## Japan-Australia Vice Ministers' Meeting

On June 2, 2023, Vice Minister of Defense for International Affairs Oka, visiting Singapore to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> IISS Asia Pacific Security Conference (Shangri-La Dialogue), held a meeting with Secretary of the Department of Defence of Australia, Greg Moriarty. The summary of the meeting is as follows.

1 Vice Minister Oka and Secretary of the Department of Defence Moriarty welcomed expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation in line with the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation announced in October 2022. The two sides also expressed their expectations for the early entry into force of the Japan-Australia Reciprocal Access Agreement.

2 Furthermore, the two sides concurred that Japan shares strategic perspective with Australia, the "Special Strategic Partner" of Japan, and affirmed that they will continue communicating more closely between the defense authorities to further develop Japan-Australia defense cooperation towards peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific.