



Inauguration of Defense Minister Koizumi

Defense Minister Koizumi received the guard of honor and gave instructions to all staff on October 22, 2025. After the ceremony, he took over the office from former Minister Nakatani.



Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting



DM Koizumi Participates in the 12th ADMM-Plus



Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

On October 29, Defense Minister Koizumi and U.S. Secretary of War Hegseth held discussions at the Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD).

DM Koizumi offered his greetings as the new Defense Minister and expressed his firm resolve to fulfilling his duties with utmost dedication in order to build the strong and capable Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF). Secretary Hegseth congratulated DM Koizumi on his appointment and stated his expectations for close collaboration going forward.

The Ministers candidly exchanged and shared the views on increasingly severe security situation in the Indo-Pacific. Based on the concurrence between the two leaders at Japan-U.S. summit meeting on October 28, they confirmed their shared responsibility for concrete implementation of the concurred items and that they will demonstrate strong leadership to further strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance, which is “the greatest alliance in the world”. Especially, DM Koizumi expressed his intention to work with a sense of speed, his commitment to continue working on fundamentally reinforcing Japan’s defense capabilities and increasing Japan’s defense spending as Japan’s own initiative, and explained that Japan has begun discussions toward revising the National Security Strategy and other related documents. Secretary Hegseth expressed his support to these efforts.

The Ministers also concurred to promote various initiatives to further strengthen the Alliance capabilities to deter and respond, with a sense of urgency and speed, in order to respond to challenges posed by the changing security environment.

Secretary Hegseth Visits to Yokosuka Naval Base

On October 28, DM Koizumi and Secretary of War Hegseth along with Prime Minister Takaiichi and President Trump visited the USS George Washington at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. The leaders delivered remarks to U.S. and Japanese service members, emphasizing strength of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U. S. Navy and this event served as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of the robust Alliance in safeguarding peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region.



DM Koizumi Participates in the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus



On November 1, the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (hereinafter referred to as "ADMM-Plus") was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Minister-level participants exchanged views on "Reflection on 15 Years of ADMM-Plus and Charting the Way Forward". The statement by DM Koizumi, who represented Japan at the meeting, is summarized as follows:

The Indo-Pacific security environment is increasingly severe and complex. We are deeply concerned about any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East and South China Seas, North Korea's nuclear and missile development, and its growing military ties with Russia. The peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are important. And the immediate resolution of North Korea's abductions issue remains vital. Russia's aggression against Ukraine undermines the international order, while stability in the Middle East is essential.

Trust in international relations is eroding, particularly in three principles: rules-based order, accountability, and responsibility for international public goods. ASEAN's "centrality" and "unity" are key to restoring confidence. For 15 years, ADMM-Plus has advanced these goals, notably through the Concept Paper on the Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific from a Defense Perspective, supported by Japan via initiatives like the Maritime Cooperation and Connectivity Conference.

Japan will continue to strengthen defense cooperation under frameworks such as Vientiane Vision and JASMINE Initiative, promoting synergy between AOIP (ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific) and FOIP (Free and Open Indo-Pacific). We aim to enhance interconnectivity through joint exercises, capacity building, and defense equipment and technology cooperation, while integrating new perspectives—Women, Peace and Security, climate change, and responses to emerging CBR threats. Guided by these efforts, Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation will further contribute to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

DM Koizumi's Participation in the 9th ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting

On November 1, DM Koizumi attended the 9th ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting in Malaysia. The Ministers exchanged views about deepening defense cooperation between Japan and ASEAN. H.E. Malaysian Minister of Defence, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin opened the meeting by describing Japan as one of the most important countries for ASEAN and expressing his appreciation for the defense cooperation that Japan has proactively provided to ASEAN. DM Koizumi delivered a speech and stated in summary as follows:

The security environment in the Indo-Pacific has never been more severe or complex. Japan and ASEAN form one of the closest and strongest partnerships in the region. The responsibility of our defense authorities to maintain and strengthen peace and stability has never been greater. To address today's challenges, we must consistently reaffirm the three fundamental principles we share: ASEAN's Centrality and unity must always be upheld; we must interconnect each country's voluntary initiatives; and we will further strengthen defense cooperation with ASEAN, guided by these principles. The future Japan-ASEAN defense relations will evolve around three key points; First, cooperation in the field of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR). We must address increasingly severe climate change-driven disasters. We will accelerate equipment provision through mechanisms such as Official Security Assistance (OSA), and further strengthen these efforts. Also, we will deepen the integration of Women,



Peace and Security (WPS) perspectives into our HA/DR efforts. Secondly, maritime cooperation is essential. Japan will invite South East Asian countries to participate in the Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD), and as a co-chair of the Maritime Security EWG with the Philippines, we plan to invite all ADMM-Plus member states to the Joint Cooperation Activity (JCA) at sea. Third, addressing non-traditional challenges. We have deepened our cooperation in various areas including cyber or aerospace. Japan aims to co-host a dedicated opportunity for hands-on, expert-level dialogue in collaboration with the Network of ASEAN CBR Defence Experts. Hand in hand, we are committed to working toward a future Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, stable, and enduringly prosperous. The Ministers of ASEAN member states expressed appreciation and strong support for Japan to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration in the field of defense.

Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

On November 1, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Secretary Hegseth. They had candid discussions, including the recent changes in the regional situation and the strategic environment. The Ministers also discussed the importance of trilateral defense cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea for the regional peace and stability, and the need to further advance collaboration among like-minded countries, centered around the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and pursue tangible initiatives to strengthen deterrence. The Ministers concurred to continue strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance with a sense of speed.



Japan-ROK Defense Ministerial Meeting

On the same day, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Minister Ahn Gyu-back. The two Ministers exchanged views on the regional situation and expressed serious concerns about the progress of North Korea's nuclear and missile development and the advancement of military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. They also confirmed that Japan and the ROK, as well as Japan, the United States and the ROK will continue to cooperate closely. They especially concurred on steadily implementing the items of the Defense Ministerial Meeting back in September such as the vitalization of regular consultations and human exchanges between the two defense authorities.



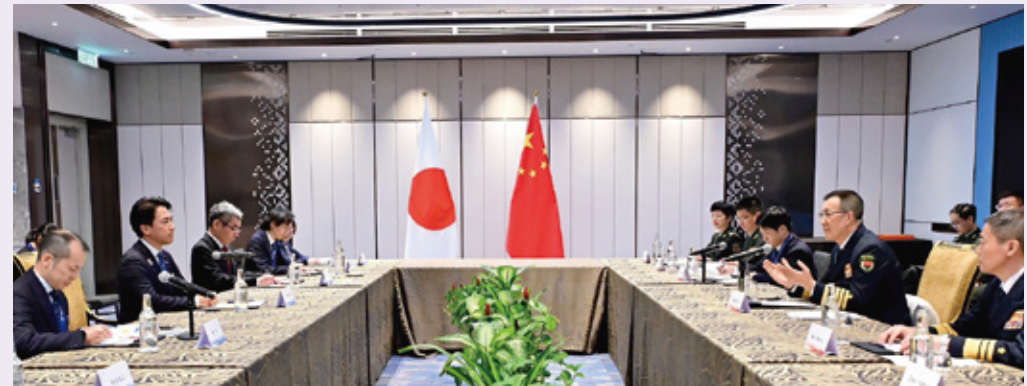
Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministerial Meeting

On the same day, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. GEN (Hon). Ret. Dr. Sjafrie. DM Koizumi emphasized Indonesia's role along key sea lanes, its naval modernization, and maritime deterrence as vital for regional peace and stability. Both Ministers welcomed stronger defense cooperation, agreed to deepen maritime security collaboration, and affirmed commitment to advance consultations and specific cooperation. They also concurred to promote bilateral and multilateral defense exchanges.



Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting

On the same day, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Chinese Minister of Defense Dong Jun. DM Koizumi expressed strong concerns over China's activities in the vicinity of Senkaku Islands, and reiterated his serious concerns about China's increasing military activities in the sea and airspace surrounding Japan, including those conducted under cooperation with Russia, and over the situation in the South China Sea. He also emphasized the significance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. In addition, he strongly condemned North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches and expressed his serious concern about the progress of Russia-North Korea military cooperation. On that basis, DM Koizumi pointed out the importance of firmly ensuring the appropriate and reliable operation of the Hotline Between Japan and China Defense Authorities. The two ministers concurred on the importance of enhancing dialogue and exchanges at all levels.



Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting

On the same day, DM Koizumi met with Singapore's Defense Minister Chan. DM Koizumi expressed pleasure at the early meeting and emphasized Japan's intent to deepen defense ties as the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations approaches. Minister Chan welcomed this first meeting. Both highlighted close communication, human exchanges, and operational collaboration, agreeing to strengthen bilateral cooperation. They affirmed the importance of multilateral efforts, including advancing Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation and collaboration through the ASEAN CBR Defense Expert Network, noting Singapore's role as ASEAN Coordinator Country until 2027.



Japan-Australia-Philippines-United States Defense Ministers' Meeting



On the same day, DM Koizumi held four countries defense ministers' meeting with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Marles, Philippines Secretary of National Defense Teodoro and U.S. Secretary of War Hegseth.

They affirmed the importance of Japan, Australia, the Philippines and the U.S. working together to deepen various activities in the maritime and air domains among the four countries, thereby strengthening deterrence and response capabilities in the region. They had intensive discussion to regularly hold a Japan-Australia-Philippines-U.S. Defense Ministers' Meeting.

The Ministers and the Secretaries also shared the efforts made by each country, and discussed regional issues of common interest and opportunities to expand cooperation.

Under the increasingly severe security environment, it is indispensable to collaborate with the ally and like-minded countries for the regional peace and stability. The JMOD will continue to optimize various opportunities to further strengthen the cooperation.



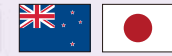
Japan-Laos Defense Ministerial Meeting



On November 2, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Minister of National Defence of Lao People's democratic Republic, H.E. Lieutenant General Khamlieng and they signed the revised Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges. DM Koizumi emphasized strengthening bilateral defense ties under the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" and the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Based on the revised Memorandum, they discussed promoting cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief and agreed to convene a Vice-Ministerial meeting to ensure steady implementation. Both ministers affirmed their commitment to advancing Japan-Laos defense cooperation.



Japan-New Zealand Defense Ministerial Meeting



On November 2, DM Koizumi held a Japan-New Zealand Defense Ministerial Meeting with Minister of Defense of New Zealand, the Hon Judith Collins. Minister Koizumi noted New Zealand's intention to replace their naval frigates and agreed to remain in close communication going forward. Ministers welcomed that joint exercises and other activities have become more active in recent years, including the port call by JMSDF destroyers and HMNZS Canterbury in Wellington this August. Ministers also welcomed the steady progress on legal frameworks such as the Information Security Agreement and ACSA. They confirmed to continue bilateral cooperation in strengthening cooperation with the Pacific Island countries



Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting



On November 2, DM Koizumi held a Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense of Australia the Hon Richard Marles MP. They welcomed Australia's selection of the upgraded Mogami-class frigate as Australia's preferred platform for the general-purpose frigates was a major step forward in defense cooperation and confirmed to work toward concluding the contract. Both shared serious concern over China's activities in the South China Sea. Ministers committed to strengthening collective deterrence, and to coordinating to enhance trilateral cooperation with the U.S. They also discussed the two countries' roles as a core in broader partnerships such as Japan-Australia-U.S.-Philippines.



Multilateral Airborne Exercise “Mangsta 25” Hosted by the Italian Army

From November 7 to 28, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) participated in the multilateral airborne exercise “Mangsta 25” hosted by the Italian army. Through the exercise the JGSDF improved tactical skills related to airborne operations while fostering mutual understanding and trust among participating countries.



Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Multilateral Exercise “Malabar 2025”

From November 11 to 18, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participated in the multilateral exercise “Malabar 2025” alongside the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), the Indian Navy (IN), and the U.S. Navy (USN). Through this exercise, the JMSDF strengthened operational proficiency and deepen cooperation with partner nations, contributing to regional stability and security.



Japan-Australia-Canada-New Zealand-Multilateral Exercise

On November 14, the JMSDF conducted a multilateral exercise with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) to strengthen cooperation to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”



Support for Ukraine through the Demining Coalition and others

In December 2023, the JMOD announced that the JMOD/JSDF had joined the Demining Coalition and the IT Coalition in support of Ukraine. These coalitions, which include several European nations, aimed to assist Ukraine in the fields of demining and information technology. As part of this effort, Japan decided to provide educational support to enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Specifically, the JGSDF dispatched two instructors to a humanitarian demining training course for Ukrainian soldiers. The course took place in the Republic of Lithuania from November 3 to December 5 and was conducted in cooperation with Lithuania and Nordic countries, including Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. This initiative held great significance as it contributed to humanitarian assistance for the Ukrainian people by strengthening Ukraine's demining capability. It also reinforced Japan's ties with Lithuania and the Nordic nations participating in the Demining Coalition.

Beyond these initiatives, Japan has provided extensive material support. Since March 2022, Japan has supplied defense equipment, including bulletproof vests and vehicles. Recently, the additional 30 JSDF vehicles were shipped to Ukraine, supplementing the 101 vehicles previously delivered. Based on the request from the Ukrainian government, the JMOD/JSDF also shipped medical supplies such as gloves and surgical masks. Japan hopes these contributions will serve Ukraine well during these challenging times.



Japan–Solomon Islands Capacity Building Project on UXO

From October 20 to 23, the JMOD/JSDF carried out the Japan–Solomon Islands Capacity Building Project on UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) to the Royal Solomon Islands Pacific Force. Through tours of the JGSDF Ordnance School and related companies, they gained insights into Japan's UXO-related efforts.

The JMOD/JSDF remain committed to strengthening the partnership between Japan and the Solomon Islands.





JSDF Marching Festival

From November 13 to 15, the 59th JSDF Marching Festival was held in Tokyo. The event is part of the JSDF's anniversary celebrations and aims to deepen public understanding of the JSDF activities through music performances. This year, the festival featured the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band of the U.S. Marine Corps as a guest, making our 17th collaboration. Performers delivered outstanding performances that transcended borders. The participation of the III MEF band represents strongest alliance between Japan and the U.S., promoting closer ties and contributing to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.



For inquiries, contact the following office:

 Public Affairs Division, Ministry of Defense, Japan
 TEL:+81-3-3268-3111 (switch board)
 Web:<https://www.mod.go.jp/en/jdf/>



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Modjapan_en



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