

The Latest News on the Japan Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces

JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS

Aug. 2026 No.198



DM Koizumi's Speech at the 23rd Shangri-La Dialogue

23rd Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore



DM Koizumi's Speech at the 23rd Shangri-La Dialogue

DM Koizumi visited Singapore to participate in the 23rd International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) from May 29 to 31.

On May 31, DM Koizumi delivered a speech at the 5th Plenary Session titled “Managing Regional Tensions Amid Global Competition.” He argued that the Indo-Pacific faces growing challenges, including attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion, economic coercion, disinformation, and competition in cyber, space, and information domains. He stressed that countries must retain the freedom to make their own choices and that a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) remains essential for regional and global stability.

He stated that realizing FOIP requires sustained action through operational cooperation, joint training, information-sharing, defense technology cooperation, and defense industrial partnerships. He identified trust, transparency, and talks as the key foundations for managing regional tensions, emphasizing respect for international law, opposition to coercion, and continued communication with all nations that have different views.

He also outlined Japan's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities in response to technological and strategic changes while maintaining transparency regarding its intentions. He rejected claims of “new militarism,” highlighting Japan's postwar record as a peace-loving nation that has consistently supported a free and open international order.

In addition, he emphasized stronger cooperation through the Japan-U.S. Alliance, partnerships with Australia, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, ASEAN members, and the Quad, as well as expanded defense equipment and industrial cooperation. Referring to projects with countries such as Australia, the Philippines, New Zealand, and Indonesia, he stated that these efforts are intended to enhance regional deterrence and stability.

He further argued that division weakens deterrence and that closer cooperation among the United States, Europe, allies, and like-minded countries is necessary to resist coercion and maintain a free and open regional order. Japan, he stated, will continue working with partners to build and protect a Free and Open Indo-Pacific for future generations.

Courtesy Call on General Secretary of the Communist Party and President of Viet Nam by DM Koizumi

On May 29, DM Koizumi paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

DM Koizumi and General Secretary and President To Lam welcomed the active people-to-people exchanges, including high-level exchanges and acceptance of Vietnamese cadets at the National Defense Academy and other institutions. They confirmed that these people-to-people ties at various levels are vital as an important foundation for the robust relationship between the two countries.

DM Koizumi explained his emphasis on cooperation particularly in the field of maritime security, and outlined Japan's consistent policy of contributing to peace and stability in the region and the international community in light of the recent revision of the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology. They concurred on further strengthening defense cooperation between Japan and Viet Nam, including in the area of defense equipment and technology cooperation.



DM Koizumi Met with U.S. Senators

On May 29, DM Koizumi met with U.S. Senators Pete Ricketts and Tammy Duckworth. They reaffirmed the importance of further elevating the Japan-U.S. Alliance to further heights at all levels. DM Koizumi expressed his appreciation for the understanding and support of the U.S. Congress for the Alliance.



DM Koizumi Posed a Question Following the Speech by U.S. Secretary of War

On May 30, DM Koizumi posed a question following U.S. Secretary of War Hegseth's speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue. This exchange showcased the close communication between the two leaders and reaffirmed the importance of cooperation with allies and partners.



Japan-Australia-New Zealand Trilateral Defense Ministers' Meeting

On May 30, DM Koizumi held the inaugural trilateral defense ministers' meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence of Australia Marles and Minister of Defence of New Zealand Penk.

The Ministers welcomed the visit of the Mogami-class frigate JS Kumano to Australia and New Zealand, where it conducted activities to enhance cooperation with both navies, including joint exercises. DM Koizumi expressed his appreciation to Deputy Prime Minister Marles and Minister Penk for boarding JS Kumano during its port visits. They confirmed their commitment to further enhancing interoperability among Japan, Australia, and New Zealand through continued joint training and exercises. They concurred that collaboration between the three countries is beneficial from the perspective of strengthening regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

In addition, DM Koizumi welcomed that the Government of New Zealand has announced that the upgraded Mogami-class frigate has been included as one of the candidates for the replacement of its Anzac-class frigates. Minister Penk explained that New Zealand's consideration of a replacement frigate is in the early phases and advice on a preferred ship is expected to be provided to the New Zealand Cabinet before the end of 2027. DM Koizumi conveyed that, if New Zealand selects the upgraded Mogami-class frigate, It could contribute to enhancing interoperability and intercompatibility among the three countries.



Japan-UK Defense Ministerial Meeting

On May 30, DM Koizumi held a Defense Ministerial Meeting with UK Secretary of State for Defence Healey.

Both ministers welcomed the steady progress of Japan-UK defense cooperation, and confirmed to continue closely working together to further strengthen bilateral defense cooperation including Global Combat Air Programme.



Japan-New Zealand Defense Ministerial Meeting

On May 30, DM Koizumi held the Japan-New Zealand Defense Ministerial Meeting with Minister of Defence of New Zealand Penk.

DM Koizumi welcomed that the Government of New Zealand has announced that the upgraded Mogami-class frigate has been included as one of the candidates for the replacement of the ANZAC-class frigates and conveyed Japan's intention to continue close coordination, including through the provision of information. Minister Penk explained that New Zealand's consideration of a replacement frigate is in the early phases and advice on a preferred ship is expected to be provided to the New Zealand Cabinet before the end of 2027.



Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

On May 30, DM Koizumi and U.S. Secretary of War Hegseth held discussions.

DM Koizumi explained the revision of defense equipment and technology transfer framework and the progress Japan has made so far towards the further reinforcement of Japan's own defense capabilities. Secretary Hegseth welcomed the revision of the framework, and expressed U.S. support for Japan's efforts to reinforce Japan's defense capability as they enhance regional deterrence and further contribute to peace and stability in the region.

They concurred to advance the concrete implementation of a wide range of security cooperation, with a sense of urgency and speed, to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, thereby elevating the Alliance to further heights.



Japan-ROK Defense Ministerial Meeting

On May 30, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Minister of National Defense of ROK Ahn.

The ministers welcomed that the active cooperation between defense authorities are conducted after the ministerial meeting this January, which concurred on activating the defense cooperation and exchange. They

agreed on sustaining this momentum. According to this, they concurred on making progress in the coordination to realize DM Koizumi's early visit to ROK.

Moreover, they concurred on conducting the Japan-ROK humanitarian search and rescue exercise this June, for the first time in approximately 9 years.



Cooperation Reaffirmed Among Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-ROK and Japan-Australia-ROK

DM Koizumi held separate trilateral engagements with the ministers of the U.S. and Australia, the U.S. and ROK, and Australia and ROK. Peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific cannot be achieved by one country, and the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation with the ally and partners.



Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting

On May 31, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Minister for Defence of Singapore Chan.

DM Koizumi expressed his respect for Singapore's continued contributions to regional peace and stability as the host of the Shangri-La Dialogue, as well as for its efforts as ASEAN's Country Coordinator for Japan. He also stated his intention to further strengthen bilateral defense relations under the "Strategic Partnership," which was elevated at the summit meeting held in March this year. In response, Minister Chan highlighted that Japan is a reliable partner and expressed his intention to continue close coordination.

They welcomed the active people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, including high-level visits as well as unit-to-unit engagements such as port calls and attendance of courses, and concurred on continuing such exchanges on a regular basis.

The two Ministers also confirmed that both sides would work through working groups of the JMOD-MINDEF Policy Talks to exchange views on areas of cooperation and hold consultations between the Ministers on a regular basis to further advance defense cooperation.





Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting



On May 31, DM Koizumi and Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines Teodoro held a Defense Ministerial Meeting. The Ministers welcomed the progress of concrete discussions within the working group—established at the Defense Ministerial Meeting on May 5 and comprising policy, operational, and equipment divisions of both defense authorities—toward advancing initiatives that will contribute to further strengthening Japan-Philippines cooperation under the new framework for defense equipment transfer, with a view to realizing comprehensive equipment cooperation. Following the summit meeting on May 28, where the two leaders concurred on accelerating consultations between the defense authorities on the transfer of Abukuma-class destroyers and TC-90 aircraft, the Ministers reached a broad consensus to proceed with discussions with a view to transferring the Abukuma-class destroyers promptly after decommissioning, and one TC-90 aircraft within Japan's FY2027. They also shared the view that, in order to realize these transfers, detailed discussions—including those on training for the Philippine Navy, maintenance and sustainment, and the proper management of the equipment after transfer—should continue to be advanced in

an integrated manner within the working group, together with progress in broader defense cooperation, including in the information domain. They further concurred in exercising their leadership to ensure early and tangible outcomes.



CSJJS Gen Uchikura Attended the 23rd Shangri-La Dialogue

From May 29 to 31, CSJJS Gen Uchikura attended the 23rd Asia Security Summit (IISS Shangri-La Dialogue), hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), together with DM Koizumi. On the margins of the Summit, Gen Uchikura conducted meetings at the Chief of Defense level with counterparts from Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Malaysia, NATO, and Singapore, as well as a multilateral meeting under the Japan-Australia-Philippines-U.S. framework.



Signing of the Terms of Reference for the Japan-Australia-Philippines-U.S. Defense Cooperation Council



On May 29, CSJJS Gen Uchikura signed the Terms of Reference for the defense cooperation council among Japan, the U.S., Australia, and the Philippines, together with ADM Paparo, Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; ADML Johnston, Chief of the Australian Defence Force; and GEN Brawner Jr., Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

This framework institutionalizes cooperation among the four countries across all domains, including operations, training, and logistics. It is expected to further strengthen and advance defense cooperation among Japan, the U.S., Australia, and the Philippines.



JS Kumano Conducted Multilateral and Bilateral Exercises



From April 1 to May 5, JS Kumano participated in a multilateral exercise "ASWEX" hosted by the Royal Australian Navy.



On May 24, JS Kumano also conducted a bilateral exercise "OGURI-VERNY 26" with the French Navy.

These exercises contributed to strengthening cooperation with the navies toward realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.



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/>



X(Twitter):
Modjapan_en



Facebook:
mod.japn



Instagram:
modjapan_en



Scan this QR code to go to our website.



<https://www.mod.go.jp/en/>

