

Japan-U.K. 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 Defence of the United Kingdom Gavin Williamson. The summary of the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening

Secretary Williamson stated that it was honor for him to meet with Minister Onodera since last year, and that the defense cooperation between the two countries is steadily moving forward in a wide range of areas. In response, Minister Onodera thanked for the arrangement for the “2+2” meeting last year and his boarding on the HMS Queen Elizabeth. He also mentioned that their bilateral cooperation is advancing in a steadfast manner.

2. Japan-U.K. Defense Cooperation

The two Ministers shared view that they will proceed to develop their defense cooperation, taking into account the “2+2” joint statement last year, in areas such as military component exchanges and joint exercises including the ground component joint training scheduled in Japan this fall.

The Ministers also exchanged their views on defense equipment and technology cooperation, and shared view that they will continuously advance the cooperation including the Joint Study on the Possibility for the Cooperation of Future Fighters.

3. North Korea Issues

On North Korea, Minister Onodera stated that the joint ISR activity conducted by Royal Navy and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force to deal with illegal ship-to-ship transfers of goods by North Korea was meaningful cooperation in ensuring the effectiveness of the UN Security Resolutions, and that, as a result of that, North Korea is gradually changing its policy. Minister Onodera also 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 he also stated that the sanction needs to be remained in place until North Korea takes a concrete step. In response, Secretary Williamson mentioned that the U.K. supports Japan's position on this matter.

4. Regional Situations

The Ministers also exchanged their views on regional security situations including that in the South China Sea.