

## **Defense Minister's Participation in the 17th IISS Asia Security Summit and the Bilateral and Trilateral Defense Ministerial Meetings**

From June 2nd to 3rd, Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera attended the 17th IISS Asia Security Summit. During the summit, he delivered a speech, held meetings with the defense ministers of countries represented at the summit and paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore. Brief summary of the speech, the meetings and the call are as below.

### **1. Speech at the IISS Asia Security Summit delivered by Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera (June 2nd AM)**

Minister Onodera gave a speech on “De-escalating the North Korean Crisis,” which was the theme for the second plenary session. In his speech, Minister Onodera introduced Japan’s efforts to resolve the issue of North Korea and expressed Japan’s determination in working towards long-term stability and the development of the Indo-Pacific region.

Firstly, he stated that we have started to observe changes in North Korea’s rhetoric and behavior to the positive sign such as the announcement of the “Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korea Peninsula” as a result of internationally concerted pressure including the implementation of UNSC resolutions, having said that the North Korea’s nuclear and missile development poses a grave threat to the whole international community.

In addition, he stated that he strongly hopes that the summit will become an opportunity for concrete, substantial progress towards a complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction including biological and chemical weapons and ballistic missiles of all flight ranges, as well as a breakthrough in the Japanese abduction issue, if the U.S.-North Korea Summit would be held on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

On the other hand, despite their agreement to fulfill denuclearization in the “Agreed Framework between the United States of America and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” in 1994 and the joint statement of the 2005 Six-Party Talks, Pyongyang continued their nuclear and missile developments. He pointed out that, in light of these behaviors, it is important not to reward North Korea solely for agreeing to have a dialogue, and that defense authorities have two major roles which are to maintain pressure on North Korea including the efforts to prevent

North Korea's illegal ship-to-ship transfer of oil and other goods to evade the sanctions originating from UN Security Council resolutions, and maintain and strengthen deterrence responding to any situations that may arise. Furthermore, he expressed that the international community should conduct inspection of disposal process, verification following disposal and the WMD proliferation prevention, even after North Korea starts taking concrete measures. He voiced that Japan is ready to give full support to it.

Also, he underlined the necessity of a concerted approach across the region in addressing various security challenges, including those of natural disasters, maritime security and terrorism, along with making a concerted effort to address the issue of North Korea. He stated that to address the security challenges of today under a long-term approach, the cooperative relationships enjoyed by defense authorities today should be passed down to young officers who work hard at the forefront of national defense, and pronounced that the Japan Ministry of Defense and the Japan Self Defense Forces will continue to give efforts to form Kizuna (comradeship) among regional countries.

## **2. Meetings with Other Defense Ministers and the courtesy call**

During the summit, he held meetings with ministers of countries represented at the summit and paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore. Brief summaries and joint press releases of the meetings and the call are as bellow:

- (1) Japan-U.K. Defense Ministerial Meeting (with Secretary of Defence Gavin Williamson) (June 2nd AM)  
See attachment 1 for its summary.
- (2) Japan-Phillippines Defense Ministerial Meeting (with Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana) (June 2nd PM)  
See attachment 2 for its summary.
- (3) Japan-Germany Defense Ministerial Meeting (with Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen) (June 2nd PM)  
See attachment 3 for its summary.

- (4) Australia-Japan-United States Defense Ministers Meeting (with Minister for Defence Marise Payne and Secretary James Mattis) (June 2nd PM)  
See attachment 4 for its joint press statement.
- (5) Japan-Vietnam Defense Ministerial Meeting (with Minister of National Defense Ngo Xuan Lich) (June 2nd PM)  
See attachment 5 for its summary.
- (6) Japan-United States-Republic of Korea Defense Ministers Meeting (with Minister of National Defense Song Young-moo and Secretary James Mattis) (June 3rd AM)  
See attachment 6 for its joint press statement.
- (7) Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Ministerial Meeting (with Minister of National Defense Song Young-moo) (June 3rd AM)  
See attachment 7 for its summary.
- (8) Courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Teo Chee Hean (June 3rd AM)  
See attachment 8 for its summary.
- (9) Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting (with Minister for the Armed Forces Florence Parly) (June 3rd PM)  
See attachment 9 for its summary.