

(Press Release, provisional translation)

8 April, 2026

Ministry of Defense

Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting (Summary)

On April 8 2026, commencing at 4:20 p.m for approximately 40 minutes, Minister of Defense Koizumi held a defense ministerial meeting under the Framework for Strategic Defence Coordination (FSDC) with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence of Australia the Hon Richard Marles MP.

1. The Ministers exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East as well as regional circumstances, including those in the Indo-Pacific region, such as North Korea's ballistic missile launch which happened today. The Ministers shared their views to continue to maintain close communication.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the status of their respective reviews of national defense strategy and concurred on continuing close cooperation in order to maintain strategic alignment.
3. The Ministers agreed on continuing close cooperation between the two countries toward the steady progress of Australia's next general-purpose frigate program, for which the upgraded Mogami-class frigate was selected.
4. In this year marking the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Japan and Australia, the Ministers concurred on continuing discussions aimed at further elevating the "Special Strategic Partnership" between the two countries, including through the FSDC.

*FSDC: A Framework which was established at the Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting in December 2025. FSDC is led by Defence Ministers and will enable greater consultation on a range of matters relating to defence policy, intelligence, bilateral and multilateral activities, industry and technology, and capabilities, including space, cyber and integrated air and missile defence.