improving and reinforcing mutual trust and cooperation through frank exchanges of views on regional situations and national defense policies that are important common interests to both sides, as well as enhancing the following defense exchanges.</td>
<td>• Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan’s Defense Minister and Defense Ministers from other countries&lt;br&gt;• Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan’s State Minister of Defense; Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense; Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense; Chief of Joint Staff; GSDF, MSDF, ASDF Chiefs; and their counterparts in other countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular consultation between defense officials</td>
<td>Paving the way for high-level dialogues and exchanges through continuous and direct exchanges of views between national defense policy-makers, and contributing to the enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation between related countries.</td>
<td>• Consultations between Director-General-level officials, Deputy Director-General-level officials, and their counterparts&lt;br&gt;• Dialogue between Japan’s Joint Staff, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, and their counterparts in foreign countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange between units</td>
<td>Contributing to the improvement and enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation between related countries through bilateral exercises and events for exchanges.</td>
<td>• Personnel exchanges&lt;br&gt;• Mutual visits to vessels of training squadrons and aircraft, and bilateral exercises for search and rescue operations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange of students</td>
<td>In addition to the original educational purposes, deepening the understanding of the other countries’ defense policies and the situation of their defense units, as well as building mutual trust through the promotion of relatively long-term personnel exchange and establishing human networks.</td>
<td>• Research exchanges between Japan’s National Institute for Defense Studies and military-related research organizations in other countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research exchanges</td>
<td>Deepening mutual understanding between researchers of both countries through frank exchange of opinions for the maintenance and promotion of defense exchanges.</td>
<td>• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the Ministry of Defense Japan&lt;br&gt;• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by governments&lt;br&gt;• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by private sectors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security dialogue</td>
<td>Deepening mutual understanding on the recognition of situations and on security policy among related countries as well as exchanging views and discussing on a wide range of multilateral issues.</td>
<td>• Dialogues at the ADMM Plus and ARF&lt;br&gt;• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the Ministry of Defense Japan&lt;br&gt;• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by governments&lt;br&gt;• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by private sectors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multilateral exercises and seminars</td>
<td>Improving skills and contributing to enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation through multilateral exercises and seminars.</td>
<td>•Personnel exchanges&lt;br&gt;• Multilateral exercises and seminars related to disaster relief, minesweeping, and submarine rescue operations</td>
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</table>
dialogue in the region are in the process of developing from dialogue focused on cooperation that seeks to construct order in the region. It is important to promote bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchanges in a multi-layered and practical manner, leading to the improvement of the regional and global security environment.

![Diagram of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges](image)

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**Level** | Examples of Specific Initiatives
--- | ---
Defense Exchange | ♦ Overseas student exchanges, research exchanges  
♦ High-level and working-level exchanges between defense authorities and between forces  
♦ Unit-to-unit exchanges between forces, mutual visits to vessels and aircraft  
♦ Goodwill training  
♦ Memorandums of defense cooperation and exchanges  
♦ Capacity building assistance  
♦ Range of cooperation in non-traditional security (including joint training)  
(Ex.) Field training exercises at the ADMM-Plus and ARF joint search and rescue exercises  
♦ JAP-AUS Co-op (Support from the Australian Army when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, cooperation in the missing Malaysian Airplane case, Japan-U.S.-Australia joint disaster relief exercises “Michinoku ALERT”, etc.)  
♦ Pacific Partnership, cooperation with countries and organizations in counter-piracy, etc.  
♦ Conclusion of various agreements related to defense cooperation (Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, Information Security Agreement, Defense Equipment and Technology Transfer Agreement, etc.)
Defense Cooperation | ♦ Formulation of joint response plan  
♦ Joint exercises on the premise of joint response  
(Examples: Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise, Japan-U.S. Bilateral Regional Army Command Post Exercises, Special Anti-Submarine Exercises, and Japan-U.S. Bilateral Fighter Combat Training)  
♦ Joint response in the event of Japan’s crisis
### Situations Concerning the Conclusion of Agreements

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Signed in April 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed in January 1960 and entered into force in June 1960</td>
<td></td>
<td>Established the Transfer of Arms and Military Technologies to the United States of America (exchange of notes) in June 2006</td>
<td>Signed the amended Agreement in February 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
<td>Signed in May 2012</td>
<td>Agreed to commence negotiation concerning the conclusion at the Summit Meeting in May 2014</td>
<td>Signed in May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed in September 2003 Revised in December 2008</td>
<td>Entered into force in March 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>Entered into force in January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td>Signed in July 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed in January 2004 Revised in June 2012</td>
<td>Entered into force in January 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France</strong></td>
<td>Signed and entered into force in October 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed (exchange of notes) in April 2001 Revision of annex statement In August 2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed statement of intent in July 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td>Signed in September 2014</td>
<td>Agreement commenced in September 2015 Signed and entered into force at the Japan-India Summit Meeting in December 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Republic of Korea</strong></td>
<td>Agreed at the Japan-ROK Ministerial Meeting in January 2011 to promote an exchange of views The signing was postponed by the request from the ROK side at the end of June 2012</td>
<td>Agreement commenced in August 2015 Signed at the Japan-India Summit Meeting in December 2015</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed in April 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indonesia</strong></td>
<td>Signed in March 2015</td>
<td>Agreement commenced at the “2+2” Meeting in December 2015</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Philippines</strong></td>
<td>Signed statement of intent in July 2012</td>
<td>Broadly agreed at the Summit Meeting in November 2015 Signed in February 2016 Entered into force in April 2016</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed memorandum in January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Malaysia</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Agreement to commence negotiation at the Summit Meeting in May 2015</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Zealand</strong></td>
<td>Signed in August 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Italy</strong></td>
<td>Signed statement of intent in June 2012</td>
<td>Substantive agreement at the Japan-Italy Summit Meeting in August 2015 Signed in March 2016</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Russia</strong></td>
<td>Signed in August 1999 Revised in January 2006</td>
<td>Agreed to commence negotiation for conclusion at the Japan-Canada Vice-Minister level “2+2” dialogue in August 2011 Substantial agreement at the Summit Meeting in September 2013</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATO</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Signed and entered into force in June 2010</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In addition to the countries in the table, Japan has signed documents regarding defense cooperation with Singapore, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Spain, Bahrain, Qatar and Georgia.
Initiatives under the multilateral framework such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), is a security cooperation framework in the Asia-Pacific region, have seen steady development and serve as important foundation for cooperation and exchange in the areas of security and defense. Japan has contributed to the enhancement of multilateral cooperation in the region, for example, by annually holding the Tokyo Defense Forum and the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum.

**Initiatives under the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus) Framework**

The countries of ASEAN hold the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM), which is a ministerial level meeting between defense authorities in the ASEAN region, and the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus), which contains an additional eight non-ASEAN countries, including Japan to the members. The ADMM Plus is the only official meeting for the region’s defense ministers in the Asia Pacific region including the countries outside the ASEAN region. Thus, the establishment of the ADMM Plus is highly significant from the perspective of encouraging the development and deepening of security and defense cooperation in the region, and the MOD/SDF is providing active support for its initiatives.

The ADMM Plus is comprised of (1) ADSOM-Plus (ASEAN Defence Senior Officials’ Meeting Plus), (2) ADSOM-Plus Working Groups (ADSMO-Plus WG), and (3) Experts’ Working Groups (EWG). At the third meeting of the ADMM Plus in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015, Japan stressed the importance of the international community working together to ensure the freedom of navigation and overflight. Japan also emphasized, as a practical guiding principle for the entire region to cooperate, the importance of “wider promotion of common rules and laws concerning regional air and water,” “maritime and aerospace security,” and “the improvement of ability to respond to disaster in the region.”

Japan also actively contributes in the fields of EWG. From July 2011 until March 2014, Japan and Singapore served as co-chairs of the EWG on Military Medicine, and the participants in the meeting exchanged practical opinions on approaches to cooperation with each country in the field of military medicine at times of a major disaster. Furthermore, at meetings of the EWG on Maritime Security, Japan emphasized the importance
of establishing shared customary “manners” by which all countries abide, in order to avoid unintended collisions and the escalation of situations when warships or government vessels approach and encounter each other at sea. Furthermore, Japan and Laos have served as co-chairs of the EWG on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief since December 2014, and working on the ongoing discussion on making Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), etc., for the establishment and operation of the Multi-National Coordination Center (MNCC), which will amplify disaster relief activities by assisting foreign forces. In August 2015, Japan conducted a tabletop exercise (TTX) on the same EWG in Laos and carried out the verification of this SOP.

See>> Fig. III-2-1-6 (Organizational Chart and Overview of the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus))

3 ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Regarding the ARF, which is operated mainly by diplomatic authorities, in recent years, specific initiatives in non-traditional security areas such as disaster relief, maritime security, and peacekeeping and peace building have been actively implemented, and the MOD is making active contributions to this Forum as well. For example, in the maritime security field, an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) has been held since 2009. At the ISM on MS, a collection of best practices concerning support for capacity building in the field of maritime security was formulated on the basis of a summary compiled by Japan. In the field of disaster relief, the MOD/SDF has dispatched SDF personnel and aircraft to participate in ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF-DiREx) (conducted every two years) since 2009. In May 2015, ARF-DiREx 2015, the fourth such exercise, was held in Malaysia, with Japan sending around 10 personnel to participate.

See>> Fig. III-2-1-6 (Organizational Chart and Overview of the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus))

3 Multilateral Security Dialogue Hosted by the MOD/SDF

1 Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Informal Meeting
Based on the proposal by Prime Minister Abe at the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December 2013, the Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Informal Meeting took place in Myanmar in November 2014. This meeting, in which opinion exchanges were conducted regarding cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as HADR, and maritime security, was a breakthrough opportunity, bringing together defense ministers from Japan and the ASEAN countries for the first time in the 40 years of friendship and cooperation between Japan and ASEAN. This marked an important first step towards strengthening defense cooperation in future. Moreover, in November this year, the second Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Informal Meeting is planned to be held.

2 Tokyo Defense Forum etc.
As Japan’s own initiatives regarding security in the Asia-Pacific region, the MOD has held the Asia-Pacific Defense Forum (Tokyo Defense Forum) each year since 1996 with the participation of officers in charge of defense policy (Director Generals of defense ministries and General-class officers) from the countries in the region. At the forum, defense policies of the participating countries and confidence-building measures in the region are discussed.

22 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Union (EU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) took part in the 20th forum in March 2016. At this forum, discussions took place on the topics; (1) “Enhance Capabilities in Non-Traditional Security Areas in the Region: Efforts and Challenges”; and (2)”Defense Policies Related to the Region and Participating Countries.”

In addition, since 2001, the MOD has invited key figures who are primarily involved in security policy to Japan from countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with the objective of promoting understanding of Japan’s security and defense policy as well as the current status of the SDF.

3 Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum
Since 2009, the MOD has annually held the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum, with the purpose of creating a foundation for strengthening multilateral and bilateral relationships through establishing human networks between Japanese and ASEAN vice-ministerial-level officials. The 7th meeting was held in Sapporo in September 2015, attended by the vice-ministerial level officials from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat. They exchanged opinions on the topics of (1) Wider promotion of common rules and laws at sea and in the air; and (2) Promotion of maritime and aerospace

4 In addition to Ministers’ meetings at the Foreign Minister level, the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) are held each year, as well as meetings of the Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM/PD) and the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC). Moreover, since the Ministers’ meeting in 2002, ARF Defense Officials’ Dialogues (DOD) is held ahead of the main meeting.

5 In 2011, Japan co-hosted the 3rd Inter-Sessional Meeting in Tokyo, with Indonesia and New Zealand.
security; and (3) Improvement of disaster response capability. At the forum, participants confirmed the principle of the freedom of navigation and overflight as well as the importance of establishing a risk management system on the sea, while at the same time they also shared the perception of the necessity to increase interoperability through joint exercises for disaster responses.

See >> Reference 50 (Multilateral Security Dialogues Hosted by the Ministry of Defense)

### Other

#### (1) International Conferences Held by Private Organizations

In the field of security, inter-governmental international conferences as well as international conferences organized by private organizations in which various people such as government officials, scholars, and journalists participate, are held, and such conferences provide a forum for sharing and exchanging opinions on medium-to-long-term security issues. The leading international conferences are the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue)⁶ and the Munich Security Conference,⁷ one of the most prestigious meetings among the security meetings in Europe and the United States.

At the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue held in June 2016, Minister of Defense Nakatani delivered a speech at the second plenary session entitled “Managing Military Competition in Asia,” and also held bilateral and trilateral talks with the participating countries to exchange opinions on regional situations and defense cooperation including the South China Sea situation and to confirm the plan for strengthening future cooperation with other participating countries.

State Minister of Defense Wakamiya participated in the 52nd Munich Security Conference held in February 2016. Over 600 participants including national leaders, ministers, and other high-level officials from the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and other countries gathered at this meeting, and broad discussion on global security issues such as counter-terrorism, refugee problem, and the Middle East and Africa situation took place.

#### (2) Inter-Service Branch Initiatives

**a. Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD)**

The CHOD is a meeting of the chiefs of defense, mostly from the Asia-Pacific region, aimed at nurturing trust among countries in the region and enhancing security relations through free exchanges of opinions on regional security and bilateral dialogues, among other activities. Japan has continued to participate in each conference since the first one held in 1998, and the Joint Chief of Staff attended the 18th Conference in September 2015.

**b. Pacific Armies Chief Conference (PACC)**

PACC is a biannual conference with the aim to enhance the relationship among the ground forces in the countries in the region held jointly by the U.S. Army and the ground forces from the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) has been participating in this conference since 1999, and the Chief of the Staff of the GSDF attended the last one in September 2015.

**c. The Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)**

The WPNS has been held since 1988. It is attended by the chiefs of staff of the navy of countries in the Western Pacific region, and holds discussions on various maritime security issues. The Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) has been participating since the second symposium in 1990, and the Chief of Maritime Staff attended the meeting in April 2016. The WPNS plays a substantive role in the regional maritime security by adopting the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) during the symposium held in Qingdao, China, in April 2014.

**d. The Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium (PACS), etc.**

The PACS, hosted by the United States, is held every two years. It aims to promote mutual understanding and enhance security relationships between the countries in the region through exchanges of views among the chiefs of staff of the air forces, etc. from those countries. The Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) has been participating in PACS since the first symposium in 1989, except the 13th in 2013, and the Chief of Staff of the ASDF attended the last meeting in September 2015.

See >> Reference 51 (Other Multilateral Security Dialogues)

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6 This is a multilateral conference initiated by IISS, a private British think tank, in which defense ministers from various countries participate with the objective of discussing defense-related issues and regional defense cooperation. Since the 1st conference in 2002, it has been held in Singapore each year and is known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, from the name of the hotel at which it takes place.

7 One of the most prestigious international meetings in Europe and the United States hosted by private organizers, which has been held annually (usually in February) since 1962. Officials at the ministerial level from major European countries as well as the leaders, ministers, parliamentary members, and key executives of international organizations usually participate in this meeting.
3 Promoting Capacity Building Assistance and Other Practical Multilateral Security Cooperation

While Japan’s bilateral and multilateral relationships continue to deepen, the MOD seeks to further strengthen and deepen defense cooperation and exchanges by combining more practical and wide-ranging means such as capacity building assistance.

Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building Assistance

(1) Significance of the Implementation of Capacity Building Assistance

In recent years, the importance of capacity building assistance has received increasing recognition. Capacity building assistance is an initiative with a purpose to actively create stability within the region and improve the global security environment by enhancing the ability of countries eligible for support through continuous human resource development and technical support in security and defense fields during peacetime. Providing support for capacity building has the following objectives: (1) enabling the countries receiving such support to contribute to improving the global security environment; (2) strengthening bilateral relationships with the countries receiving such support; (3) strengthening the relationships with other supporting countries such as the United States and Australia; and (4) promoting Japan’s efforts to work proactively and independently to realize regional peace and stability, thereby increasing trust in the MOD/SDF, as well as Japan as a whole.

In addition, these initiatives also facilitate the improvement of the SDF capabilities.

(2) Specific Activities

The long-term dispatch program involves dispatching a team composed of defense officials, SDF personnel, and staff from knowledgeable private sector groups such as NGOs for a long period in order to conduct large-scale, and systematic human resource development, such as lectures and practical training. This program has so far been conducted in Timor-Leste, Cambodia, and Mongolia. In FY2015, a long-term dispatch program took place in Mongolia, in the field of road-construction engineering.

The short-term dispatch program involves activities such as lectures and seminars, undertaken by knowledgeable SDF personnel. To date, the MOD/SDF has dispatched SDF personnel to Mongolia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, the Philippines, Malaysia and Laos. During FY2015, the following dispatch programs were conducted: Seminars on international aviation law in the Philippines and Malaysia, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Myanmar and Laos, vehicle maintenance in Timor-Leste, maritime security (oceanography) in Indonesia, flight safety and aviation medicine in Vietnam, underwater medicine in Myanmar and Vietnam, and road constructions engineering in Cambodia. In FY2016, a seminar on the international aviation law was implemented in Thailand.

The invitation program involves inviting practitioners from the recipient country to Japan, providing opportunities for them to view facilities and undergo training. To date, the MOD/SDF has invited military officials from Vietnam, Mongolia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea. During FY2015, the following dispatch programs were conducted:

SDF personnel providing training on road construction in Mongolia

SDF personnel conducting a seminar on international aviation law in the Philippines

This includes humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, disposal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, military medicine, maritime security, UN peacekeeping operations, and other activities.
military music training with personnel from Papua New Guinea, the areas of aviation meteorology underwater medicine, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief with personnel from Myanmar, PKO with the personnel from Vietnam, and road construction engineering with personnel from Mongolia. In FY2016, aviation safety training was conducted with personnel from Thailand.

### Part III Initiatives to Protect the Lives and Property of the People as well as Securing the Territorial Land, Water and Airspace

#### (3) Cooperation with Relevant Countries

In efforts to stabilize the regional security environment, cooperation with other support countries is essential. In particular, capacity building cooperation between Japan, the United States and Australia is considered to be a priority area of engagement.

At the joint announcement of the Japan-U.S. Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation (“2+2”) in April 2015, the ministers announced the strengthening of continuous and close bilateral cooperation through capacity building assistance between the two countries to realize the peace, stability and prosperity of the region. This was also confirmed at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting during the same month as well as at the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting in November 2015.

At the Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting in May 2015, the ministers agreed to further continuous trilateral capacity building cooperation in the field of maritime security. In particular, from October to November 2015, the SDF and the U.S. Armed Forces participated in the Australian Defence Force-led Exercise “HARII HAMUTUK” as part of capacity building assistance to the engineering unit of Timor-Leste Defense Force, and provided technical guidance in engineering and construction. In May 2013, March 2015, and March 2016, experts from...
both the United States and Australia participated in seminars on underwater medicine in Vietnam.

In the Japan-U.K. Joint Statement of January 2016, it was agreed that further cooperation for capacity building in the areas of, maritime security, maritime safety, marine conservation, and cyber security in Southeast Asian countries would be pursued. In the same month, the two countries jointly held a seminar on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the ASEAN countries in the Philippines, and the MOD’s achievement from international disaster relief activities and capacity building assistance in the same area were shared.

It is important that close coordination between relevant countries of capacity building assistance is promoted whilst being complementary and ensuring that such assistance is carried out effectively and efficiently.

**Pacific Partnership**

The Pacific Partnership (PP), which started in 2007, is an initiative in which naval vessels, primarily those from the U.S. Navy, visit countries in the region to provide medical care, to conduct civil engineering business, and to engage in cultural exchange, as well as to seek to strengthen collaboration with the participating countries and facilitate international disaster relief activities, through cooperation with the government, military, international organizations, and NGOs in each of those countries. Since 2007, Japan has dispatched SDF medical personnel and units, amongst others, as part of this initiative. In 2016, it is planned that SDF medical personnel, GSDF engineering personnel, and MSDF vessels will be dispatched to Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Palau and Indonesia to conduct support activities.

**Multilateral Joint Training**

1. **Significance of Multilateral Joint Training in the Asia-Pacific Region**

Since 2000, in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to traditional training conducted in preparation for combat situations, multinational training in non-traditional security fields, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO), has been conducted.

It is important to participate in such multinational training exercises so as not only to raise the skill level of the SDF, but also to create a cooperative platform with the countries involved. In light of this perspective, the MOD/SDF continues to actively engage in such training.

2. **Initiatives toward Multilateral Training**

a. Participation in, and Hosting of, Multilateral Joint Training and Exercises

In April 2002, the MSDF hosted the second Western Pacific submarine rescue exercise, its first time hosting the
exercise. Following this, in October 2002, the MSDF also
hosted a multilateral search and rescue exercise as well
as the sixth Western Pacific submarine rescue exercise in
September 2013. Meanwhile, in March 2011, Japan and
Indonesia co-hosted ARF-DiREx2011, the second time
the exercise was held, within the framework of the ARF.

Moreover, since 2005, the SDF has also been involved
in the annual Cobra Gold exercise, a multinational joint
training exercise co-hosted by the United States and
Thailand. In Cobra Gold 16 held in February 2016,
the SDF participated in the command post exercises,
conducted training in transporting Japanese nationals
overseas, and also participated in the public health section
and the construction section of humanitarian and civic
assistance activities. Since 2010, the SDF has participated
in the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) Capstone
Exercise, a multinational exercise for U.N. peacekeeping
operations launched by the United States. In August 2015,
the SDF participated in staff exercises and field training as
part of the Exercise Keris Aman held in Malaysia.

The GSDF participated in the multilateral exercise,
KHAAN QUEST 16, co-hosted by the United States
and Mongolia from May to June 2016. The MSDF
participated in the U.S.-Indo Naval Exercises (Malabar
2015) jointly hosted by the two countries in the waters
around eastern India in October 2015, the Indonesia-
hosted multilateral joint naval exercise Komodo 16
in the waters around Indonesia and the U.S.-
hosted International Minesweeper Training conducted in the
waters around the Arabian Peninsula in April 2016, and
the Exercise Malabar 2016 in the waters between Sasebo
and the area to the east of Okinawa in June of the same
year. The ASDF participated in the exercise “Corp North
Guam 16,” which was hosted jointly by Japan, the United
States and Australia and was held in Guam in February
2016. The ASDF also participated in the multilateral
humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises.

b. Multinational Tabletop Exercises, etc.

Initiatives have also been made to invite observers from
other foreign countries since September 2001, when
observers from eight Asia-Pacific countries participated
in the fourth Japan-Russia Search and Rescue training
hosted by Japan.

In addition, the GSDF has hosted the Multinational
Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP) every
year since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperative
initiatives, inviting officers from the respective countries
involved. In 2015, 21 countries and international
organizations participated in the event where discussions
and training were carried out.
In promoting cooperation and exchanges in the area of security, it is necessary to strengthen them based on a combination of the most optimal means, whilst also taking into account the actual situation of the partner countries and their relationship with Japan. Therefore, not only comprehensive efforts based on a multilateral framework but also bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges also plays an important role to realize them.

**Japan-Australia Defense Cooperation and Exchanges**

**(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Australia**

Australia is an important partner for Japan in the Asia-Pacific region: Both Japan and Australia are allied with the United States and share not only universal values but also strategic stakes and interests. In particular, in recent years, as responsible countries in the Asia Pacific region, Japan and Australia are strengthening mutual cooperation focused primarily on areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities. In terms of Japan-Australia bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, the first such joint declaration in the realm of security with a country other than the United States, was announced at the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in March 2007. It has been making steady progress since then and has now reached the stage of more concrete and practical cooperation.

In May 2010, the Japan-Australia Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and its Procedural Arrangement were signed at the third Japan-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”), and they entered into force in January 2013. The ACSA enabled the reciprocal provision of supplies and services by the SDF and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) during international peace cooperation and other activities. Moreover, due to the Japan-Australia Information Security Agreement that entered into force in March 2013 and the foundations for sharing information that have been developed between the two countries, it is expected that bilateral cooperation will be further strengthened.

Furthermore, at the fourth Japan-Australia “2+2” in September 2012, both countries issued a joint statement entitled Common Vision and Objectives agreeing to further expand defense cooperation between Japan and Australia.

**(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges**

At the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in July 2014, Prime Minister Abe described the relationship between the two countries as a “Special Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century” and signed the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Australia concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology as well as approved the proposal for Japan-Australia defense cooperation that was agreed upon at the fifth Japan-Australia “2+2” held in June 2014.

In May 2015, at the Japan-Australia Defense Ministers Meeting held at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, Minister of Defense Nakatani and Minister for Defence Kevin Andrews agreed to further strengthen Japan-Australia defense cooperation through joint exercises and other initiatives. Furthermore, at the Defense Ministerial Talks held in Tokyo in June 2015, the two ministers exchanged opinions regarding the future defense cooperation between the two countries, and at the same time agreed to strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the South China Sea, and to resolve the situation in accordance with international law. At the sixth Japan-Australia “2+2” held in November 2015, further strengthening the “Special Strategic Partnership” between the two countries was confirmed and new initiatives for strengthening bilateral security and defense cooperation were specified.

In this trend, at the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in December 2015, two leaders reconfirmed the “Special Strategic Partnership” between the two countries and emphasized the importance of deepening their special relationship based on the view of taking responsibility for the peace and prospects of the Asia-Pacific region and the international community. The two leaders also approved the new initiatives agreed at the Japan-Australia “2+2” Meeting in November.

The two countries also actively conduct service-to-service exchanges in which the enhancement of mutual understanding as well as the trust and friendly relationship...
is promoted through, for example, the participation of the ASDF Chief of Staff in the Air Power Conference (APC) organized by Australia.

Facilitation and strengthening of Japan-Australia cooperation have contributed to the formation of the order within the region and the effort towards international peace centered on the United Nations. For example, in August 2012, two Australian military personnel began to undertake coordination activities with the SDF’s deployed unit for the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

Japan-Australia joint exercises were conducted in Japanese coastal waters in October 2015 and in the sea areas surrounding Australia in April 2016 to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation in training and exercises.

In addition, Japan has been working on the review of multifaceted defense equipment and technology cooperation with Australia. For example, Japan commenced joint research in the field of marine hydrodynamics in December 2015. Meanwhile, Japan submitted a proposal regarding cooperation for the Australian Future Submarine Program in November 2015, but the Australian Government announced in April 2016 that they had selected a French company as their international partner.

In order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of such cooperation, it is important to promote trilateral cooperation with the United States, whose presence is indispensable for regional peace and stability.

The Security and Defense Cooperation Forum (SDCF), which is a Director General-level meeting among the three countries, has been held six times since April 2007.

With regard to training and exercises, the GSDF participated in the U.S.-Australia joint exercise (Exercise Talisman Saber) for the first time in July 2015. In addition, an MSDF vessel participated in Japan-U.S.-Australia joint cruise training in January and April 2016.

\[ \text{Japan–Republic of Korea Defense Cooperation and Exchanges} \]

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchange with the Republic of Korea

For Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) is the most important neighboring country, which shares strategic interests, and is extremely vital to Japan in geopolitical terms. In addition, the two countries share many strategic interests as allies of the United States. Therefore, even if difficult issues occasionally arise, close collaboration between the two countries on the security front has enormous significance for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Both Japan and the ROK are confronted with wide-ranging and complex security challenges including not only the North Korean nuclear and missile issues, but also counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations, large-scale natural disasters, antipiracy measures, maritime security and so on. In order for the two countries to deal effectively with such challenges related to security, it is important to carry out not just exchanges for increasing mutual understanding and trust building but more broad-ranging and concrete defense cooperation. For this aim, it is important to conclude the Information Security Agreement and the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchange

In April 2015, the Japan-ROK Security Dialogue at the foreign and defense working-level was held in Seoul for the first time in nearly five years where the security policies and defense policies of the two countries were discussed. In May 2015, Defense Minister Nakatani held the first Japan-ROK Ministerial Dialogue in four years with Defense Minister Han Min-koo on the sideline of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue. The two ministers shared a common recognition regarding the security environment.
surrounding the two countries and exchanged opinions concerning the defense policies of Japan and the ROK. They also consulted each other regarding specific defense cooperation and exchange such as the participation of ROK naval vessels in the SDF naval review and the implementation of the Japan-ROK joint search and rescue bilateral exercise within this year, to which the ROK side responded positively. During the defense ministers meeting in Seoul in October of the same year, two ministers had the same understanding, regarding the security concerns between the two countries, that cooperation between Japan and the ROK as well as among Japan, the United States and the ROK would be important. The two ministers also agreed to strengthen defense exchanges in various areas such as human exchanges, exchanges between units, education and research exchange, and to promote cooperation in the areas of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, anti-piracy activities, humanitarian activities and disaster relief activity. In June 2016, the Japan-ROK Ministerial Dialogue was held on the sideline of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue, and the Ministers affirmed the necessity of further advancing the Japan-ROK and Japan-U.S.-ROK security and defense cooperation. In addition, the two ministers agreed to strengthen the emergency communication system between the MOD and the Ministry of National Defense of the ROK in order to communicate and coordinate appropriately in case of emergency such as the North Korea nuclear and missile issues. Regarding defense cooperation and exchanges, the two ministers also appreciated the reactivation of defense cooperation at various levels and agreed to continue advancing the cooperation between the two countries going forward as they seize all available opportunities.

In October 2015, the SDF enhanced coordination with the ROK Navy through the participation of ROK naval vessels in the SDF naval review and the continuous implementation of the Japan-ROK search and rescue bilateral exercise, while in November the ROK Navy military band participated in the SDF Marching Festival. Also in the same month, the ASDF Chief of Staff participated in the Aerospace & Defense Exhibition (ADEX) in Seoul and exchanged opinions with the Chief of Air Staff for the first time in six years. In March 2016, the Chief of Maritime Staff visited the ROK and had an opinion exchange opportunity with the Chief of Staff of the ROK Navy, while in April of the same year the Chief of Staff of the ROK Army visited Japan and carried out opinion exchanges with the Chief of Ground Staff. As these interactions and activities indicate, the exchanges between the Chiefs of Ground, Maritime, and Air Staff of the two countries have resumed.

With respect to the Kumamoto Earthquake that occurred in April of the same year, Japan received relief supplies provided by the ROK Air Force C-130 transport aircraft, which showed close cooperation between Japan and the ROK.

(3) Cooperative Relationship between Japan, the U.S., and the ROK

As both Japan and the ROK are allies of the United States, which are indispensable to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, policy consultation among the defense authorities of Japan, the United States, and the ROK mainly at the working level has been conducted since 1994, and the “Information Sharing Arrangement among the Defense Authorities from Japan, the United States, and the ROK”12 was signed in December 2014. This arrangement has worked to develop more concrete cooperation by enabling the defense authorities from the three countries to share classified information regarding the threat of the North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missiles. In addition, in a trilateral summit meeting held in March 2016, the leaders

affirmed necessity of further advancing the cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the ROK in the security area. Based on the agreement reached between the foreign and defense ministries of the three countries instructions would be given to the administrative officials in their countries in order to advance specific security and defense cooperation. In this context, it is necessary to further deepen collaboration and cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the ROK.

Since 2009, Japan, the United States, and the ROK have conducted Trilateral Defense Ministers’ Meetings on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, and at the Meeting in June 2016, a Joint Press Statement was issued following discussion on the regional situations including North Korea and trilateral defense cooperation. During the meeting, the Ministers and the Secretary strongly condemned North Korea’s provocative actions, while they appreciated the close trilateral communication and cooperation that took place at various levels before and immediately after a nuclear test and ballistic missile launches and agreed to continue such efforts. The three ministers also directed their respective staff to explore ways to improve communication and coordination among the three defense authorities. At the same time, the Ministers discussed the first Japan-U.S.-ROK missile warning exercise, Pacific Dragon 2016, and other topics such as defense medical related events and other cultural exchanges, enhancement of information sharing, and maritime security.

At the working level, based on the framework of the Japan-U.S.-ROK Defense Trilateral Talks (DTT), close cooperation is conducted at various levels such as the Director-General level and the Director level. Most recently, in response to the nuclear test in January 2016 and multiple ballistic missile launches that were called “artificial satellites” in February of the same year, the Director-General level video teleconferences were held to share information and exchange views. They agreed to continue close cooperation.

Japan, the United States, and the ROK also promote close service-to-service cooperation. In July 2014, the Chief of Joint Staff of Japan, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff held the first chief-of-staff-level meeting in Hawaii to discuss a broad range of issues, including the increasingly strained security situation, such as nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, and measures to enhance trilateral coordination among Japan, the United States and the ROK. The chief-of-staff-level video teleconference was held again in February 2016 where information sharing and cooperation among the three countries in response to North Korea’s nuclear test etc. were discussed.

**Japan-India Defense Cooperation and Exchanges**

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India

India, which is becoming increasingly influential against a backdrop of what is projected to become the world’s largest population as well as its high economic growth and latent economic power, is located in the center of sea lanes that connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa, making it an extremely important country geopolitically for Japan. Furthermore, Japan and India, which share universal values as well as have a common interest in the peace, stability, and prosperity of Asia and the world, have established the “Special Strategic and Global Partnership.” In this context, Japan and India have also been strengthening their relations in the area of security in recent years.

In October 2008, the prime ministers of Japan and India signed the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India. India is the third country with which Japan signed a joint declaration specializing in security, following those with the United States and Australia. In December 2009, the prime ministers of Japan and India also formulated the Action Plan to advance security cooperation between the two countries. The declaration deepened the initiatives in various areas - meetings and dialogues at various levels such as the ministerial and Chief of Staff level, service to service exchanges including bilateral and multilateral exercises, and promotion of cooperation in maritime security such as cooperation in anti-piracy operations. This in turn served as a subsequent guideline for cooperation in the field of security between Japan and India. Moreover, in September 2014, Memorandum on Japan-India defense cooperation and exchanges were signed, which strengthened the...
relationship as partners that are capable of dealing with regional and global issues together.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

During the Japan-India Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Modi held in September 2014, both prime ministers agreed on a number of approaches to be taken in order to upgrade the relationship between the two countries to a special strategic global partnership, including strengthening of the Japan-India “2+2,” continuous participation of Japan in the U.S.-Indo Naval Exercises (Malabar), launch of working level consultations between the two countries with a view to promoting defense equipment and technology cooperation.

At the Japan-India Ministerial Meeting in March 2015, both ministers agreed that the two countries would hold continuous discussions regarding defense equipment cooperation concerning the US-2 amphibian rescue aircraft, and the regular continuation of not only bilateral maritime training but also cooperation involving the ground and air forces. During the Japan-India Defense ministerial Meeting conducted during the ADMM Plus Meeting in November 2015 and the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2016, the two ministers confirmed the importance of promoting defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and India including the discussions on the strengthening of cooperation in the maritime security field through Japan’s participation in Malabar on a regular basis and the defense equipment cooperation concerning the US-2 amphibian rescue aircraft. The two ministers also agreed upon working on building more exchanges in a wide range of fields to strengthen the bilateral cooperation.

Furthermore, during the Summit Meeting in December 2015, the two Prime Ministers agreed to transform the key relationship between Japan and India into “a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership, which reflects a broad convergence of their long-term political, economic and strategic goals.” Moreover, the two Prime Ministers concluded the Agreement concerning the Transfer of the Defence Equipment and Technology and the General Security of Military Information Agreement in order to further strengthen the foundation of deep strategic ties. These agreements have enabled the two countries further deepening the bilateral defense equipment cooperation and information exchanges, which served as the foundation for the future development of Japan-India defense cooperation and exchanges.

With regard to exercises and training, responding to the agreement related to Japan’s regular participation in Malabar, the MSDF participated in Malabar 2015 in the waters east of India in October 2015, and Malabar 2016 in the waters between Sasebo and Okinawa in June 2016 to practice anti-submarine warfare as well as search and rescue activities. Also in October 2015, an Indian Navy vessel participated in the SDF naval review, while the MSDF vessel participated in the International Fleet Review organized by the Indian Navy in February 2016. Furthermore, service-to-service exchanges have become activated as well, for example, through expert exchanges in the area of test pilot involving both the Indian Air Force and the ASDF, and exchange between airlift units of the two countries.

See Part II, Chapter 3, Section 3-3 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)
See Reference 57 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India (Past Three Years))
in September 2014, January 2015, and December 2015 respectively.

In November 2015, the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting was held for the first time in four years and five months during the ADMM Plus Meeting. The two ministers had a frank exchange of views regarding various issues standing between the two countries, and agreed to recognize the importance of early commencement of the operation of the “Maritime and Air Communication Mechanism between Japan and China’s defense authorities” as well as the development of Japan-China defense exchanges. The “Maritime and Air Communication Mechanism between Japan and China’s defense authorities” aims to avoid unexpected collisions and prevent unforeseen consequences in waters and airspace from escalating into military clashes.

VOICE
Japan-India Exchanges in Progress
– Participated in the Indian Navy Fleet Review

MSDF Maizuru District (Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture)
Commander Satoshi Takaoka, Captain of destroyer Matsuyuki, Escort Division 14 (Maizuru)

Destroyer Matsuyuki participated in the international fleet review held in Visakhapatnam, a port city in the central southern area on the east coast of India in February 2016. It was a lavish fleet review in which the Navies from 52 countries participated and over 150 vessels gathered together. During the visit, various relevant events were held such as a troop review by the Prime Minister of India, Indian cultural heritage training, International Maritime Conference, a parade by the crew within the city. With the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and friendship with other participating countries in the international fleet review, all the Japanese crews attended each event having a strong spirit that “each and every one of us represents Japan.” In addition, during the outward voyage to the fleet review, the MSDF also conducted joint exercise with the U.S. Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, while in the return path it participated in a joint exercise with Thailand.

India and other countries around the Indian Ocean that participated in this fleet review are geopolitically important to Japan. I consider that the international cooperation with these countries through defense exchanges has a deep significance in the situation in which ensuring maritime security is increasingly required.

VOICE
Japan-India Exchanges in Progress
– My Experience Visiting the Indian Air Force as a Test Pilot

ASDF Ashiya Air Base (Ashiya-cho, Onga District, Fukuoka Prefecture)
Colonel (ASDF) Hiroshi Senba, Commander of Flying Training Group, 13th Flying Training Wing

In January 2016, three personnel (two test pilots and one Research and Development officer) from the Air Development and Test Command visited the test flight unit and test evaluation organization of the Indian Air Force. At the site in India, we exchanged opinions regarding the process of developing aircraft, education of test pilots, test procedure of aircraft, and the safety of test flights with the test pilots and experts in flight tests from the Indian Air Force, and we were able to learn the differences between the ASDF and the Indian Air Force.

The Indian Air Force operates aircraft with different operational ideas such as adopting Russian-made and European-made aircraft. We were able to see the condition in which test pilots serve as a bridge between operators and engineers to make significant contributions to the stable operation of the Indian Air Force’s aircraft. In addition, we also had an interesting opportunity to learn about the unit centrally in charge of software development of equipment, which the ASDF does not have. Going forward, I will reflect the knowledge and experience gained in this visit training on to the research and development as well as aviation safety in the ASDF. At the same time, I intend to make contributions to the promotion of the defense exchanges between the ASDF and the Indian Air Force.
or political problems. It was agreed that the mechanism would be comprised of: (1) regular meetings; (2) hotlines between the defense authorities of Japan and China; and (3) direct communications between naval vessels and aircraft, while the specific contents of it are in the process of adjustment with the Chinese side.

As part of initiatives to construct a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests,” it will be essential to strive to promote mutual trust and understanding between Japan and China through dialogue at various levels and in a range of areas, while also actively promoting concrete cooperation in non-traditional security areas, such as counter-piracy measures.

See>> Reference 58 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with China (Past Three Years))

Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges and Cooperation

(1) Significance of Defense Exchange and Cooperation with Russia

Russia has great influence on the security of Europe, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region, and is an important neighboring country of Japan. It is therefore very important for Japan to promote mutual trust with Russia through defense exchanges. As Japan-Russia relations have continuously been developing in a wide range of areas, the MOD/SDF continuously conducts, in accordance with the Memorandum on Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges drawn up in 1999 (revised in 2006), various dialogues between defense authorities, annual meetings based on the Japan-Russia Agreement on Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas, and bilateral search and rescue exercises.

Regarding Japan’s relationship with Russia, the Government of Japan intends to take an appropriate response whilst emphasizing the solidarity of the G7 (Group of Seven), taking the Ukrainian situation and other factors into account. In light of this, the MOD has also taken this into account in its exchanges with Russia. Simultaneously, it is important to maintain constant contact at the working level in order not to cause any unforeseen circumstances and unnecessary conflicts with Russia, a neighboring country. The MOD considers these points in a comprehensive manner and advances exchanges with Russia accordingly.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Exchange

At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in April 2013, the two leaders affirmed the importance of expanding cooperation between Japan and Russia in the field of security and defense, amid the growing role of the Asia-Pacific region and major changes in the international security environment, and agreed to set up a meeting between foreign and defense authorities at the ministerial level (the “2+2” Meeting). At the first Japan-Russia “2+2” Meeting in November 2013, the two countries agreed to conduct ground-to-ground unit exchanges between land forces and mutual dispatch of exercise observers on a regular basis, and bilateral exercises between counter piracy units of the MSDF and Russian Navy in the Gulf of Aden, as well as regular hosting of the Japan-Russia Cyber Security Meeting.

In October 2014, the MSDF carried out the 15th bilateral Japan-Russia search and rescue exercises. In addition, Japan-Russia bilateral talks were held at the Vice-Ministerial level at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, which took place in May 2015, and defense exchange between two countries was discussed.

See>> Reference 59 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Russia (Past Three Years))

Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with ASEAN Countries

ASEAN countries, which continue to experience rapid economic growth and are expected to play a role as a center of growth that is open to the world, and Japan are traditional partners with history of exchanges and a close economic relationship more than 40 years. In addition, ASEAN countries are located in geopolitically important areas occupying strategic points for the maritime traffic for Japanese sea lanes, are also playing an important role in ensuring the peace and prosperity of Japan as well as the entire region. Therefore, it is important that Japan strengthens cooperation in the security and defense areas and enhance the relationship of trust with ASEAN countries. In particular, since Japan and ASEAN countries share a number of issues in the non-traditional security areas such as maritime security and humanitarian

14 In addition to Japan, the G7 consists of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada.
assistance and disaster relief, they promote cooperation based on multinational frameworks such as the ADMM Plus and the ARF, as well as strengthening bilateral cooperation and exchanges to enhance cooperation for the capacity building in the entire region with a focus on the future.

In November 2015, ASEAN launched the ASEAN Community, which is comprised of three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Japan promotes substantial cooperation by conducting defense equipment and technology cooperation, capacity building assistance, joint exercises, and other initiatives with ASEAN, which promotes the regional integration.

See>> Part III, Chapter 3, Section 3-3 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

(1) Indonesia

Indonesia is the world largest island nation with its land and population consisting of nearly 40% of the entire Southeast Asia, and maintains close defense exchanges and cooperation with Japan. During the Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting in March 2015, President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia and Prime Minister Abe agreed to strengthen the Strategic Partnership underpinned by sea and democracy, and also re-affirmed their intention to hold the “Japan-Indonesia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation” (“2+2” Meeting). At the “2+2” Meeting held in Tokyo for the first time in December of the same year, four ministers agreed to commence negotiations on the Agreement on the transfer of defense equipment and technology, actively participate in the multinational naval exercise (Komodo 2016), and develop capacity building assistance, and other points. Similarly, at the working level, exchanges at various levels have been carried out, including consultations between foreign and defense authorities, consultations between defense authorities, and various educational and academic exchanges.

With regard to training and exercise, following 2014, the MSDF participated in the Komodo Exercise 2016 in the waters around Indonesia in April 2016, and conducted search and rescue as well as humanitarian assistance exercises.

Japan and Indonesia have also been working on strengthening cooperation through capacity building assistance. See>> Fig. III-2-1-7 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

(2) Vietnam

Vietnam is a coastal country of the South China Sea. At the Japan-Vietnam Summit Meeting held in March 2014, President Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam and Prime Minister Abe agreed to elevate the relationship between the two countries to an “Extensive Strategic Partnership.” In addition, in September 2015, Dr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, visited Japan and the Japan-Vietnam Summit Meeting was held in which the two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the security and defense areas.

During the Defense Ministerial Meeting in November 2015, the two ministers agreed to strengthen the defense cooperation between the two countries through a number of initiatives such as: port calls of the MSDF at the Cam Ranh Bay International Port situated at a key strategic location in the South China Sea; continuation of cooperation in the PKO area; implementation of naval exercises regarding humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; expansion and enhancement of capacity building assistance; commencement of administrative-level consultations regarding defense equipment and technology cooperation.

As for vice-ministerial consultation, three of such consultations were held by January 2015. During these consultations, the two vice-ministers exchanged opinions regarding regional situations and discussed cooperation in the field of capacity building assistance, and in September 2015 they signed the Memorandum declaring the promotion of cooperation in the PKO area.
In February 2015, the Vietnamese Naval Commander visited Japan and with the Chief of Staff of the MSDF agreed to strengthen Japan-Vietnam service-to-service exchanges. In May 2015, the Chief of Staff of the ASDF visited Vietnam and exchanged views on future defense cooperation and exchanges, etc. with Vietnamese Air Force Commander and others. Furthermore, progress of defense exchanges has been made through the following activities: In February 2016 the MSDF patrol aircraft unit conducted a table-top exercise with an assumption of search and rescue with Vietnam People’s Navy and Air Force officers in Da Nang, and the ASDF transport unit carried out exchange activities with the Vietnam People’s Air Force, while in April 2016, an MSDF vessel for the first time made a call at the Cam Ranh Bay.

It will continue to be vital to strengthen relationships in order to achieve more concrete, practical cooperation, based on the memorandum on defense cooperation and exchange as the cornerstone of our cooperation and exchanges.

(3) Singapore

In December 2009, Singapore became the first country in Southeast Asia with which Japan signed a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchange, and a cooperative relationship is progressing steadily based on the memorandum. In particular, discussions between the defense authorities of Japan and Singapore have the longest history of any of Japan’s defense discussions with the countries of Southeast Asia, with 14 rounds of talks in the history. Moreover, the Minister of Defence from Singapore participates in the Shangri-La Dialogue organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) almost every year, and high-level exchanges between the Japanese and Singaporean defense ministers are carried out in which Japan’s security policy is also explained.

At the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue held in June 2016, Minister of Defense Nakatani held a meeting with Singaporean Defense Minister Dr. Ng. The ministers exchanged opinions on regional situations, defense cooperation and exchanges, and other topics and confirmed that the two countries continue to work on the strengthening of the bilateral relationship.

Additionally, port calls at the time of conducting international cooperation operations such as the United Nations PKO and anti-piracy activities, and service-to-service exchanges are also actively conducted.

(4) The Philippines

Between Japan and the Philippines, as well as high-level exchanges, there have been frequent working-level exchanges including visits by naval vessels and consultations between the two defense authorities and service-to-service exchanges. At the defense ministerial meeting held in January 2015, the two defense ministers signed a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges. This memorandum shows the intentions of the two countries to conduct cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as maritime security; in addition to holding defense ministerial meetings and vice-ministerial consultations on a regular basis; reciprocal visits between the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff, Chiefs of Staff of the SDFs, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Commanders of each services; and participation in trainings and exercises. In addition, during the Summit Meeting with President Aquino in November 2015, the two leaders mostly agreed upon the Defense equipment and technology transfer agreement, which was later signed in February 2016.

Furthermore, during the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial telephone conference in May of the same year, the two ministers confirmed to embody the transfer of up to five MSDF TC-90 training aircrafts to the Philippine Navy in order to enhance the capabilities of the Philippine concerning humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, transportation, and maritime situational awareness. At the same time, the ministers also agreed to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries.
including sharing recognition of the regional situation centering on the South China Sea.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the MASF vessels and the MSDF patrol aircraft unit in May and June 2015, respectively, conducted joint exercises concerning humanitarian assistance and disaster relief using the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES)\(^{15}\) in the Philippines.

(5) Thailand

With Thailand, Japan has a long history of defense cooperation and exchanges under the traditionally good relationship between the two countries, and the dispatching of Defense Attachés and consultations between defense authorities were initiated at an early stage. As for the acceptance of foreign students to the National Defense Academy, it was a Thai student who was accepted as the first foreign student in 1958, and since then Thailand has sent the largest cumulative number of students. The MOD/SDF, since 2005, has been participating in the multilateral military exercise Cobra Gold hosted by the United States and Thailand. Furthermore, in April 2016, a human resources development seminar covering the area of international aviation law was carried out as the first capacity building assistance for Thailand, while in May, an invitation project regarding aviation safety was conducted for the Royal Thai Air Force Safety Center. In June 2016, Minister of Defense visited Thailand, paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, and had a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Mr. Prawit Wongsuwon, and agreed to strengthen the bilateral defense cooperation and exchange.

\(^{15}\) As for the CUES, see Part II, Chapter 1, Section 2-5, Footnote 22.

(6) Cambodia

Cambodia is the first country to which Japan dispatched the SDF for U.N. peacekeeping operations in 1992. Since then, defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries have been continuously improving: in 2008, the Defense Attaché to Vietnam was also appointed as Defense Attaché to Cambodia, and support for capacity building was started in 2013. At the Japan-Cambodia Summit Meeting in December 2013, the bilateral relationship was upgraded to “strategic partnership.” After the summit, the Minister of Defense signed the Memorandum on Defense

See>>> Fig. III-2-1-7 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

(7) Myanmar

Regarding Japan’s relations with Myanmar, Japan has been promoting exchanges since Myanmar’s transition from military rule to democratic government in March 2011, such as realizing the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense’s first visit to the country, and inviting Myanmar to participate in multilateral conferences hosted by Japan. In November 2013, the first consultation between defense authorities was held in the capital city Naypyidaw, during which the two countries exchanged opinions regarding the procedures for future defense exchanges between the two nations and agreed to further promote exchanges. Furthermore, in November 2014, then Minister of Defense Eto held a meeting with Minister for Defense Wai Lwin of Myanmar, the chair country, whilst attending the Japan-ASEAN Roundtable and confirmed their intention to promote defense exchanges. In July and August 2015, the Commander of Air Force, and the Vice Commander of the Armed Forces of Myanmar and the Commander of Myanmar Army visited Japan respectively. In addition, Minister of Defense Nakatani is scheduled to visit Myanmar in June 2016 to have meetings with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Minister of Defense separately and to pay a courtesy call to State Counselor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi. All of these activities have further advanced high-level exchange between the two countries. Moreover, in March 2016, the ASDF transport unit visited Myanmar and carried out their first service-to-service exchange with the Myanmar Air Force, while Japan is also working on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation through its capacity building assistance to Myanmar.

See>>> Fig. III-2-1-7 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

(8) Laos

Regarding Japan’s relations with Laos, defense cooperation and exchanges have been gradually developing since 2011, when the Defense Attaché to Vietnam was also appointed as Defense Attaché to Laos. In April 2013, the National Defense Academy accepted students from Laos for the first time, and in August 2013, the first Japan-Laos Defense Ministerial Meeting was held. The first Japan-Laos Security Dialogue was realized in April 2014. In addition, in January 2014, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Laos for the first time, and as the co-chair countries of the EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) of the ADMM Plus, the two countries agreed to enhance their cooperation in the area of HA/DR. At the Defense Ministerial Meeting in November 2015, the two ministers agreed to develop the defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries. Furthermore, during the visit by the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs to Laos in February 2016, views and opinions were exchanged regarding the commencement of capacity building assistance in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as plans for further defense cooperation. In March of the same year, the ASDF transport unit visited Laos and carried out service-to-service exchanges with the Loyal Lao Air Force.

(9) Malaysia

Regarding Japan’s relations with Malaysia, Japan-Malaysia Defense Ministerial Meeting was held at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2015 and also during the Third ADMM Plus in November of the same year. The two Ministers exchanged views regarding bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, and agreed to continue cooperation in this area between Japan and Malaysia.

As for service-to-service exchanges, in August 2015 vessels from the MSDF and the Royal Malaysian Navy conducted a goodwill exercise in waters west of Kota Kinabalu, and in November 2015 the Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces visited Japan to have a meeting.
with the Chief of Joint Staff. Based on the cooperation relationship between Japan and Malaysia developed through the search operation in the missing Malaysian Airplane case occurred in 2014, the relationship between the SDF and the Malaysian Armed Forces has been strengthening in various fields such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

(10) Brunei
Regarding Japan’s relations with Brunei, during the 2nd ADMM Plus meeting held in Brunei in August 2013, the Minister of Defense held talks with Brunei’s Minister of Energy Mohammad Yasmin Umar and exchanged views on the initiatives of the ADMM Plus. In addition, SDF aircraft from all of its three forces participated in humanitarian and disaster relief assistance as well as a joint exercise of the EWG on military medicine held in June 2013 in Brunei for the first time based on the framework of the ADMM Plus, while in May 2016 the MSDF destroyer Ise participated in a joint exercise held in Brunei, which serves as a co-chair of the EWG on maritime security of the ADMM Plus.

See>> Reference 60 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with ASEAN Countries (Past Three Years))

Defence Exchanges and Cooperation with Other Asia-Pacific Countries

(1) New Zealand
With New Zealand, a memorandum of Japan-New Zealand defense cooperation and exchange was signed in August 2013. During the Summit Meeting in July 2014, the two countries agreed to conduct studies on an ACSA. Also, two SDF personnel participated in the Proliferation Security Initiative interdiction exercise (Exercise MARU 2015) organized by New Zealand in November 2015.

In June 2016, at the Japan-New Zealand Defense Ministerial Meeting held at the timing of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue, two ministers positively evaluated the frequent human exchanges at various levels between the two countries such as defense ministerial meetings and mutual visits by vice-ministers, and then agreed to develop the bilateral relationship between Japan and New Zealand that are “strategic partners” in the Asia-Pacific region.

See>> Reference 61 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Asia-Pacific Countries (Past Three Years))

Significance of Defense Exchange and Cooperation with European Countries

Europe shares universal values with Japan and plays a central role in working to address common challenges to global security, focusing primarily on non-traditional security areas such as counter-terrorism and combating piracy, as well as international peace cooperation activities. In this regard, promoting defense cooperation and exchanges with European countries provides the foundations for Japan to become actively involved in dealing with these challenges, and is important for both Japan and Europe.

(1) The United Kingdom
The United Kingdom, being a major power that has influence not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world, has historically maintained close relations with Japan. On the security front, Japan shares the same strategic interests as the United Kingdom, as both countries are important allies of the United States.
In June 2016, the Japan-U.K. Defense Ministerial Meeting was held at the timing of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue. Both ministers welcomed the progress in the Japan-U.K. defense cooperation in each area including defense equipment and technology cooperation, joint exercises, and capacity building assistance, and agreed to work closely to realize the Typhoon Fighter Aircraft Unit’s visit to Japan and holding of a joint exercise during the visit.

As for service to service exchanges, in July 2015, unit-to-unit exchanges in which MSDF patrol aircraft P-1 participated in the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) was held in the United Kingdom. In September of the same year, the Chief of Staff, MSDF, visited the United Kingdom and conducted opinion exchanges with the British Secretary of State for Defence and other officials. Thus, we have been seeing a steady development of exchanges including the visit of, Royal Air Force transport aircraft A-400 to the ASDF’s Miho Air Base in October 2015.

(2) France

France is a major power that has influence not only in Europe and Africa, but also in the world. Historically it has had a close relationship with Japan, and is positioned as a special partner in various international organizations.

The defense authorities of the two countries have held consultations annually since 1994 to exchange a wide range of opinions regarding regional situations and security issues. In addition, in October 2011, the Japan-France Information Security Agreement came into effect, establishing a foundation for information-sharing between the two countries.

In June 2013, French President Francois Hollande visited Japan, and the two countries issued a joint statement regarding cooperation in three fields, namely politics and security, economy, and culture. In May 2014, Prime Minister Abe visited France and held talks with President Hollande. The two leaders agreed to launch dialogue on cyber security and strengthen bilateral cooperation in maritime security. In July of the same year, the French Minister of Defense visited Japan to hold the Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting, and the two ministers signed...
the statement of intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges. Furthermore, during the second Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo in March 2015, the four ministers discussed the threat of terrorism. It was confirmed that the two countries strengthen information exchange and cooperation in Africa and the Middle East to work on the fight against terrorism in cooperation with the international community and that they would also strengthen cooperation in the fields of defense equipment and technology cooperation, maritime security, and other fields. Moreover, the four ministers signed the agreement regarding the transfer of defense equipment and technology between the Government of Japan and the Government of France. Based on these agreements, the two countries

**VOICE**

**Japan-U.K. Exchanges in Progress**

**– Accepting the Royal Air Force (RAF) Transport Aircraft**

**ASDF Miho Air Base (Sakaiminato City, Tottori Prefecture)**

Captain (ASDF) Kosaku Hiraki, 403rd Squadron, 3rd Tactical Airlift Group

In October 2015, the RAF’s A400M transport aircraft visited the ASDF Miho Air Base as the first foreign military aircraft.

The A400M transport aircraft is the RAF’s state-of-the-art transport aircraft, which has a maximum payload capacity of 37 tons and 116 transporting personnel, and is almost the same size as the ASDF’s C-2 transport aircraft. The RAF crew members who arrived at the Miho Air Base carried out various activities including a courtesy call on the commander of the Miho Air Base, opinion exchanges with the members of the 403rd Squadron, and a tour to view each other’s aircraft.

In the opinion exchange, there were many parts that I could sympathize with as we were all members of the transport unit in the air force such as attitudes and ways of thinking for carrying out missions. We also received warm gratitude from the British crew members. The United Kingdom is a country very far away from Japan, but I feel that it is quite close due to this experience.

From now on, the importance of unit exchanges at the field level, like the one I experienced, will increase and help to further construct the trust relationship. As a C-2 transport aircraft will be deployed at the Miho Air Base in the FY2016, I am looking forward to the opportunity that the ASDF’s C-2 transport aircraft will visit the United Kingdom in the near future.

![Royal Air Force members, author’s colleagues, and the author (third from left in the front row)](image)

**ASDF Miho Air Base (Sakaiminato City, Tottori Prefecture)**

**Voice**

**Japan-U.K. Exchanges in Progress**

**– MSDF Patrol Aircraft P-1’s first visit to the United Kingdom**

**MSDF Atsugi Air Base (Ayase City, Kanagawa Prefecture)**

Commander (MSDF) Shinichi Chiba, Air Development Squadron 51

I work as a P-1 pilot for the MSDF Air Development Squadron 51, which is in charge of aircraft testing, research and studies, and training guidance, etc. In July 2015, I had an opportunity to participate in the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), an international airshow in the United Kingdom, together with other personnel including crews and maintenance personnel, in a group of 40.

Partly due to the fact that it was the first visit of the MSDF fixed wing patrol aircraft to the United Kingdom, I had an actual feeling that our ground exhibition attracted a high degree of attention from the personnel of other countries to the P-1 aircraft. Although we had only limited time, I believe that at the flight exhibition we were successful in demonstrating part of P-1’s capabilities including quietness and mobility to other countries.

During the visit to the United Kingdom, we shared our perceptions concerning the importance of the role that fixed wing patrol aircraft play through opinion exchanges with the Royal Navy personnel. We were also able to have deeper recognition on some conditions related to Japan and the United Kingdom such as the fact that the two countries share common values as maritime nations, and that the maritime security could not be achieved without cooperation with other countries.

![Official of the Miho Air Base sending off the Royal Air Force crew members who are departing from the Air Base following the exchange](image)
have been promoting defense equipment and technology cooperation including the establishment of Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation Committee.

In June 2016, the Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting was held at the timing of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue. Minister of Defense Nakatani expressed that he welcomes the presence of France to be strengthened in the Asia-Pacific region, for France is the only European country maintaining a constant and continuous presence in the region. In response, Minister of Defense Le Drian expressed his intention to continue maintaining their presence in the region. Also, the two ministers agreed to promote defense cooperation and exchange between the two countries in the various fields including joint exercises, port calls, defense equipment and technology cooperation.

The SDF has been participating in the Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR) training hosted by French Forces in New Caledonia (Exercise Équateur/Croix du Sud) since 2014.

(3) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

At the timing of Prime Minister Abe’s visit to Europe in April 2014, he had a meeting with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General Rasmussen at the NATO Headquarters and signed the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP). Prime Minister Abe made an address before the North Atlantic Council,16 drawing appreciation and support from European countries for Japan’s security policy, which is based on the concept of proactive contribution to peace. He also exchanged views with the permanent representatives of NATO’s 28 member countries, developing a common recognition of the security environment between Japan and Europe. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe agreed on continued and expanded cooperation with NATO and the EU relating to counterpiracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, as well as cooperation in the field of defense equipment and technology with the United Kingdom and France. Following this, the MSDF has been conducting joint exercises with participating units of NATO’s Operation Ocean Shield and the EU’s Operation Atlanta since September 2014.

In addition, based on the agreement between Prime Minister Abe and NATO Secretary General Rasmussen reached in May, female GSDF personnel were dispatched to NATO Headquarters for the first time in December 2014 as part of Japan-NATO cooperation in the field of women, peace and security. At the same time, in June 2015, three female SDF personnel from the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF participated in the annual meeting of the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP).

Japan concluded the information security agreement with NATO in June 2010.

(4) Other European Countries

With regard to Japan’s relationship with Germany, at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore in May 2015, the Japan-Germany Defense Ministerial Meeting with Minister of Defense von der Leyen was held for the first time in six years, and opinions were exchanged mainly on Japan-Germany bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, the Japanese Peace and Security Legislation, and the situation in Ukraine.

With Italy, Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Wakamiya and Minister of Defense Pinotti had a talk during the 52nd Munich Security Conference in February 2016, and they shared views for further promoting defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries including the strengthening of defense equipment and technology cooperation and the activation of high-level exchanges. Also, the Japan-Italy Information Security Agreement was signed in March 2016. In June 2016, the Japan-Italy Defense Ministerial Meeting was held at the timing of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue. Welcoming the year of milestone to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Italy, the two ministers agreed to advance the Japan-Italy defense cooperation and exchanges including a port-call by the MSDF Overseas Training Cruise Unit to Italy, and defense equipment and technology cooperation.

With the Czech Republic, in December 2015, Minister of Defense Stropnicky visited Japan and had the first Japan-Czech Republic Defense Ministerial Meeting. Two defense ministers agreed to find opportunities to continue exchanging views and share the interest of both parties. Meanwhile, with the Netherlands, General Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Netherlands visited Japan in October 2015 to have a talk with the Chief of Joint Staff, and they agreed to cooperate with respect to peacekeeping operations and anti-piracy operations.

Japan has conducted Military-Military Talks (MM) at the director-general level with Scandinavian countries. Most recently, in October 2015, talks were conducted with Sweden, Norway, and Finland, and a wide range of discussions such as on the regional situations and future defense exchanges were carried out.

See>> Part III, Chapter 3, Section 3-3 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

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16 The NAC is the decision-making body comprised of the representatives of NATO’s 28 member countries. (Chairperson: NATO Secretary General)
With regard to Japan’s relationship with Canada, high-level exchanges, talks between defense authorities, and other exchanges have been conducted. In August 2011, the first Japan-Canada Vice-Ministerial “2+2” was held and both sides agreed to commence the negotiation to conclude an ACSA. In June 2016, the Japan-Canada Defense Ministerial Talks was held at the timing of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue. The two ministers confirmed that both Japan and Canada are Pacific nations and partners sharing fundamental values. The ministers welcomed the fact that the defense exchanges between the two countries including regular consultations and mutual visits of vessels have steadily been carried out, and agreed to continue advancing the bilateral exchanges further under the new Canadian administration.

In March 2015, the first Defense Ministerial Meeting with Minister of Defense Pinzón of the Republic of Colombia was held during his visit to Japan. The two ministers agreed to move forward with coordination aimed at signing a memorandum on defense cooperation exchange, and also to continue opinion exchanges concerning areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and cyber issues.

With Brazil, the Chief of Staff of Joint Staff Office, GSDF, made his first visit to the country in February 2016 and agreed to gain momentum over the exchange between the GSDF and the Brazilian Army.

With Georgia, Minister of Defense Khidasheli visited Japan in November 2015 to hold the first Japan-Georgia Defense Ministerial Meeting in which a Memorandum regarding Japan-Georgia defense exchange was signed by the two ministers.

The Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Kazakhstan for the first time in July 2012, and both Japanese and Kazakhstan sides concurred regarding the necessity of developing exchange between the two countries in the field of defense.

Regarding Japan’s relationship with Middle Eastern countries, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense conducted talks with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Defence Ümit Dündar in July 2012, where he signed a Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and Turkey. In March 2013, Minister of National Defence Yilmaz visited Japan and held a defense ministerial meeting. At this meeting, the two ministers agreed to hold discussions between the defense authorities of the two countries (at the director general level) at the earliest possible date, and to push forward with various forms of defense exchange. Japan-Saudi Arabia Summit Meetings were held in April 2013 and February 2014. During the meetings, the two leaders reconfirmed their intention to promote dialogue and exchange in the security field, and continue engaging in consultation and cooperation at various levels including the commencement of a dialogue between the National Security Councils (NSC) of the two countries in order to enhance the comprehensive partnership between the two countries. Prime Minister Abe visited the United Arab Emirates, with Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar in succession in May and August 2013, and shared a recognition of the necessity of promoting cooperation in the security and defense field. In December 2012 and February 2015, Japan-Bahrain and Japan-Qatar memorandum of defence cooperation and exchange, respectively, were signed. With Oman, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with His Majesty Qaboos bin Said, the Sultan of Oman, in January 2014, and both leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of maritime security, including counter-piracy measures for ensuring the security and safety of maritime routes, as well as promoting defense exchanges. Meanwhile, MSDF vessels and Sri Lanka Navy vessels carried out goodwill training based on the comprehensive partnership agreed at the Summit Meeting in October 2015.

See Reference 63 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries (Past Three Years))