

**Defense Minister Kono's Meeting with the
Commander in Chief of Bahrain Defense Force (Summary)**

November 23rd, 2019
Japan Ministry of Defense

On November 24th, 2019, commencing at 10:25 am (local time) for approx. 30 minutes, Defense Minister Kono, who was visiting Bahrain to attend the 15th Manama Dialogue, held a meeting with the Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa. The summary of the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening

At the beginning of the meeting, Minister Kono stated his appreciation for being able to visit Bahrain three years in a row to attend the Manama Dialogue.

In response, Commander Khalifa stated that he would like to continue making efforts toward developing Japan-Bahrain defense exchanges.

2. Japan-Bahrain Defense Security Cooperation

Minister Kono referred to the JSDF participation in the CTF-151 for counter-piracy operations since 2013, and Commander Khalifa stated that he welcomes Japan's initiatives toward the peace and stability in the Middle East. Both Ministers confirmed to continue exchanges such as high-level exchanges and exchanges between the naval components.

3. Regional Issues

Both Ministers exchanged views on situations in the Middle East.

(End)