

(Press Release)

March 29, 2021
Japan Ministry of Defense

Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministers' Meeting

On March 28, 2021, Minister KISHI held a meeting with Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Lt. Gen. (ret.) Prabowo Subianto.

1 At the outset of the meeting, Minister Kishi underscored his appreciation for the opportunity to hold a face-to-face meeting with Minister Prabowo for the first time. Minister Prabowo expressed his appreciation for the invitation for his visit to Japan.

2 The two ministers exchanged views on current regional security issues. Minister Kishi underscored the requirement to uphold and reinforce the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" based on the rule of law and noted serious concerns about China's Coast Guard Law, which entered into force on February 1st. The two ministers confirmed the importance of freedom of overflight and navigation, reaffirmed the need for observing international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Minister Prabowo expressed his views of using diplomacy and dialogue in resolving disputes between countries, and uphold of the rule of law in dealing any disputes. Ministers Kishi and Prabowo also discussed the situation in Myanmar and noted their deep concerns over the current situation. The two ministers affirmed their intent to cooperate closely on this matter.

3 Ministers Kishi and Probowo also agreed to promote further defense cooperation and exchanges, including the following activities:

- a. Realizing a visit by the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces to Japan;
- b. Holding a Military-to-Military (MM) Dialogue at an early date this year;
- c. Continuing consultations on defense equipment and technology cooperation in order to develop specific cooperative projects;
- d. Conducting port calls in Indonesia by Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) vessels and aircraft;

- e. Conducting bilateral exercises in Indonesia;
- f. Providing for JSDF cooperation and participation in multilateral exercise “Komodo”
- g. Further promoting cooperation in the field of HA/DR, including countermeasures to COVID-19.

Furthermore, they affirmed the importance of continuing and strengthening bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges in order to contribute to “ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific” issued by ASEAN in June 2019 and Japan’s “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”, which share substantial elements with each other. They also concurred that they will accelerate consultations at the working level, including MM Dialogue.

4 The two ministers also concurred on the need to proactively promote defense cooperation, while maintaining close communication between respective defense authorities, even in view of the impact of COVID-19.