

U.S.-ROK-Japan Defense Ministers Meeting Joint Statement

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Republic of Korea Minister of National Defense Kim Kwan-jin, and Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera, held trilateral defense ministerial talks in Singapore May 31 on the margins of the Shangri-La Dialogue to discuss North Korea and the regional security situation. The U.S., ROK, and Japan have held the trilateral defense Minister Meeting on the occasion of the Shangri-La Dialogue and this year's meeting was the fifth one of its kind.

The three ministers emphasized their fundamental position that they do not accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state and agreed to closely coordinate to deter North Korean provocations. The three countries also reaffirmed the necessity for a coordinated response and close cooperation with the international community with respect to the threat to international security posed by the North Korea's nuclear, ballistic missile, and proliferation programs.

The three ministers agreed to further trilateral security cooperation, based on common values and shared security interests, and their nations' cooperative efforts to contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the globe. The three ministers reaffirmed the importance of information sharing on North Korean nuclear and missile threats and shared an understanding that this issue needs to be reviewed further.