

Defense Minister's Participation in the 16th IISS Asia Security Summit and the Bilateral and Trilateral Defense Ministerial Meetings

From June 3rd to 4th, Minister of Defense Tomomi Inada attended the 16th IISS Asia Security Summit. During the summit, she delivered a speech and held meetings with the defense ministers of countries represented at the Summit. Brief summary of the summit and the meetings are as below.

1. Speech at the IISS Asia Security Summit (June 3rd AM)

Minister Inada gave a speech on "Upholding the Rules-Based Regional Order," which was the theme for the second plenary session. In her speech, Minister Inada pointed out that the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region is challenged from many corners. In specific terms, she referred to North Korea, which has engaged in multiple nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches while improving the ability to operate the missiles in defiance of warnings from the international community and against the series of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Emphasizing that North Korea's threats have entered a new stage, she stated that North Korea must abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, cease its provocative actions and abide by its international obligations and commitments. She also mentioned that there have been unprovoked, unilateral attempts to alter the status quo based on assertions incompatible with existing international norms in the East and South China Seas and especially expressed her deep concern with the situation in the South China Sea that the construction of outposts and their use for military purposes continue even after the final award was rendered in the arbitration between the Philippines and China in July 2016. As measures to protect the rules-based order, she referred to and explained about Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security, the continuous U.S. presence, and the strengthening of Japan-U.S. alliance etc. She called for the solidarity to protect the rules-based regional order with emphasis that international rules and the order they underpin are not self-sustaining. With regard to the realization of stronger solidarity, she also emphasized the importance of three "C"s, which consist of confidence building, capacity building, and combined effort. She stated Japan will promote the three "C"s even more proactively, specifically raising enhancement of the networks among personnel for confidence building, capacity building cooperation with ASEAN partners in accordance with the Vientiane Vision, and joint training with the U.S., Australia, India and European countries, etc.

2. Meetings with Other Defense Ministers

Defense Minister Inada held bilateral meetings with Ministers of the U.S., Republic of Korea, Singapore, France, Malaysia, and New Zealand as well as trilateral meetings with the U.S. and Australia, and the U.S. and Republic of Korea. At the meetings, Minister Inada explained Japan's security policy, and the Ministers exchanged their views on regional security situation and defense cooperation among others.

(1) Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting (with U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Australian Minister of Defence Marise Payne) (June 3rd AM)

See attachment 1 for its summary.



(2) Meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis (June 3rd PM)

See attachment 2 for its summary.



(3) Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea Defense Ministerial Meeting (with U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis and ROK Minister of National Defense Han Minkoo) (June 3rd PM)

See attachment 3 for its summary.



(4) Meeting with ROK Minister of National Defense Han Minkoo (June 3rd PM)

See attachment 4 for its sumamry.



(5) Meeting with Singapore Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen (June 3rd PM)

Minister Inada paid her respect to Singapore's efforts to host the Shangri-La Dialogue and also expressed her gratitude for allowing the JSDF vessels and aircraft to use Singapore's port and airfield. The two Ministers also exchanged their views on the security environment in the region including the situation on North Korea. Minister Inada stated that Japan would like to work together with Singapore to uphold the rules-based order, and Minister Ng concurred on the importance of the rule of law. The Ministers also affirmed that the two countries would continue to strengthen its relationship through practical defense cooperation and exchanges in various areas such as personnel exchanges, port calls of the JMSDF ships, and coordination in the framework of the ADMM-Plus.



(6) Meeting with French Minister of Armed Forces Sylvie Goulard (June 3rd PM)

Defense Minister Inada conveyed a congratulatory message to Minister Goulard on her new position and welcomed the visible presence of France in this region. Minister of Armed Forces Goulard responded that France, as a Pacific nation, would continue its security engagement in the region. The ministers welcomed the quadrilateral joint exercise conducted by Japan, France, the U.K. and the U.S. in the vicinity of the Sea of Japan and Guam on the occasion of the French Navy Task Force's visit to Japan in April. The ministers welcomed the deployment of JMSDF P-1 patrol aircraft to the International Paris Air Show to be held in mid-June. Both ministers shared the view to further strengthen defense cooperation and exchanges including joint exercises and defense equipment/technology cooperation. They also affirmed that they would continue working closely to maintain the international order based on the rule of law amid the increasingly severe security environment of the Asia-Pacific region including the situation on North Korea.



(7) Meeting with the Malaysian Minister of Defence Hishammuddin Tun Hussein (June 4th AM)

Minister Inada welcomed the progress of defense cooperation and exchanges in various areas such as unit-to-unit exchanges, capacity building cooperation and personnel exchanges. Minister Hishammuddin responded that Malaysia attaches high importance to the defense cooperation with Japan including early conclusion of the agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology. The Ministers shared their understanding on ISIL, and the situation on North Korea and the South China Sea, and agreed on further close cooperation. Furthermore, Minister Hishammuddin extended an invitation for Minister Inada to visit Malaysia. Minister Inada responded by expressing her appreciation and stated she would give positive consideration to the proposal.



(8) Meeting with New Zealand Minister of Defence Mark Mitchell (June 4th AM)

It was the first ministerial meeting between Minister Inada and Minister Mitchell. The Ministers commended the active personnel exchanges between the two countries that have been taking place at various levels including the Vice-Minister-level visit. The Ministers exchanged their views on unit-to-unit exchanges through ship and aircraft visits, welcomed the development of the exchanges etc. for the past year such as JSDF's participation in the naval fleet review and multilateral training hosted by New Zealand, and a visit of Royal New Zealand Air Force's aircraft to Japan, and agreed to further promote defense cooperation of this kind. The Ministers also agreed to continuously enhance the bilateral relations as Strategic Cooperative Partners.



**Joint Statement
Australia-Japan-US Defence Ministers' Meeting**

1. Australian Minister for Defence Marise Payne, Japanese Minister of Defense Tomomi Inada, and U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis held trilateral defence ministerial talks in Singapore on Saturday June 3, 2017, on the margins of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue. This was the sixth meeting of its kind among the three nations' top defence officials.
2. Minister Payne and Minister Inada congratulated Secretary Mattis on assuming the office of Secretary of Defense under the new Trump Administration. They reaffirmed that their respective Alliances with the United States are strong and essential to peace and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. They underscored their enduring support for United States engagement in the region, which continues to underpin peace, freedom, and prosperity. The three Ministers affirmed their shared intent to promote trilateral and multilateral security and defence cooperation with each other, regional allies, and partners.
3. Secretary Mattis and Minister Payne reiterated their support for Japan playing a greater role in regional and global security. In the Indo-Asia-Pacific, the U.S.-Japan Alliance and the U.S.-Australia Alliance make essential contributions to continuing security and strategic stability. Moreover, Secretary Mattis welcomed the further deepening of bilateral defence cooperation between Australia and Japan.
4. The Ministers exchanged views on the increasing challenges to regional security. They reaffirmed the importance of further increasing cooperation among countries with shared interests in the peace and stability of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, including India, the Republic of Korea, and other key regional partners.
5. The Ministers reiterated their condemnation in the strongest terms of North Korea's nuclear, ballistic missile, and other weapons of mass destruction programs and called on it to take concrete action toward denuclearization. They strongly urged North Korea to cease its destabilising and provocative actions immediately, and to comply fully with its international obligations and commitments, including those under relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Ministers reconfirmed their intention to continue to work with the Republic of Korea and other partners, including China, to realise robust measures against North Korea to deter its reckless and provocative actions and so that North Korea instead engages responsibly with its neighbours and the international community.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of constructive and mutually beneficial relationships with China through dialogue, cooperation, and engagement. They also underscored their shared respect for international law as well as their shared commitment to upholding freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, including in the South China Sea. They expressed strong opposition to the use of coercion to unilaterally alter the status quo in the South China Sea, and their opposition to the use of disputed features for military purposes. The Ministers urged all South China Sea claimants to exercise self-restraint, take steps to ease tensions, halt land reclamation activities, demilitarise disputed features, and refrain from provocative actions that could escalate tensions. They highlighted the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy and applicable dispute

settlement mechanisms, noting in particular the Arbitral Tribunal's Award of July 2016. They called on the governments to clarify territorial claims and accompanying maritime claims in accordance with international law, particularly, for maritime claims, as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. In this regard, they noted the Award of July 2016 could be a useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea. They also noted the announcement that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Chinese officials had finalised a draft framework for a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea. The Ministers continued to encourage dialogues based on international law towards early finalization of an effective and legally binding COC, and call for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in its entirety.

7. The Ministers reiterated their strong opposition to the use of any unilateral or coercive actions that seek to alter the status quo or increase tensions in the East China Sea. They also expressed their intention to remain in close contact on the security situation in that area.

8. With regard to the continued enhancement of the strategic trilateral relationship among Australia, Japan and the United States, the Ministers welcomed the effective implementation of the Trilateral Information Sharing Arrangement signed on October 2016, which enhances information sharing on defence exercises and operations among the three nations in support of peace and stability.

9. On practical defence cooperation, the Ministers welcomed the trilateral ground Exercise SOUTHERN JACKAROO in May 2017, air Exercise COPE NORTH GUAM in February 2017, and the ongoing participation of Japan Self-Defense Forces elements in the United States-Australia joint exercise TALISMAN SABRE, the next iteration of which is scheduled for July 2017.

10. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to continue close coordination and cooperation in the fields of regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and maritime security, including with other regional countries. They welcomed the successful trilateral engineering Exercise HARI'I HAMUTUK, which was last held in Timor-Leste in November 2016, and the successful trilateral engagement in Exercise BALIKATAN, which was last held in the Philippines in May 2017.

11. Reaffirming the importance of ASEAN-led regional security architecture to security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific, the Ministers welcomed continued progress in fostering practical defence cooperation within the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework and looked forward to the fourth ADMM-Plus in October 2017.

12. The Ministers reaffirmed their strategic goals and commitment to trilateral defence cooperation to further peace and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific, and directed their respective officials to continue to identify and pursue new opportunities for practical engagement, cooperation and increased interoperability, including in training, deeper and more sophisticated exercises, operations and capacity building.

13. Noting the benefits that improved bilateral defence cooperation would have for the trilateral relationship, the Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the new Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between the United States and Japan, and the progress in internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the new ACSA between Australia and Japan, both of which reflect the enactment of Japan's peace and security legislation. Secretary Mattis also welcomed progress on negotiations toward an agreement between Australia and Japan to improve administrative, policy, and legal procedures reciprocally to facilitate joint operations and exercises.

Readout of the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting (Provisional translation)

3 June, 2017
Ministry of Defense

The following is a summary of the meeting between Defense Minister Inada and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mattis held from 1235 for about 30 minutes on 3 June, 2017 on the occasion of Shangri-La Dialogue.

1. Regional Situations

The Ministers exchanged views on the advance in North Korea's nuclear and missile development and improvement of operational capability. They shared recognition that successive ballistic missile launches are flagrant provocation against Japan and the U.S. as well as the regional peace and stability, and these are unacceptable in any way. Minister Inada appreciated a visible commitment of the U.S. to the regional peace and stability including the dispatch of Carrier Strike Groups, and noted the importance of increasing pressure on North Korea. The Ministers agreed on the significance of continuing close collaboration with Japan-U.S.-ROK, in addition to Japan-U.S. coordination.

The Ministers exchanged views on situations in the East and South China Seas and reaffirmed that the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. The Ministers reconfirmed that they would deepen the bilateral cooperation to secure the peace and stability of the East China Sea and to enhance engagement in the South China Sea.

2. Enhancement of the Deterrence and Response Capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance

The Ministers agreed on the need to further enhance the deterrence and response

capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance in light of the security environment, which is increasingly severe. Also, the Ministers welcomed the joint exercise the SDF and the Carrier Strike Group are conducting in the Japan Sea as an effort to contribute to such enhancement. The Ministers agreed to proceed with coordination to convene an SCC meeting at an early point.

3. Okinawa/Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan

The Ministers agreed to steadily proceed with the realignment plan of the U.S. forces in Japan. Secretary Mattis expressed the U.S.'s commitment to continue close cooperation with Japan. To achieve the relocation and return of MCAS Futenma as soon as possible, the Ministers shared a view that the Futenma Replacement Facility at Henoko is the only solution and agreed to continue close cooperation. Also, Minister Inada requested for cooperation from the U.S. to mitigate impact on Okinawa. The Ministers agreed to cooperate to ensure stable stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan.

**Japan – United States – Republic of Korea Defense Ministers Meeting
Joint Press Statement**

Japan Defense Minister Tomomi Inada, U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis, and Republic of Korea Minister of National Defense Han Min-koo convened the 8th annual trilateral defense ministerial meeting in Singapore on June 3 on the margins of the 2017 Shangri-La Dialogue. During the meeting, they held substantive discussions on North Korea, the regional security situation, and advancing defense cooperation.

The three ministers strongly condemned North Korea's recent provocative actions and concurred that North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs represent an immediate threat to regional and global security. The three officials resolved to strengthen international coordination to implement and enforce relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The officials called on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, to cease additional provocative actions that only increase tensions in the region, and to abide by its international obligations and commitments.

The three ministers lauded the progress in trilateral defense cooperation and praised collective efforts to enhance interoperability and exercise a variety of communication channels to share information and coordinate responses to North Korea's provocative actions. The three officials applauded recent efforts to improve trilateral response capabilities, to include the execution of four missile warning exercises, an inaugural anti-submarine warfare exercise, a maritime interdiction operations exercise, and combined flight training events with U.S. bomber aircraft.

The three ministers also discussed other regional security issues, including the importance of maritime security. The three ministers reaffirmed that freedom of navigation and overflight must be ensured, and that disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner.

The three ministers recognized that Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea face common security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. They reaffirmed that the three nations are committed to sustaining defense cooperation and to maintaining a rules-based order. Accordingly, the three leaders pledged to take necessary steps to strengthen their ability to cooperate more closely in the face of North Korean threats, such as enhancing information sharing, executing a robust trilateral exercise program, developing interoperability, and enabling practical military-to-military coordination for effective response coordination.

The three ministers decided to continue holding consultations on trilateral security issues, and affirmed their continued strong commitment to promoting defense and security cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea in order to contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

Summary of Japan-Republic of Korea Bilateral Defense Ministers' Meeting

Minister Inada met with Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Korea Han Min-koo on June 3rd, 2017, on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore. The summary is as follows:

1. The two Ministers exchanged views on the situation on North Korea. Minister Inada underlined that nuclear development and ballistic missile launches by North Korea are serious provocations against the security of Japan and the region, and bolstering Japan-ROK bilateral responses and trilateral responses with the U.S. is necessary given that the threat has entered a new stage. Minister Han reiterated the importance of Japan-ROK and Japan-U.S.-ROK cooperation to effectively respond to North Korea's increasingly sophisticated and materialized nuclear and missile threats, and expressed that he continuously seeks close consultations.

2. The Ministers commended the close communication between the two countries as exemplified by the ministerial teleconference and Japan-US-ROK television conferences at Director General-level and Director-level in the wake of North Korea's nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, and agreed to coordinate and cooperate even more closely by swift exchange of information and Japan-U.S.-ROK joint exercises etc. They also welcomed the progress in working-level discussions on strengthening of emergency communication system between Japan Ministry of Defense and Ministry of National Defense of ROK, which the two Ministers agreed upon at the last year's Japan-ROK ministerial meeting.

3. In addition, the two Ministers exchanged their views on Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchanges, and agreed to promote cooperation including dialogues between the defense authorities, unit-to-unit exchanges, cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as anti-piracy activities and Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief activities, mutual participation of observers in exercises, and mutual visits of ships and aircraft.