

Japan-Philippines Defense Ministers' Meeting (Summary)

June 2nd, 2018
Ministry of Defense

On June 2nd, 2018, Defense Minister Onodera, who was visiting Singapore to attend the IISS Asia Security Conference (Shangri-La Dialogue), had a defense ministerial meeting with Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines Delfin Lorenzana. The summary of the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening

In the opening, Minister Onodera expressed his respect to the role the Philippines played last year as the chairman of ASEAN. Then, Minister Onodera also stated that he would like to advance the defense cooperation with the Philippines in various areas.

In addition, Minister Onodera stated that Japan has transferred the remaining three TC-90s to the Philippines lately, and that, today, with the request from the Philippines, it was decided to grant parts of UH-1H utility helicopter which are no longer used in the GSDF to the Philippines. In response, Secretary Lorenzana expressed his gratitude for the cooperation.

2. North Korea Issues

Minister Onodera stated that it is important to take advantage of the U.S.-North Korea Summit scheduled for 12th June to substantially promote issues such as nuclear, missiles, and abduction, and that, though North Korea is changing its policy as a result of pressure from the international society, the sanction needs to be remained in place until North Korea takes a concrete step. In response, Secretary Lorenzana mentioned that he wanted North Korea to give up nuclear weapons.

The two Ministers shared the view that they would promote the defense cooperation in various areas, such as joint exercise and defense equipment and technology cooperation.

On the South China Sea, Secretary Lorenzana mentioned that he thanked for Japan's support to the Philippines position regarding the South China Sea.