

In situations where the need and potential for international cooperation in the security and defense areas are increasing unprecedentedly, the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Self-Defense Forces (SDF) is required to actively contribute to ensuring the security of Japan, the peace and stability of the region, and the peace, stability, and prosperity of the entire international community from the perspective of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation.

In line with the free and open Indo-Pacific vision, and in accordance with the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG),¹ Japan will strengthen bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchanges as part of multi-faceted and multi-layered security cooperation, while paying attention to its partner nations’ regional characteristics and situations. Japan will also actively advance its efforts to solve global security issues, including securing the freedom and safety of navigation

and overflight, coordination and cooperation with relevant countries in relation to the use of the space and cyber domains, international peace cooperation activities, arms control and disarmament, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These efforts will be promoted mainly under the framework of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and in close coordination with countries that share the same universal values and security interests as Japan. Japan intends to create an ideal security environment through these steady-state efforts.

The MOD/SDF has already been conducting activities to promote security cooperation. The MOD/SDF further intends to create a security environment desirable for Japan by engaging in the routine activities indicated in the NDPG.

This chapter explains activities related to the enhancement of security cooperation while taking into consideration the concept of the NDPG.

Section

1

Strategic Promotion of Multi-Faceted and Multi-Layered Defense Cooperation

1

Significance and Evolution of Security Cooperation and Dialogue, and Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

1

Significance and Evolution of Security Cooperation, and Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

(1) Significance of Security Cooperation, and Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

The peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region is closely related to Japan’s security. In addition, with increasingly changeable and complicated global power dynamics, and escalation of political, economic, and military inter-state competition, they are also becoming a more important issue for the international community. While nations with large-scale military power concentrate in the region, no framework for regional security cooperation has been sufficiently institutionalized. As national political, economic and social systems differ widely in the region, visions of security vary from country to country. Furthermore, there have been an increasing number of unilateral actions attempting to change

the status quo by coercion without paying respect to existing international law. The issues involving the South China Sea, in particular, cause concerns over the maintenance of the rule of law at sea, freedom of navigation and overflight, and the stability of the Southeast Asian region. Thus, responses to these issues have become an important challenge to ensure the regional stability.

In order to build mutual trust among nations and establish a foundation for cooperation for solving regional security issues, Japan will strategically promote multi-faceted and multi-layered security cooperation, while taking into account the international situation, regional characteristics, and situations and security issues other nations are faced with.

(2) Forms and History of Security Cooperation and Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

Defense cooperation and exchanges have been delivered

¹ See Part II, Chapter 3, Section 1, Footnote 1

in the forms of high-level dialogues and exchanges, joint training and exercises, capacity building cooperation for recipient countries (such as human resources development and technical assistance in the security and defense fields), and defense equipment and technology cooperation aimed at ensuring Japan's security and promoting international peace and cooperation.

The MOD/SDF has long strived to alleviate any conditions of confrontation and tension, and to foster a collaborative and cooperative atmosphere by building face-to-face relationships through bilateral dialogues and exchanges. In addition, recognizing the increasing need for international cooperation, Japan has recently enhanced bilateral defense relationships from traditional exchanges to deeper cooperation in a phased manner by appropriately combining various means, including joint training and exercises and capacity building assistance, defense equipment and

technology cooperation, and the development of institutional frameworks such as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreements (ACSA).

In addition, multilateral regional security cooperation and dialogue are in the process of evolving from those that focus on dialogue to those that focus on cooperation that seeks to build regional order. It is important to promote bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchanges in a multi-layered, practical manner in order to create an ideal security environment.


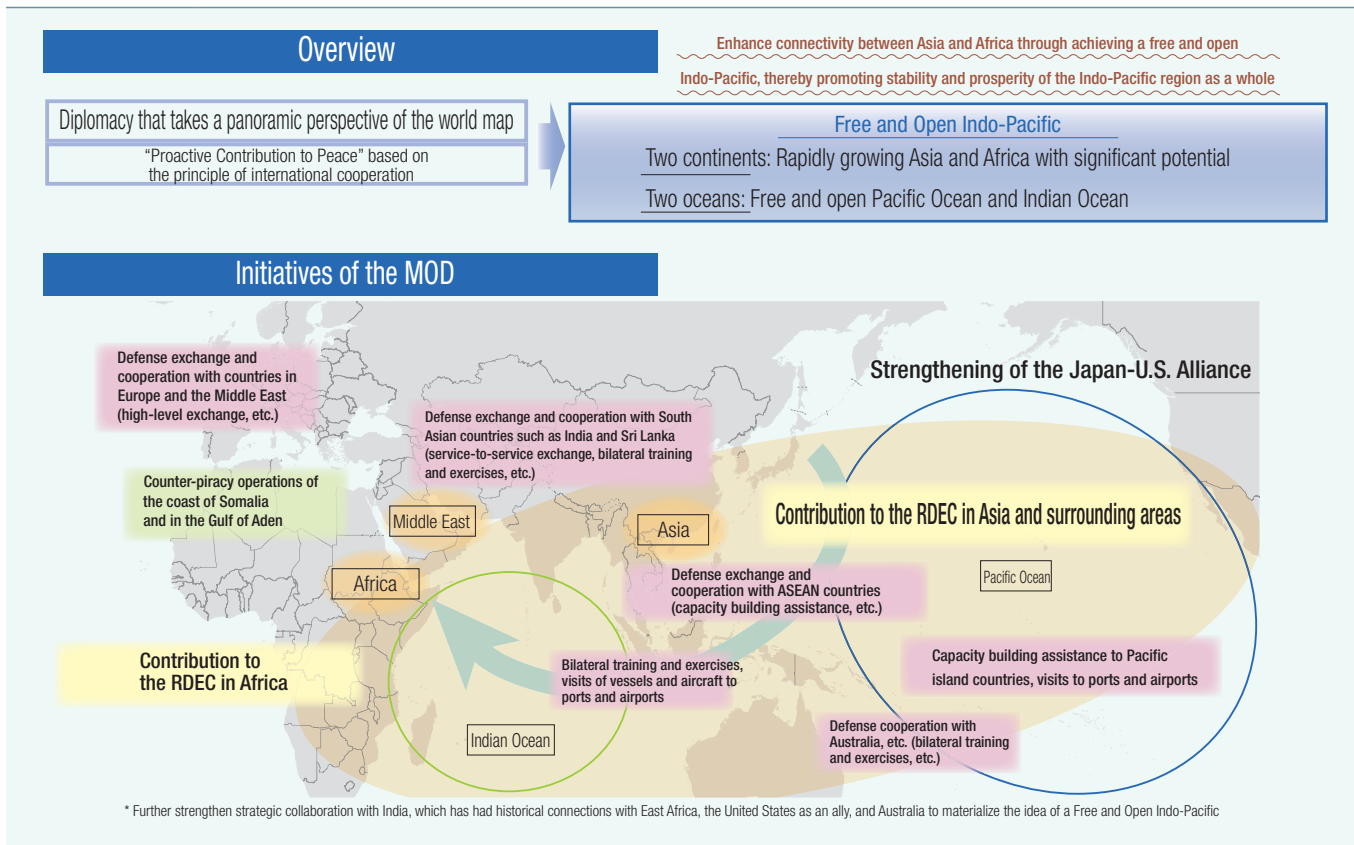
-  **See** Reference 37 (Situations Concerning the Conclusion of Agreements)
Reference 38 (Exchange Student Acceptance Record [Number of Newly Accepted Students in FY2018])
Fig. III-3-1-1 (Relationship between Security Cooperation and Defense Cooperation and Exchanges)
Fig. III-3-1-2 (Number of high-level bilateral dialogues and consultations (June 2018–June 2019))
Fig. III-3-1-3 (Defense Cooperation and Exchange (image))

Fig. III-3-1-1 Relationship between Security Cooperation and Defense Cooperation and Exchange

Classification	Type	Significance	Major initiatives
Security cooperation	Bilateral	Exchange between Defense Ministers and high-level officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan's Defense Minister and Defense Ministers from other countries Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan's State Minister of Defense, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Administrative Vice-Minister, Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs, Chief of Joint Staff, Officers at the GSDF/MSDF/ASDF Chief level
		Regular consultation between defense officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations between Director-General-level officials, Deputy Director-General-level officials, and their counterparts Dialogues between Japan's Joint Staff, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, and their counterparts in foreign countries.
		Bilateral training and exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan-U.S. bilateral joint field training and command post exercises Bilateral training between GSDF, MSDF and ASDF and relevant countries
		Defense equipment and technology cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative research and development Transfer of defense equipment Participation in International Defense Equipment Exhibitions Holding of the Defence Industry Business Forum Consultation with respective countries' officials in charge of equipment
		Assistance for capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs in which the MOD/SDF fully utilize their own capabilities and contribute to concrete and steady capacity building of recipient countries
		Service-to-service exchange (including exchange for fostering human resources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual visits of vessels of training squadrons and aircraft Mutual acceptance of students National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan National Defense Academy, GSDF/MSDF/ASDF Staff College, Joint Staff College Dispatch of students to overseas military-related organizations
	Multilateral	High-level exchange, regular consultation between defense officials, multilateral training and exercises, capacity building assistance, service-to-service exchange (the significance and initiatives are similar to those for bilateral cooperation and exchange)	
		Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding of seminars on international law, disaster relief, minesweeping, submarine rescue, etc.
		Security dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogues at the ADMM-Plus, and ARF Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the MOD Multilateral dialogues held by Defense Authorities Multilateral dialogues sponsored by private sectors
	Maritime security		
	Collaboration and cooperation in use of space and cyber domains		
	Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation		
	International peace cooperation activities		

Fig. III-3-1-4 MOD/SDF's Efforts for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (image)



promote various cooperative activities with India. With the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, Japan has carried out capacity building cooperation in the sea domain, joint training and exercises, and defense equipment and technology cooperation, in accordance with the Vientiane Vision, a guiding principle for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation. Japan will continue to promote various specific cooperative activities with ASEAN. Moreover, Japan has continually held high-level exchanges and unit-to-unit exchanges with such countries as Canada and New Zealand, which have significant influences in the western Pacific, as well as the United Kingdom and France, which have considerable international political influences and normative power. Japan intends to work further to enhance its relationships with these countries. With the Pacific Island

countries, Japan has been deepening bilateral exchanges by visiting their ports and airports during overseas flight training and at other opportunities.

In addition to the above, Japan has contributed to the maintenance of maritime order through its anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and through Indo-Pacific Deployment of Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF).

Japan will continue to deepen cooperative relationships with other countries to bring about the order of free and open oceans, which relies on the rule of law, and to contribute to the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Q See Fig. III-3-1-4 (MOD/SDF's Efforts for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (image))

2 Promotion of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

In promoting security cooperation and exchanges, it is important to enhance bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges using optimal combinations of various cooperative means, taking into account regional situations, the situations of recipient countries and their relationships with Japan.

1 Australia

Australia is a "Special Strategic Partner" for Japan in the Indo-Pacific region as both Japan and Australia are allied with the United States and share not only universal values³ but also strategic stakes and interests. In recent years, particularly,

³ Universal values: The National Security Strategy stipulates "freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law" as universal values.



Japan-Australia "2+2" (October 2018)

Japan and Australia as responsible countries in the Indo-Pacific region are strengthening mutual cooperation focused on areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) activities and cooperation in capacity building assistance.

Defense cooperation between Japan and Australia started with cooperation in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The two countries have built up cooperation since then through the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), and various international disaster relief operations. When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in March 2011, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) dispatched three out of its four transport aircraft (C-17) to Japan to engage in a disaster relief mission.

Against the background of the deepening defense cooperation between Japan and Australia, the two countries in March 2007 announced the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, Japan's first such joint declaration focusing on security with a country other than the United States. Japan and Australia have also developed the foundation for cooperation such as the ACSA, the Japan-Australia Information Security Agreement, and the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Australia concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology.

Regarding the Japan-Australia ACSA,⁴ a new agreement for expanding the situations in which the provision of goods and services is possible was signed by the two countries in January 2017, followed by the establishment of relevant laws and regulations. The new agreement was concluded in light of the expansion of cases in which the SDF and

the ADF conduct operations together due to the further advances in their defense cooperation and exchanges, and the development of the Legislation for Peace and Security in Japan. The agreement was approved by the National Diet in April 2017 and put into force in September 2017. Relevant domestic laws were developed then.

Japan will continue deepening its cooperative relationship with Australia, a "Special Strategic Partner" that has both the intention and ability to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region jointly with Japan.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

In the eighth Japan-Australia "2+2" Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations and the Defense Ministerial Meeting in October 2018, the Ministers agreed to further enhance bilateral security and defense cooperation as special strategic partners that have shared fundamental values and strategic interests concerning various issues faced by the Indo-Pacific region. They also agreed to pursue stronger and more concrete bilateral cooperation between the two defense authorities in such areas as training, capacity building, and defense equipment and technology cooperation. Moreover, the two countries also reconfirmed that they will collaborate in tackling North Korea-related issues, including illicit ship-to-ship transfers involving North Korean-flagged vessels, which have been banned under the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolutions. The Ministers also expressed their serious concerns about coercive unilateral actions that have been taken to seek to alter the status quo in the East and South China Seas. In addition, they confirmed their commitment to the earliest possible conclusion of negotiations on the Reciprocal Access Agreement, which would reciprocally improve administrative, policy, and legal procedures to facilitate joint operations and exercises, acknowledging its important role in further deepening the bilateral security and defense cooperation.

In January 2019, then Australian Minister for Defence Marise Payne visited Japan to have a Defense Ministerial Meeting. During the meeting, Minister of Defense Iwaya welcomed the third dispatch of Australian patrol aircraft to address illicit ship-to-ship transfers, which took place in December 2018. Moreover, the two Ministers welcomed the steady progress in bilateral and Japan-U.S.-Australia joint training of the ground, maritime, and air forces as well as the progress in coordination and staff meetings for further joint

⁴ Official title: Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Australia concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Australian Defense Force. In addition to the activities this agreement currently applies to, the following activities and situations will also be newly subject to the agreement: (1) Internationally coordinated operations for peace and security; (2) Situations threatening international peace and security that the international community is collectively addressing; (3) Perilous situations; (4) Armed attack situations, etc.; (5) Activities in situations threatening survival; (6) Rescue measures for Japanese nationals and others overseas; (7) Counter-piracy activities; (8) Elimination of mines and other dangerous objects; and (9) Intelligence gathering activities.

training. They also agreed to continue to deepen bilateral defense cooperation in a concrete and practical manner.

On the occasion of the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2019, Defense Minister Iwaya held the first Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting with Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds. Regarding bilateral defense cooperation, the Ministers reviewed recent activities in such fields as joint training and exercises, defense equipment and technology cooperation, and capacity building assistance. They also affirmed that in order to maintain and strengthen a free, open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific, the defense authorities of the two countries will continue to make efforts to further deepen and expand bilateral defense cooperation.

In June 2019, the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting was held. In regards to realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific, the Prime Ministers agreed to further collaborate in the field of aid for capacity building in maritime security and others in Southeast Asia as well as the Pacific Island countries. Furthermore, the leaders exchanged views on the promotion of security cooperation, and regional issues such as North Korea, and shared the view to continue their close collaboration.

As for bilateral service-to-service cooperation and exchanges, a Japan-Australia bilateral cruising exercise was held in the northern waters of Australia in September 2018. In January 2019, the MSDF Chief of Staff visited Australia to meet Chief of Navy Michael Noonan. In the meeting, they reconfirmed that they pursue the same values, including the freedom of oceans, and maintenance of international order by the rule of law. They also agreed on further enhancement of maritime exchanges, including mutual visits of naval ships. In February 2019, the Chief of Joint Staff made an official visit to Australia and met Chief of the Defence Force Angus Campbell. They exchanged their opinions regarding the free and open Indo-Pacific vision as well as SDF's efforts for the peace and stability of the region, which will contribute to the above vision. In February 2019, the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) Chief of Staff attended the Australian International Airshow and met Air Marshal Leo Davies, Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, to talk about the regional situations and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. In addition, the ASDF sent an ASDF C-2 transport aircraft to the Airshow, holding this aircraft's first overseas exhibition flight.

 **Reference 39** (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Australia [Past Three Years])

(3) Cooperative Relationship Etc. between Japan, the United States, and Australia

Japan and Australia are both allied with the United States

and share universal values. They cooperate closely to resolve the various challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region and the international community. In order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of such cooperation, it is important for Japan and Australia to proactively promote trilateral cooperation with the United States, whose presence is indispensable for regional peace and stability.

The Security and Defense Cooperation Forum (SDCF), a Director General-level meeting among the three countries of Japan, the United States and Australia, has met ten times since April 2007.

At an SDCF meeting held in October 2016, the three countries' defense authorities signed a Trilateral Information Sharing Agreement to expedite their sharing of classified information for cooperative activities regarding joint exercises and operations among the three countries. They plan to utilize this agreement to further deepen their collaboration.

In June 2019, Defense Minister Iwaya held a Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting with then acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Shanahan and Australian Minister for Defence Reynolds on the occasion of the Shangri-La Dialogue, the three Ministers were united in shared commitment to do more together in support of the Indo-Pacific region. The three Ministers also agreed on the Strategic Action Agenda, which articulates their shared long-term vision for trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Japan, the United States and Australia have also carried out trilateral exercises by service branch. In May 2019, for example, the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) participated in the field training Southern Jackaroo with the United States and Australia in Australia.

In November 2018, the MSDF hosted a Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise (a special mine warfare exercise) with three minesweepers from the United States and Australia in waters east of Japan's Kyushu Island. In August 2018, Japan, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand held a cruising exercise in Guamanian and Australian waters.

The ASDF participated in Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral HA/DR exercise "Christmas Drop" in the Federal States of Micronesia in December 2018. From February to March 2019, the ASDF cohosted a Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise "Cope North Guam" and a trilateral HA/DR exercise.

Through various training and exercise opportunities, Japan will continue its efforts to improve mutual understanding and interoperability among Japan, the United States, and Australia. In addition, Japan will also work to promote quadrilateral defense cooperation among Japan, the United States, Australia, and India.



GSDF personnel participating in a field training on counter-terrorism operations with the Indian Army in the Japan-India bilateral exercise Dharma Guardian (November 2018)



ASDF personnel boarding an Indian Air Force aircraft in the Japan-India bilateral exercise SHINYUU Maitri (December 2018)

2 India, etc.

Q See Reference 40 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India and Sri Lanka [Past Three Years])

(1) India

a. Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India

India is growing more influential against a backdrop of its population—the world's second largest—, its high economic growth, and its latent economic power. Located in the center of sea lanes that connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa, India is an extremely important country geopolitically for Japan. Furthermore, Japan and India share universal values as well as common interests in the peace, stability, and prosperity of Asia and the world, and have established the “Special Strategic and Global Partnership.” In this context, Japan and India have promoted cooperation in maritime security and various other areas, while utilizing some frameworks including the “2+2” dialogues.

Defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and India have steadily deepened since October 2008, when the two countries signed the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India. Meetings and consultations at various levels such as the ministerial and Chief of Staff levels, as well as service-to-service exchanges including bilateral and multilateral exercises, have been regularly conducted. Moreover, the two countries signed the Memorandum on Defence Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India in September 2014 and saw the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of India concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology as well

as the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of India concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information in December 2015, further solidifying the institutional basis of Japan-India defense cooperation and exchanges. These agreements have strengthened the relationship between the two partners, which are capable of dealing with regional and global issues, as well as the foundation of this partnership.

b. Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

At the Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2018, Japan and India agreed to further deepen bilateral security and defense cooperation, to tap into new consultation frameworks, such as Japan-India 2+2 Ministerial dialogues, in addition to existing ones (such as annual Defence Ministerial Dialogues), and to commence negotiations on the Japan-India ACSA, which will contribute to the strategic enhancement of bilateral defense cooperation. Moreover, in October 2018, the MSDF and the Indian Navy exchanged the signed Implementing Arrangement between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy Concerning Deeper Cooperation to promote maritime security cooperation (including information sharing), with the attendance of the leaders of the two nations.

In the Japan-India Annual Defence Ministerial Meeting held in August 2018, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the security and stability of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific in achieving the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. Based on this shared understanding, they agreed to cooperate with each other in ensuring maritime security and in helping other countries in the region with capacity building, and to promote bilateral service-to-service cooperation and exchanges in a more concrete and effective manner. As for defense equipment and technology cooperation, Japan and India launched the Cooperative Research on the Visual



Deepening Cooperation between MSDF and Indian Navy

Japan depends on seaborne trade for the majority of its economic activities, including the import of items necessary for people's lives. The stability of the Indo-Pacific, with its major sea lanes of communication (SLOC), is especially vital for Japan. Looking at the Indian Ocean in particular, it is becoming more important day by day for Japan to strengthen cooperation with India, which is a major power in the region, with its increased presence in terms of economy and security.

The MSDF has strengthened its cooperative relationship with the Indian Navy through Japan-U.S.-India joint exercise Malabar, Japan-India bilateral exercise JIMEX,* and other initiatives. In recent years the scope of cooperation has been expanding to include port calls of MSDF P-1 patrol aircraft to India for a joint anti-submarine exercise.

In light of the situation, in order to further enhance information sharing and joint exercises, the MSDF developed the Implementing Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the MSDF and the Indian Navy with the aim of promoting and developing broad maritime security cooperation. The agreement was signed at the time of the Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2018. The MSDF and the Indian Navy will pursue further strengthening of their cooperative relationship under the agreement.

The deepening of the cooperation will directly contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of a free and open Indo-Pacific and eventually will lead to further stability and prosperity in Japan.

*JIMEX: Japan-India Maritime Exercise



P-1 crew of the MSDF and P-8 crew of the Indian Navy in the pre-flight briefing for joint anti-submarine exercise



Then MSDF Chief of Staff Murakawa and then Indian Ambassador to Japan H.E. Chinoy exchanging a document of the Implementing Arrangement in front of Japanese and Indian Prime Ministers

SLAM Based GNSS Augmentation Technology for UGV⁵/Robotics in July 2018. In September 2017, Japan and India held the first Japan-India Defence Industry Business Forum. As a follow-up to this event, Japanese companies visited the Indian national defense industry in August 2018. In February 2019, the second round of the Forum was held.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the Chief of Joint Staff attended the Raisina Dialogue, a multilateral forum held in India in January 2019. At this forum, he explained the importance of international cooperation based on universal values (such as the rule of law and the freedom of navigation) in achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific. In December 2018, Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force, visited Japan to meet the Chief of Air Staff to exchange opinions on a wide range of topics, including the situation of the region and bilateral

defense cooperation and exchanges.

Japan and India have also expanded service-to-service exchanges through training and exercises. In November 2018, the GSDF and the Indian Army had their first bilateral exercise, Dharma Guardian 2018, with a focus on counter-terrorism operations. In December 2018, the ASDF dispatched transport aircraft to its first bilateral exercise with the Indian Air Force, SHINYUU Maitri 18. Having completed these exercises, Japan and India have now conducted bilateral exercises for all of the three military services, which helped not only to improve the forces' tactical skills but also enhance mutual understanding and trust between the two countries and strengthened the Japan-India relationship.

As trilateral initiatives among Japan, the United States, and India, the MSDF joined the training for anti-air and anti-sea operations in Japan-U.S.-India trilateral exercise Malabar

⁵ "UGV" stands for "Unmanned Ground Vehicle."

2018 conducted in the waters and airspace surrounding Guam in June 2018. The three countries also conducted an exercise (anti-mine operations and minesweeping special drills) in Mutsu Bay in July 2018. In December 2018, the ASDF joined the U.S.-India bilateral exercise Cope India for the first time as an observer.

Following the first Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting held in December 2018, the second Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting was held in June 2019, and the leaders reaffirmed the critical importance of their trilateral cooperation in efforts to maintain and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, sharing their understanding of an increasingly complex security situation. Furthermore, the three leaders confirmed their views to further promote the trilateral cooperation in various fields, such as maritime security, space and cyberspace.

(2) Sri Lanka

In the similar manner as India, Sri Lanka is a country of great geopolitical importance. In recent years, Japan has proactively worked to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges with Sri Lanka. In November 2017, Sri Lankan State Minister of Defense Ruwan Wijewardene visited Japan and paid a courtesy call on then Defense Minister Onodera, exchanging their views on cooperation in the improvement of maritime surveillance capabilities and in search and rescue operations. In August 2018, then Defense Minister Onodera made the first visit to Sri Lanka as a Japanese Defense Minister. He met Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. In these meetings, he agreed to further strengthen the bilateral partnership with Sri Lanka as an important maritime nation located on the Indian Ocean sea lanes. He also toured the Port of Colombo and the Port of Hambantota. During this visit, the first-ever Defense Ministerial Meeting between the two countries was also held between then Defense Minister Onodera and Sri Lankan State Minister of Defense Ruwan Wijewardene, in which they exchanged their opinions on maritime security and safety. The Sri Lankan State Minister of Defense also expressed the country's hope to improve the capabilities of the Sri Lanka Armed Forces as a whole through capacity building of the three military services in the HA/DR field, for which then Defense Minister Onodera expressed his support.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the MSDF and the Sri Lanka Navy held a goodwill training at the Port of Colombo and in its surrounding sea and airspace in October 2018 as part of MSDF Indo Southeast Asia Deployment.

As for capacity building assistance, the SDF held a seminar for Sri Lankan Navy medical officers in June 2018 to

explain its training for medical officers. In October 2018, the MSDF held a seminar on search and rescue operations when it visited the Port of Colombo during the abovementioned deployment. After that, the MSDF conducted the Ship-Rider Cooperation Program for young Sri Lankan officers on the way to Visakhapatnam. Furthermore, the MSDF and the Sri Lanka Navy conducted goodwill training on search and rescue operations at the Port of Colombo and in its surrounding waters and airspace. By combining these seminars and training exercises, the MSDF effectively contributed to the improvement of the practical search and rescue capabilities of the Sri Lanka Navy. In February 2019, the MOD invited the Sri Lanka Air Force to Japan and provided training for the air rescue unit and others.

3 Association of South-East Asian Nations(ASEAN)

ASEAN member states, which continue to experience high economic growth and gather international attention for their potential as an open growth center of the world, and Japan have been traditional partners sharing a history of exchanges and a close economic relationship over the past nearly 50 years.

ASEAN nations, located in geopolitically important areas occupying strategic points on sea lanes of Japan, are also playing an important role in ensuring the peace and prosperity of Japan as well as the entire region. Therefore, it is important for Japan to strengthen cooperation in the security and defense areas and promote confidence with ASEAN member states, while supporting their efforts to enhance the centrality and unity of ASEAN, which is the center of regional cooperation.

Based on this principle, Japan is promoting confidence-building and mutual understanding through high-level and working-level exchanges as well as practical cooperation, such as capacity building assistance, joint training, and defense equipment and technology cooperation with ASEAN member states. In addition to bilateral cooperation, Japan has strengthened cooperation under multilateral frameworks such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). At the second ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting in Laos in November 2016, then Defense Minister Inada announced the "Vientiane Vision" as a guideline for the Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation going forward. The vision provided an overall picture of the priority areas of the future direction of defense cooperation with ASEAN as a whole in a transparent manner for the first time and was welcomed by all ASEAN member states.

From the viewpoint of actively promoting such bilateral

and multilateral cooperation and stabilizing the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region, Japan strives to strengthen defense cooperation and exchanges with ASEAN member states.

Q See Section 1-3 (Promotion of Multilateral Security Cooperation)
Section 1-5 (Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building Assistance)
Reference 41 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with ASEAN member states [Past Three Years])

(1) Indonesia

Indonesia conducts active defense cooperation and exchanges with Japan. During the Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting in March 2015, Prime Minister Abe and President Joko agreed to strengthen their Strategic Partnership underpinned by sea and democracy and reaffirmed their intention to hold a Japan-Indonesia “2+2” Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting. At the first “2+2” Meeting held in Tokyo in December of the same year, the two countries agreed to start negotiations on an agreement on the transfer of defense equipment and technology, actively participate in a multilateral naval exercise (Komodo 2016), and further advance capacity building assistance. The Joint Statement of a Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting in January 2017 confirmed the importance of continuing dialogues between their foreign and defense authorities at various levels, including the regular Japan-Indonesia “2+2” Meeting and foreign and defense authorities’ meetings, in order to further promote close cooperation in the security and defense fields. Similarly, at the working level, exchanges at various levels have been carried out, including consultations between the diplomatic and defense authorities of both countries, consultations between the respective defense authorities, and various educational and academic exchanges.

(2) Vietnam

With Vietnam, which is a coastal country facing the South China Sea with a population of approximately 90 million, Japan has developed cooperation and exchanges between their defense authorities. At the Japan-Vietnam Summit Meeting held in March 2014, the two leaders agreed to elevate the relationship between the two countries to an “Extensive Strategic Partnership.” At the Japan-Vietnam Summit Meeting in May 2018, both countries confirmed that they would strengthen cooperation in the security and defense areas.

At the Japan-Vietnam Defense Ministerial Meeting in April 2018, then Defense Minister Onodera and Defense Minister of Vietnam Lich signed the “Joint Vision Statement on Japan-Vietnam Defense Cooperation,” which serves as

a guideline in further promoting Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation and exchanges into the future. In the meeting, concerning the regional situation, both ministers exchanged opinions and called for self-restraint on militarization and other unilateral actions to change the status quo made in the South China Sea, and agreed on the importance of the peaceful conflict resolutions based on international law and the conclusion of an effective Code Of Conduct in the South China Sea at an early time.

In May 2019, Defense Minister Iwaya visited Vietnam as Japanese defense minister for the first time in about three and a half years. In addition to a Japan-Vietnam Defense Ministerial meeting, he paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Phuc and exchanged opinions with the Commander of the Navy. At the Defense Ministerial meeting, the Ministers shared the policy to promote Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation in a broad range of fields based on the Joint Vision Statement on Japan-Vietnam Defense Cooperation, which was announced last year. Regarding the regional situation, they agreed to cooperate toward denuclearization of North Korea, shared concerns about the unilateral moves to change the status quo and establish the change as a fait accompli, and agreed that Japan and Vietnam should closely work together on these issues. In addition, a memorandum on the orientation of promotion of defense industry cooperation was signed by the defense authorities of Japan and Vietnam at the vice-ministerial level. The two countries agreed to promote bilateral cooperation on defense equipment and technology based on this memorandum. Furthermore, at the Japan-Vietnam Leaders’ Working Lunch held in July 2019, the leaders agreed on commencing negotiations for an agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology.

As for service-to-service exchanges, JS “Kuroshio” paid a goodwill visit to the Cam Ranh International Port in September 2018. In addition, a ship of the Vietnam People’s Navy stayed in Japan from September to October 2018. During this period, goodwill events were held at the Port of Yokosuka and the Port of Sakai. In January 2019, the ASDF Chief of Staff visited Vietnam to meet Lieutenant General Lê Huy Vĩnh, Commander, the Vietnam People’s Air Force. During the meeting, they agreed to further strengthen the relationship between the air forces of the two countries.

The ASDF provided capacity building assistance in the field of air rescue in June and October 2018, the GSDF in the field of peacekeeping operations (PKO) in August 2018 and in the field of cybersecurity in March 2019, and the MSDF in the field of submarine medicine in March 2019.

It remains vital that Japan and Vietnam strengthen their relationship in order to achieve more concrete, practical



MSDF Chief of Staff Yamamura giving a lecture at IMDEX (May 2019)

cooperation, based on the memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges.

(3) Singapore

In December 2009, Singapore became the first country in Southeast Asia to sign a memorandum on defense exchanges with Japan. The year 2019 marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the memorandum. Since then, the cooperative relationship, including port calls, has been progressing steadily based on the memorandum. Singapore and Japan have so far conducted 15 regular meetings between their defense authorities. Moreover, the two countries actively conduct high-level defense exchanges as Japan's Minister of Defense attends the Shangri-La Dialogue organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) almost every year to explain Japan's security policy.

In May 2019, the Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting was held with Minister for Defense Ng Eng Hen to exchange opinions on the progress of the regional situation, including North Korea issues, and bilateral/multilateral and Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation.

As for service-to-service exchanges, as part of the Indo Southeast Asia Deployment in October 2018, MSDF Destroyers JS "Kaga" and JS "Inazuma" visited Singapore during the ADMM-Plus and held an onboard reception and a goodwill training. In February 2019, MSDF Destroyer JS "Suzutsuki" had goodwill training with the Singaporean Navy's landing platform dock ship RSS Endeavour in waters off the west coast of Kyushu. In May 2019, the MSDF Chief of Staff participated in the International Maritime Defense Exposition (IMDEX) upon invitation from the Commander of Singapore's Navy. At the International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC), which was held on the sideline of IMDEX, the MSDF Chief of Staff promoted mutual understanding, built a trusting relationship, and introduced the MSDF's activities through information sharing and exchange of views with senior naval officers from other countries.



President Duterte boarding Destroyer JS "Kaga" and exchanging opinions with then Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Ono (September 2018)



ASDF Chief of Staff Marumo holding a meeting with Lieutenant General Briguez, Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force (March 2019)

Additionally, MSDF vessels have made port calls in Singapore during international cooperation operations, such as UN PKO and counter-piracy activities. Also, service-to-service exchanges have been actively conducted.

(4) The Philippines

Between Japan and the Philippines, mutual visits by naval vessels, working-level exchanges including consultations between their defense authorities, and service-to-service exchanges have been frequently conducted along with high-level exchanges. At the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting held in January 2015, the two ministers signed a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges. This memorandum shows the intention of the two countries to conduct cooperation in non-traditional security areas, such as maritime security, in addition to defense ministerial meetings and vice-ministerial consultations on a regular basis, reciprocal visits between the SDF Chief of Joint Staff and the Chiefs of Staff of the each SDF Service, and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Commander of each service, and participation in training and exercises.

At the Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting in November 2015, the two leaders of both countries reached a consensus

in principle on the agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology, which was signed in February 2016.

At the Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting in September 2016, Prime Minister Abe and President Duterte agreed on the transfer of MSDF TC-90 training aircraft to the Philippines in order to enhance its capabilities in HA/DR, transportation, and maritime situational awareness. At the Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting in January 2017, the two countries agreed that they would promote defense cooperation in various fields such as capacity building assistance, defense equipment cooperation, and training and exercises.

In March 2017, two MSDF TC-90 training aircraft were transferred to the Philippine Navy in March 2017. At the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting in October 2017, Japan announced that the mode of transfer of TC-90 would be changed from lease to grant. In March 2018, the remaining three TC-90 aircraft were transferred to the Philippine Navy, completing the grant of a total of five TC-90 aircraft. This transfer also covers training for Philippine Navy pilots and maintenance support for Philippine Navy maintenance personnel. Moreover, at the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting held on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2018, Japan confirmed that it would grant GSDF's decommissioned UH-1H parts and maintenance equipment to the Philippine Air Force. In March 2019, the turnover of the parts and maintenance equipment commenced with the transfer ceremony attended by State-Minister of Defense Harada.

At the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting in April 2019, the two Ministers welcomed the progress in cooperation, including the grant of TC-90s and UH-1H parts and maintenance equipment, and its contributions to the improvement of HA/DR and surveillance capabilities of the Philippines. They also confirmed the progress in Japan-Philippines defense cooperation, including port calls, in a broad range of fields and agreed that the two countries will further strengthen defense cooperation in the future.

High-level exchanges between Japan and the Philippines have also been deepening. Following his boarding on Destroyer JS "Izumo" in June 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte came aboard Destroyer JS "Kaga" during a call at the Port of Subic in September 2018 to meet Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Ono and exchange opinions on the bilateral relationship.

As for recent service-to-service cooperation and exchanges, three MSDF destroyers, which were on the Indo Southeast Asia Deployment, conducted a bilateral exercise (search and rescue exercise) with the Philippine Navy in the waters and airspace surrounding Palawan, the Philippines,

in September 2018. In addition, GSDF units participated in the U.S.-Philippines joint exercise Kamandag 18 conducted on the Philippine island of Luzon in September and October 2018. In March 2019, the GSDF Chief of Staff visited the Philippines to meet Commanding General of the Philippine Army Macairog Alberto and Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps Alvin Parreño. The three leaders agreed to further strengthen defense cooperation and exchanges between the GSDF and the Philippines Army and Marine Corps. In the same month, Lieutenant General Rozzano D. Briguez, Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, visited Japan to meet the ASDF Chief of Staff and exchanged opinions on various topics, including regional situations and defense cooperation and exchanges, deepening the mutual understanding between the air forces of the two countries. Furthermore, in June 2019, the ASDF Chief of Staff visited the Philippines to participate in the Air Force Symposium hosted by the Philippine Air Force. He had talks and opinion exchanges with military personnel including Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, and promoted bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges with the Philippine Air Force.

Moreover, the MSDF provided capacity building assistance concerning ship maintenance in September 2018.



Part IV Chapter 2 Section 5-3 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

(5) Thailand

With Thailand, Japan has a long history of defense cooperation and exchanges based on the traditionally good relationship between the two countries, including the commencement of the dispatch of Defense Attachés and consultations between their defense authorities at an early stage. As for the acceptance of foreign students at the National Defense Academy, a Thai student became the first one to be accepted in 1958. Since then, Thailand has sent the largest cumulative number of students to the academy.

Since 2005, the MOD/SDF, has been participating in the multilateral exercise Cobra Gold cohosted by the United States and Thailand. In January and February 2019, an exercise on rescue of Japanese nationals overseas was conducted to enhance joint operation capacities during Cobra Gold 19. Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan Sonoura reviewed Cobra Gold 2019. At the same time, a staff exercise on cooperation and assistance under the International Peace Support Act was conducted.

As for recent service-to-service exchanges, the ASDF Chief of Staff visited Thailand in September 2018 to meet the then Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force Johnm Rungswang, who is a graduate of the National

Defense Academy of Japan and the Air Command and Staff College of Japan. In the meeting, they agreed to strengthen the relationship between the air forces of the two countries. In May 2019, Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force, visited Japan to meet the ASDF Chief of Staff and exchanged opinions on various topics, including regional situations and defense cooperation and exchanges, deepening the mutual understanding between the air forces of the two countries.

As for capacity building assistance programs, the ASDF has implemented seminars on aviation safety and international aviation law for Thailand since 2016. In March 2018, the GSDF conducted a seminar for the Royal Thai Army planning to send a unit to the UNMISS, which covered the characteristics of the UNMISS Command, engineering missions, and other matters. Through the seminar, the SDF shared its experiences and the lessons learnt with the Royal Thai Army over five years of deployment to UNMISS. In June 2018, the GSDF engineering unit supported the Royal Thai Army's preparation for PKO through training on the maintenance and management of the water purification system, which the GSDF transferred to the UN at no charge when it withdrew from the UNMISS. In March 2019, the ASDF provided capacity building assistance in the field of aviation safety.

(6) Cambodia

In 1992, Cambodia became the first country to which Japan sent an SDF unit for UN peacekeeping operations. As indicated by Japan's capacity building assistance for Cambodia since 2013 and other programs, defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries have made steady progress. At the Japan-Cambodia Summit Meeting in December 2013, the bilateral relationship was upgraded to a "strategic partnership." After the summit, then Defense Minister Onodera signed the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of National Defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In September 2017, then Defense Minister Onodera held a ministerial meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Tea Banh. They talked on the regional situation and gave high appreciation to progress in the Japan-Cambodia defense cooperation, including capacity-building assistance and service-to-service exchanges.

The GSDF has worked to enhance bilateral cooperation through capacity building assistance programs, including training on road construction, which had been conducted from before, and education programs on engineering activities (to foster land survey instructors) for the engineering unit of the

Royal Cambodian Forces, which were held in July 2017, May 2018, and June 2019.

(7) Myanmar

Japan has been promoting exchanges with Myanmar since Myanmar's transition from military rule to democratic government in March 2011, including the first visit to the country by the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense and the invitation of Myanmar to participate in multilateral conferences hosted by Japan. In November 2013, the two countries' defense authorities held their first consultation in Myanmar's capital of Naypyidaw, exchanged opinions on how to proceed with their future defense exchanges and agreeing to further promote exchanges. In November 2014, then Defense Minister Eto held a meeting with then Defense Minister Wai Lwin of Myanmar and they confirmed their intention to promote defense exchanges, while visiting Myanmar for the Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Roundtable Meeting chaired by Myanmar.

Under the Japan-Myanmar Military Officials Exchange Program sponsored by the Nippon Foundation since 2014, general officers in Myanmar have been invited to visit SDF facilities in Japan. In August 2018, ten senior Myanmar military officials visited Japan under the program, paying a courtesy call on then Defense Minister Onodera.

The ASDF supported the establishment of a weather services unit within the Myanmar Air Force through a capacity building assistance program in the field of aviation meteorology, which was held in October 2018 and January 2019. In December 2018, Japan held a capacity building assistance program on underwater medicine for the Myanmar Navy. In May 2018, Japan started to assist the establishment of a learning environment of the Japanese language for the Japanese Language Department of the Defense Services Academy of Myanmar.

(8) Laos

Defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and Laos have made gradual progress since 2011, when the Defense Attaché to Vietnam was appointed concurrently as Defense Attaché to Laos. In April 2013, the National Defense Academy accepted students from Laos for the first time. In August 2013, the first Japan-Laos Defense Ministerial Meeting was held. Since 2014, Japan and Laos have served as co-chairs of the EWG on HA/DR of the ADMM-Plus meeting, while the relationship between the two countries' defense authorities has made significant strides through cooperation under multilateral frameworks. In November 2016, then Defense Minister Inada became the first Japanese defense minister to visit Laos, exchanging views with Minister of National

Defense Lieutenant General Chansamone regarding policies for further defense cooperation, such as high-level exchanges and capacity building assistance, and agreeing with him to promote defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries.

The two countries also agreed on the signing of a memorandum on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges between the defense authorities. In December 2018, then Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs Mabe visited the Lao Ministry of National Defense to meet Permanent Secretary of Defense Khamtsy Vongkhamsao. In this meeting, they agreed to work together for an early signing of the memorandum.

As for capacity building assistance, the GSDF provided the engineering unit and medical unit of the Royal Lao Army with practical training on HA/DR in November 2018.

(9) Malaysia

Japan signed the agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology with Malaysia in April 2018. In September 2018, Minister of Defense Mohamad Sabu visited Japan and signed with then Minister of Defense Onodera the memorandum on Japan-Malaysia defense cooperation and exchanges. In the Defense Ministerial Meeting held after the signing, the two Ministers confirmed their intention to promote defense cooperation in various fields to include based on the memorandum.

In July 2018, KC-767, which was on a counter-piracy mission, called at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Malaysia, for a unit-to-unit exchange. In January 2019, KC-767, which was on a counter-piracy mission, called at Penang International Airport, Malaysia, for a unit-to-unit exchange.

At the Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA), which was co-organized by the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Transport of Malaysia and EN Projects in Langkawi in March 2019, MSDF Destroyer JS “Asagiri” participated in the fleet review, and the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) set up the booth. Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura also visited LIMA and met Prime Minister Mahathir, Minister of Defense Sabu and other officials to exchange opinions on the Japan-Malaysia relationship and defense cooperation and exchanges.

(10) Brunei

Regarding Japan’s relations with Brunei, during the Second

ADMM-Plus meeting held in Brunei in August 2013, then Defense Minister Onodera held talks with then Brunei’s Minister of Energy Mohammad Yasmin Umar and exchanged views on the ADMM-Plus initiatives.

In February 2019, the MSDF Chief of Staff visited Brunei to meet commander of the Royal Brunei Navy Norazmi Pengiran Haji Muhammad. The two leaders agreed to further strengthen the navy component relationship through mutual visits of naval ships and other activities. Moreover, the Sultan of Brunei granted a commander emblem to the MSDF Chief of Staff in appreciation for his efforts to promote the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific and strengthening naval cooperation between Japan and Brunei.

4 Republic of Korea (ROK)

(1) Significance of Japan-ROK Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

Both Japan and the ROK confront wide-ranging complex security challenges, including response to the nuclear and missile issues of North Korea, response to large-scale natural disasters, counterterrorism measures, counter piracy measures, maritime security, and peacekeeping operations. The MOD/SDF plans to continue defense cooperation with the ROK, including in a broad range of fields, and to make efforts to establish a foundation for mutual coordination in order to effectively address the above security challenges.

On the other hand, negative actions by the ROK side are affecting Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchange. As an example, the ROK’s action related to the flag of the MSDF⁶ at the time of an international fleet review held by the ROK in October 2018 can be cited. It is legally prescribed⁷ that usually, MSDF ships should display a flag of the MSDF at their stern. However, the ROK, as the host of the fleet review, indicated a unilateral rule prohibiting the display of a flag at either the bow or the stern, which cannot be accepted under Japanese law. Despite repeated requests for a revision of the rule from Japan, the ROK side refused to revise it. As a result, Japan had to refrain from participating in the international fleet review. In addition, in December 2018, there was an incident in which a destroyer of the ROK Navy directed fire control radar at a SDF aircraft.⁸ The MOD/SDF will continue to call on the ROK side to appropriately deal with these matters.

In addition, in August 2019, the Government of the ROK announced its intention to terminate the Japan-ROK General

⁶ As for MSDF’s ship flag, see the MOD website (<https://www.mod.go.jp/j/publication/net/shiritai/flag/index.html>)

⁷ Article 102 of the SDF Law prescribes that SDF ships should display an SDF ship flag. Moreover, Article 15 of the MSDF Flag Insignia Regulation prescribes that SDF ships should display an SDF ship flag at their stern.

⁸ See Chapter 1, Section 2-1 for the incident of an ROK naval vessel directing its fire-control radar at MSDF patrol aircraft.

Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA). Considering more severe circumstances surrounding Japan, such as repeated missile launches by North Korea, cooperation between Japan and the ROK, and between Japan, the United States and the ROK is important. Nevertheless, the Government of the ROK made such a decision, and regarding this, Minister of Defense stated that he “can’t help but feel disappointed, and it is extremely regrettable.” He also said that regarding issues that call for cooperation, including North Korea issues, Japan strongly urges the ROK side to wisely respond to secure appropriate cooperation between Japan and the ROK, and between Japan, the United States and the ROK, even after this decision.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

a. Overview

Since 2015, Japan’s defense cooperation and exchanges with the ROK have been implemented at various levels, including ministerial and other high levels and unit levels.

In October 2018, Minister of Defense Iwaya met ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo at the fifth ADMM-Plus. In this meeting, they agreed to together collaborate with the United States and the international community according to the UN Security Council Resolutions in order to pullout further actions from North Korea.

b. Japan-ROK General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

Based on the Trilateral Information Sharing Arrangement Concerning the Nuclear and Missile Threats Posed by North Korea signed in December 2014, the defense authorities in Japan and the ROK have exchanged and shared classified information regarding North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missiles via the United States. In light of the increasingly serious situation surrounding North Korea with its frequently repeated ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests, in November 2016, the GSOMIA was concluded between Japan and the ROK to further promote bilateral cooperation. This agreement serves as a framework to appropriately protect classified information shared between the Japanese and ROK governments.

However, in August 2019, the Government of the ROK notified the Government of Japan of its intention to terminate the GSOMIA in writing.⁹

Exchanges [Past Three Years]

(3) Japan-U.S.-ROK Cooperative Relationship

Since Japan, the United States, and the ROK share common interests pertaining to the peace and stability of this region, it is important for the three countries to seize opportunities to promote close cooperation in addressing various security issues, including those regarding North Korea.

Japan, the United States, and the ROK have conducted a Trilateral Defense Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue. In June 2019, Defense Minister Iwaya, ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo, and U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan convened the Trilateral Defense Ministerial Meeting. The three Ministers recognized the international community’s shared goal of North Korea’s full compliance with its international obligations in accordance with all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, which call for North Korea’s complete denuclearization in a verifiable and irreversible manner. They underscored commitment to cooperation and coordination with the international community for fully implementing UN Security Council Resolutions, including sustained international cooperation to deter, disrupt, and ultimately eliminate North Korea’s illicit ship-to-ship transfers. Regarding regional security issues, the Ministers reaffirmed that freedom of navigation and overflight must be ensured, and that all disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner in accordance with the principles of international law. Based on this view, they shared the recognition of strengthening security cooperation between Japan, the United States and the ROK.

At the working level, the three countries have coordinated with each other while closely sharing information through such opportunities as Director-General and Director level meetings, video conferences, and chief-of-staff level meetings based on the framework of the Japan-U.S.-ROK Defense Trilateral Talks (DTT).

In May 2019, a Director-General-level plenary session was held in Seoul. The three representatives engaged in consultations on regional security issues including North Korea. They committed to further trilateral security cooperation and affirmed that they will promote information sharing, high-level policy consultations, and combined exercises.

At the chief of staff level, the Chief of Joint Staff visited the United States in October 2018 to participate in the Japan-

 See Reference 42 (Recent Japan-ROK Defense Cooperation and

⁹ The provision of the GSOMIA on termination of the agreement is as follows:

ARTICLE 21 ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION (excerpt)

3. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of one year and shall be automatically extended annually thereafter unless either Party notifies the other in writing through the diplomatic channel ninety days in advance of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

VOICE**Progress in Japan-U.K. Defense Cooperation – Participating in an Exercise with British Army**

First Lieutenant Nobuaki Fujiwara, Leader of Scouting Team, Reconnaissance School Unit of Fuji School Brigade (Oyama Town, Suntou County, Shizuoka Prefecture)

As the leader of a scouting team of the GSDF Reconnaissance School Unit, I participated in Vigilant Isles, the first field training with the British Army carried out on Japanese soil, from late September to early October 2018. The exercise was divided into two parts: training by function to improve the tactical techniques of individual members, and comprehensive training to carry out reconnaissance activities under specific conditions during about six days, joint guided fire power, and other activities. The first part was implemented at GSDF Fuji School (Shizuoka Prefecture) and North Fuji Maneuver Area (Yamanashi Prefecture), while the comprehensive training was conducted in Ojihara Maneuver Area (Miyagi Prefecture). The exercise was highly visibly reported in the media both in Japan and abroad.

Because this was the first bilateral exercise with a foreign army other than the United States on Japanese soil and also because I was not familiar with exercises with foreign forces, I had difficulty with the arrangement of the daily exercise. However, we completed the exercise successfully thanks to flexible responses by the members of the British Army.

During the exercise, we conducted various exercises, including infiltration into objective areas, reconnaissance/surveillance, and joint guided fire power. These were very fruitful exercises where we learned many things. At the final stage of the exercise, Japanese and British participants opened up to one another. After completing the exercise, we exchanged personal items to commemorate our friendship and communicated with each other using gestures. It was a very impressive exercise.

I will continue to make efforts to improve the skills of our unit by utilizing what I learned through the exercise.



GSDF personnel (right) and British Army personnel (left) before infiltration



GSDF (left) and British Army (right) boarding a transport helicopter

U.S.-ROK chiefs of staff meeting. At this meeting, the Chief of Joint Staff, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford, and ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Park Han-ki discussed trilateral defense cooperation from the viewpoint of promoting the peace and stability of Northeast Asia.

The Japan-U.S.-ROK cooperative relationship has been transforming into a more substantive relationship. The three countries need to enhance their security cooperation in various areas into the future, taking advantage of various available opportunities.

5**European Countries, Canada, and New Zealand**

European countries, Canada, and New Zealand share universal values with Japan and play a central role in initiatives to address common challenges to global security, with a primary focus on non-traditional security areas, such as

counter-terrorism and combating illicit ship-to-ship transfers, as well as international peace cooperation activities. In this regard, promoting defense cooperation and exchanges with these countries provides the foundations for Japan to become actively involved in dealing with these challenges and is important for all of Japan, European countries, Canada, and New Zealand.



Reference 43 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with European Countries, Canada and New Zealand [Past Three Years])

(1) The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, being a major power that has influence not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world, has historically maintained close relations with Japan. On the security front, Japan shares the same strategic interests as the United Kingdom, as both countries are important

allies of the United States. Given this relationship, it is extremely important for Japan to promote cooperation with the United Kingdom by working together on global issues, such as international peace cooperation activities, counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations and by exchanging information on regional situations.

With regard to Japan's relationship with the United Kingdom, the Memorandum on Defence Cooperation was signed in June 2012. Following this, Agreement on the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology came into effect in July 2013 and the Japan-U.K. Information Security Agreement entered into force in January 2014, leading to the development of a foundation for defense equipment and technology cooperation as well as information sharing between the two countries.

At the Japan-U.K. Summit Meeting in May 2014, prime ministers of both countries agreed to hold a Japan-U.K. "2+2" Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting and begin negotiations on the ACSA in order to enhance bilateral cooperation in the security field. Following this, the first Japan-U.K. "2+2" Meeting was held in January 2015. During the second Japan-U.K. "2+2" Meeting in January 2016, the two countries agreed to promote joint exercises, cooperate in the defense equipment and technology areas and in capacity building assistance for Southeast Asian countries, and confirmed that they would aim to conclude an ACSA as early as possible. In January 2017, the Japan-U.K. ACSA¹⁰ was signed. After the approval by Japan's National Diet in April 2017, the ACSA entered into force in August. At the same time, relevant domestic laws were developed.

The effectuation of the Japan-U.K. ACSA enables the two countries to implement the mutual provision of goods and services, such as water, food, fuel and transportation, between the SDF and the British Armed Forces through unified procedures in joint exercises and large-scale disaster relief operations, further facilitating and strengthening the Japan-U.K. strategic partnership. The Japan-U.K. Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, issued during the Japan-U.K. Summit Meeting in August 2017, stipulated that the two countries agreed to develop an action plan with specific measures relating to bilateral security cooperation between the relevant authorities. At the Japan-U.K. Summit Meeting in January 2019, the leaders reaffirmed the above Declaration and confirmed that the bilateral relationship had entered the next phase. At the third Japan-U.K. "2+2" Meeting in December 2017, the two countries issued a joint statement, which referred to bilateral exercises between the

GSDF and the British Army, British naval ships' deployment to the Indo-Pacific region and joint exercises with the SDF, and progress of the joint research on new air-to-air missiles, demonstrating that bilateral security cooperation was steadily deepening.

At the working level, U.K. Minister of State for Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords the Rt Hon. Frederick Curzon visited Japan and paid a courtesy call to Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Fukuda in September 2018.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the GSDF and the British Army held the first bilateral exercise between the army branch in Japan, Vigilant Isles, in September 2018 to improve their tactical skills and bilateral coordination. The MSDF engaged in a bilateral exercise with the Royal Navy's amphibious ship HMS Albion in the waters south of the main island of Japan in August 2018, and another bilateral exercise with the Royal Navy's frigate HMS Argyll in the waters and airspace west of Sumatra in September 2018. In December 2018, a Japan-US-UK trilateral exercise was held with the participation of the Royal Navy's frigate HMS Argyll and the MSDF destroyer JS "Izumo," and in March 2019, another trilateral exercise was held with the participation of the Royal Navy's frigate HMS Montrose and MSDF Destroyer JS "Murasame". The ASDF transport aircraft C-2 joined the airshow RIAT (Royal International Air Tattoo) held in the United Kingdom in July 2018.

(2) France

France is a major power that has influence not only in Europe and Africa, but also around the world. Having its overseas territories across the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, France is the only European country that maintains a constant military presence in the Indo-Pacific region. It also historically has had a close relationship with Japan and is positioned as Japan's special partner.

The first Japan-France "2+2" Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting was held in Paris in January 2014, followed by the visit of French Minister of Defense Le Drian to Japan in July of the same year when the Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges was signed. The second Japan-France "2+2" Meeting was held in Tokyo in March 2015, the third Meeting in Paris in January 2017, and the fourth Meeting in Tokyo in January 2018. At these meetings, Japan and France discussed issues including the following: international terrorism, maritime security, defense equipment and technology cooperation, ACSA, joint

¹⁰ The ACSA applies to the following activities: (1) joint exercises; (2) UN PKO; (3) internationally coordinated peace and security operations; (4) humanitarian international relief operations; (5) operations to cope with large-scale disasters; (6) protection measures for or transportation of nationals of either party or others for their evacuation from overseas; (7) communication and coordination or other routine activities; and (8) any other activity in which the provision of supplies and services is permitted under the laws and regulations of the respective countries.



ASDF personnel participating in a parade celebrating Bastille Day and marching on the Champs-Élysées (July 2018)

exercises, cooperation in the space domain, and collaboration in capacity building assistance in developing countries. Following these meetings, Japan and France signed the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology in March 2015. In March 2017, the second meeting of the Japan-France Comprehensive Dialogue on Space was held. In the meeting, Japan and France signed the “technical arrangement concerning information sharing regarding the Space Situational Awareness (SSA) between the relevant authority in Japan and the Minister of Defense of the French Republic” in order to strengthen the Japan-France SSA cooperation, agreeing to promote bilateral cooperation in a concrete manner. In July 2018, the Japan-France ACSA was signed. After the approval by Japan’s National Diet in May 2019, the ACSA entered into force in June.

At the fifth Japan-France “2+2” Meeting and the Defense Ministerial Meeting held in Brest, France, in January 2019, the two countries—both as maritime nations and Pacific nations—decided to establish the Japan-France Comprehensive Maritime Dialogue in order to promote specific cooperative measures, especially to materialize cooperation in the maritime field, for the purpose of maintaining and reinforcing the free and open Indo-Pacific. They also welcomed the commencement of the cooperative research on The Feasibility Study For Mine Countermeasure Technological Activities, and agreed to promote joint exercises involving French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, deployed in the Indian Ocean, and to collaborate in capacity building assistance programs for Southeast Asian countries and the Pacific Island countries. Japan and France also agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the cybersecurity and space fields through the Japan-France Bilateral Consultations on Cybersecurity and the Japan-France Comprehensive Dialogue on Space. Furthermore, Japan highly appreciated France’s decision to dispatch ships and aircraft in the first half of the year to patrol and monitor illegal maritime activities, including illicit ship-to-ship transfers. The two countries confirmed that they would

continue their close cooperation.

As for recent service-to-service exchanges, the SDF has participated in the Equateur HA/DR exercises hosted by the French Armed forces stationed in New Caledonia since 2014. In August 2018, an MSDF training squadron conducted a goodwill training with French AOR Somme. In September 2018, the Naval Chiefs of Staff of the two countries signed the Strategic Orientation agreeing to strengthen bilateral cooperation not only in the Pacific region, but also in the Indian Ocean. In April 2019, MSDF Destroyer JS “Kirisame” and French frigate Vendémiaire conducted a bilateral exercise. In May of the same year, Destroyer JS “Izumo,” French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, and other ships conducted a Japan-France-Australia-U.S. multilateral exercise in the Indian Ocean.

Seven GSDF personnel were invited to join the Bastille Day military parade in Paris in July 2018, which was also attended by President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron and Minister for Foreign Affairs Kono, highlighting the close relationship between Japan and France. In April 2019, Jean-Pierre Bossier, Chief of Staff of the French Army visited Japan. He held consultations with the GSDF Chief of Staff and paid a courtesy call to Defense Minister Iwaya and the Chief of Staff of the SDF Joint Staff. Showing strong interest in Japan’s defense of remote islands, he also inspected the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade, which was newly established in March 2018.

(3) Canada

Between Japan and Canada, high-level exchanges, talks between defense authorities, and other exchanges have been conducted, with the Japan-Canada ACSA signed in April 2018, and entering into force in July 2019 after gaining approval by Japan’s National Diet in May 2019. At the fourth Japan-Canada Foreign and Defense Vice-Ministerial meeting held in December 2018, the two countries agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

In June 2019, which marked the 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations, Defense Minister Iwaya held the first Japan-Canada Defense Ministerial Meeting in three years with Canadian Minister for National Defence Harjit Sajjan. At the meeting, the Ministers welcomed the deepening of the two countries’ relationship, including the signing of the Japan-Canada ACSA and cooperation in surveillance activities against illicit ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea. They agreed that in particular, the MSDF and the Canadian Navy will take various opportunities to conduct joint training. They also agreed to work out the specifics of cooperation in the field of peacekeeping. The Ministers also exchanged views on the regional situation, including issues



KAEDDEX 2018, a Japan-Canada bilateral exercise conducted in waters off the west coast of Kyushu (from front, an MSDF destroyer, Canadian Navy frigate and Canadian Navy supply ship) (November 2018)

related to the Korean Peninsula and the East and South China Seas. After the meeting, the Ministers announced a joint statement that serves as a concrete guideline for the promotion of future defense cooperation. This was the first such joint statement to be issued by the defense authorities of Japan and Canada.

As for recent service-to-service exchanges, the Royal Canadian Navy ships Calgary and Asterix visited Japan and conducted bilateral exercises including “KAEDDEX,” in November 2018. In August 2018, a four-country exercise was held with the above two Canadian ships, a Royal Australian Navy ship, and a Royal New Zealand Navy ship in the waters from Guam to Darwin, Australia. In June 2019, a Japan-Canada bilateral exercise “KAEDDEX” was conducted with the Canadian Navy ships Regina and Asterix. In July 2018, the ASDF transport aircraft C-2 stopped by the Canadian Forces Base Greenwood to hold a unit-to-unit exchange when it joined the RIAT in the United Kingdom.

(4) New Zealand

In relation to New Zealand, a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges was signed in August 2013. During a Summit Meeting in July 2014, the two countries agreed to conduct studies on an ACSA.

In June 2019, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Suzuki visited New Zealand and paid a courtesy call to Defence Minister Ron Mark. They exchanged opinions on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, such as the strengthening of collaboration concerning Pacific Island countries, defense equipment cooperation, and the defense policies of both countries. They also shared recognitions on regional situations. Concerning warning and surveillance activities against illicit ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea, Vice-Minister of Defense Suzuki expressed appreciation for the dispatch of New Zealand’s patrol aircraft last year, and both sides agreed to continue to work together.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the Chief of Joint



Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Suzuki visiting New Zealand and observing P-3K2 patrol aircraft (the same type of aircraft as dispatched for warning and surveillance activities against ship-to-ship transfer last year) (June 2019)

Staff made an official visit to New Zealand in February 2019. In this meeting, it was agreed that the two countries would further promote bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. In August 2018, a four-country exercise was held with a Royal New Zealand Navy ship, two Canadian Navy ships, and a Royal Australian Navy ship.

(5) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

When Prime Minister Abe visited Europe in May 2014, he held a meeting with then NATO Secretary General Rasmussen at NATO Headquarters and signed the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP) (revised in May 2018). Based on the IPCP, female GSDF personnel were dispatched to NATO Headquarters for the first time in December 2014 as part of the Japan-NATO cooperation in the field of women, peace and security. Furthermore, the MOD/SDF has participated in the annual meeting of the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP) since 2015.

In July 2018, the Mission of Japan to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was established as an additional role of the Embassy of Japan in Belgium.

In September 2018, then Minister of Defense Onodera visited the Allied Joint Force Command Naples for an opinion exchange with James G. Foggo III. They welcomed the recent development of the Japan-NATO relationship especially in the cybersecurity, and agreed to further deepen their cooperation in various fields.

(6) Other European Countries

With Germany, Japan signed the agreement on defense equipment and technology transfer in July 2017. In the same month, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited Germany for the first Japan-Germany defense vice-ministerial strategic dialogue, indicating progress in high-level and other bilateral exchanges.

In February 2019, Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel visited Japan for the Japan-Germany Summit Meeting. In

this meeting, the two leaders welcomed that the negotiations concluded an agreement in principle, and affirmed that they would seize this opportunity to promote bilateral security and defense cooperation.

Japan and Italy have been promoting institutional development for facilitating defense cooperation and exchanges, including the entry into force of the Japan-Italy Information Security Agreement in June 2016 and the signing of the Agreement on the Transfer of the Defense Equipment and Technology in May 2017 (which came into force in April 2019). In September 2018, then Minister of Defense Onodera visited Italy for a bilateral Defense Ministerial Meeting with the Italian Minister of Defense Elisabetta Trenta. In the meeting, the two Ministers agreed to further strengthen bilateral coordination in maritime security.

Spanish Defense Minister De Cospedal visited Japan in January 2018 for a Japan-Spain defense ministerial meeting, where the Japanese and Spanish ministers agreed to further enhance the relationship between the two countries' defense authorities based on the memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges signed in November 2014.

The then Netherlands' Minister of Defense Hennis-Plasschaert visited Japan in December 2016 for a Japan-Netherlands defense ministerial meeting, where the two ministers signed a memorandum regarding defense cooperation and exchanges. In September 2018, then Minister of Defense Onodera visited the Netherlands for the Japan-Netherlands Defense Ministerial Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands Carola Schouten. In the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged opinions on cooperation under the frameworks of the NATO and the European Union (EU). In addition, then Minister of Defense Onodera explained the situation of the illicit ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea and stressed the importance of implementing strict sanctions on these illicit practices under the UN Security Council Resolutions. It was agreed that the Netherlands would work closely with Japan regarding this matter, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and the chair of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea.

In September 2018, Estonian Minister of Defense Jüri Luik visited Japan for the bilateral Defense Ministerial Meeting. Based on what was discussed during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Estonia in January 2018, Japan and Estonia agreed to deepen cooperation in cybersecurity through bilateral and multilateral efforts, which includes the dispatch of the Japanese MOD officials to the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE).

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Anatolii Petrenko visited Japan in October 2018. During this visit, a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges was

signed and the Japan-Ukraine Security Meeting was held.

In February 2019, Finnish Minister of Defense Jussi Niinistö visited Japan. During this visit, a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges was signed and the Japan-Finland Defense Ministerial Meeting was held. The two countries agreed to further deepen bilateral defense cooperation in various fields, building upon the recent development of bilateral defense exchanges. In October 2018, the Chief of Joint Staff visited Finland and paid courtesy calls to President Sauli Niinistö and Minister of Defense Jussi Niinistö. He also met Chief of Defence Jarmo Lindberg and exchanged opinions on defense cooperation and exchange programs, strengthening mutual understanding and trust.

6 China

(1) Significance of Defense Exchanges and Cooperation with China

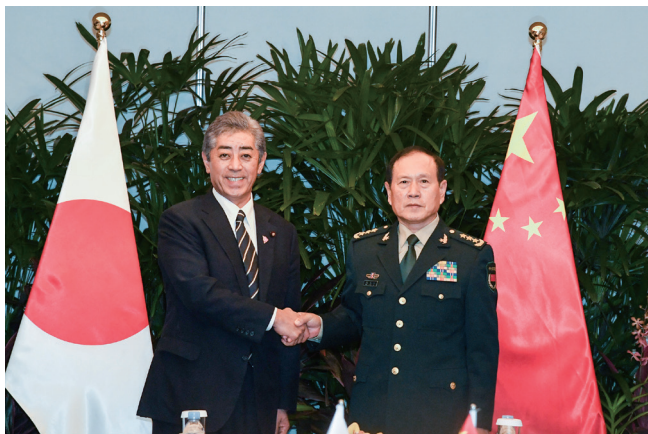
A stable relation between Japan and China is an essential factor for the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. From broad and medium- to long-term perspectives, it is necessary for both countries to strive to build and enhance the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests with China" in all areas, including security.

In the security field, in order to enhance mutual understanding and trust, Japan will promote multi-layered dialogues and exchanges with China. In doing so, Japan will continue to encourage China to play a responsible, constructive role for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, comply with international norms of conduct, and improve transparency regarding military capability enhancement in the context of its rapidly increasing defense budget. Moreover, in order to avoid unexpected situations, Japan will utilize the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Defense Authorities of Japan and China in a manner that contributes to building a trusting relationship between the two countries.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Exchanges

Japan-China defense exchanges stagnated following the Japanese government's acquisition of ownership of the three Senkaku Islands (Uotsurijima Island, Kitakojima Island, and Minamikojima Island) in September 2012, but have gradually resumed since the latter half of 2014.

In November 2015, Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting was held for the first time in four years and five months on the margins of the ADMM-Plus meeting. Then Japanese Defense Minister Nakatani and Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan shared the recognition that it



Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe and Japanese Defense Minister Iwaya at Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting held on the margins of the ADMM-Plus meeting (October 2018)

would be important for Japan and China to develop their defense exchanges.

During the ADMM-Plus in October 2018, Minister of Defense Iwaya and Minister of National Defense Wei Fenghe held the first Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting in three years. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, the two Ministers agreed during this Meeting that Japan and China would restore bilateral defense exchanges and implement various high-level exchanges, policy dialogues, unit-to-unit exchanges, and exchanges in the disaster prevention field, while also working towards an early establishment of a hotline for the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Defense Authorities of Japan and China. In June 2019, the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting was held on the occasion of the Shangri-La Dialogue. At the meeting, the Ministers confirmed that communication was becoming closer at the ministerial level. Moreover, they shared the recognition of the importance to realize mutual visits between the Japanese and Chinese Defense Ministers as soon as possible, as agreed in the Japan-China summit meeting last year. They agreed to realize Minister Iwaya's visit to China at the earliest possible timing.

In March 2015, the 13th Japan-China Security Dialogue took place in Tokyo, with the two countries' diplomatic and defense authorities participating. It was the first such meeting in four years. This Dialogue has been held almost every year since then. In addition, the Japanese and Chinese defense authorities have also participated in the Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs. The eleventh consultation was held in Hokkaido in May 2019.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the delegate of the Eastern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army, led by its deputy commander (lieutenant general), visited Japan, toured the Ichigaya District and met various units of

the GSDF, ASDF, and MSDF in November 2018 to develop mutual understanding and trust.

In April 2019, Destroyer JS "Suzutsuki" visited China, as the first MSDF ship to do so in about seven and a half years, and participated in the International Fleet Review held by China to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy. In addition, the MSDF Chief of Staff, who visited China for the first time in about five and a half years, attended a high-level symposium held on the sideline of the Fleet Review. The MSDF Chief of Staff introduced the importance of free and open seas as common goods and promoted defense exchange through exchange of opinions with senior naval officials of participating countries including China.

In 2018, the Japan-China field-grade officer exchange program hosted by Japan's Sasakawa Peace Foundation was held for the first time in six years. In April 2018, the Chinese delegate consisting of field-grade officers of the People's Liberation Army visited Japan and paid a courtesy call to then Minister of Defense Onodera. In addition, the Japanese delegate consisting of field-grade officers of the SDF visited China in September 2018 and April 2019 to pay courtesy calls to important persons and toured the facilities of the People's Liberation Army.

In efforts to build a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests," Japan and China must strive to promote confidential relations and mutual understanding through dialogue at various levels in various areas and must proactively step up concrete cooperation in non-traditional security areas, such as counter-piracy measures.

(3) "Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Defense Authorities of Japan and China"

At Japan-China Summit Meetings in January and April 2007, then Japanese Prime Minister Abe and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao agreed to develop a mechanism for communications, particularly maritime communications, between the two countries' defense authorities. Based on the agreement, their defense authorities held the first Joint Working Group Meeting on the mechanism in April 2008 and accumulated talks. From the fourth Joint Working Group Meeting in January 2015, diplomatic authorities of both countries joined the negotiations.

After the eighth meeting of the Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs in December 2017 and the seventh Joint Working Group Meeting in April 2018, Japanese and Chinese defense authorities signed the

memorandum¹¹ on the mechanism in the presence of Japanese Prime Minister Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on the occasion of the Japan-China Summit Meeting in Tokyo in May 2018, and the operation of this mechanism commenced on June 8, 2018.

The “Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Defense Authorities of Japan and China” has been developed (1) to promote mutual understanding and confidence between Japan and China and to enhance bilateral defense cooperation; (2) to avoid unexpected collisions; and (3) to prevent unforeseen circumstances in the sea and air from developing into military clashes or political or diplomatic issues. The mechanism’s main components include (1) annual and expert meetings between the two countries’ defense authorities; (2) a hotline between Japanese and Chinese defense authorities; and (3) on scene communication measures between vessels and aircraft of the SDF and the People’s Liberation Army.

In December 2018, the Japanese and Chinese defense authorities held annual and expert meetings on the above Mechanism in Beijing, in which the leaders confirmed that the Mechanism has been effectively utilized since its launching and agreed to continue to use it in a way that contributes to building a trusting relationship. They also agreed to accelerate the preparation process of the hotline for its early establishment.

Q See Reference 44 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with China [Past Three Years])

7 Russia

(1) Significance of Defense Exchanges and Cooperation with Russia

Given that Russia is a key security player in the Indo-Pacific region and an important country neighboring Japan, it is very important for Japan to promote confidential relations with Russia through bilateral defense exchanges. As Japan-Russia relations have continuously been developing in a wide range of areas, the MOD/SDF has continuously conducted Japan-Russia “2+2” Meetings and various dialogues with Russian defense authorities according to the Memorandum on Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges signed in 1999 (revised in 2006), annual meetings based on the Japan-Russia Agreement on Prevention of Incidents on and over the High Seas,¹² and joint search and rescue exercises.

The Government of Japan deals with the relationships with Russia appropriately while emphasizing the solidarity



GSDF Chief of Staff Yuasa holding a meeting with Russian Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces (May 2019)

of the G7 (Group of Seven), taking the Ukrainian situation and other factors into account. At the same time, it is important to maintain constant contacts with Russia, as one of Japan’s neighbors, at the working level to avoid unforeseen circumstances or unnecessary conflicts. The MOD considers these points in a comprehensive manner and advances defense exchanges with Russia accordingly.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Exchanges

At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in April 2013, the two leaders affirmed the importance of expanding cooperation between Japan and Russia in the field of security and defense and agreed to set up the Japan-Russia “2+2” Meeting, where the two countries’ defense and foreign ministers participate. At the first Japan-Russia “2+2” Meeting in November 2013, the two countries agreed to conduct service-to-service unit exchanges between army branches and the mutual dispatch of exercise observers on a regular basis, and bilateral exercises of counter-piracy units of the MSDF and Russian Navy in the Gulf of Aden, as well as the regular Japan-Russia Cyber Security Meeting.

At the second Japan-Russia “2+2” Meeting in March 2017, the two countries exchanged opinions regarding the regional situations among others. Concerning the activities of the Russian Armed Forces, the Japanese side protested against enhancing armaments, including the deployment of surface to ship missiles on the Northern Territories and the deployment of divisions on islands that may contain the Four Northern Islands. Japan expressed regret that these activities conflicted with Japan’s stance that the Northern territory is an inherent part of the territory of Japan.

In July 2018, then Minister of Defense Onodera became the first Japanese Minister of Defense to pay a visit to Russia. He joined the Japan-Russia “2+2” Meeting and the

¹¹ Official title: Memorandum on the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Japanese Ministry of Defense and the Chinese Ministry of Defense

¹² Official title: Japan-Russia Agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea beyond territorial waters and the air space above them

Defense Ministerial Meeting. In these meetings, Japan and Russia agreed on promoting bilateral defense exchanges, including the Chief of Joint Staff's visit to Russia and mutual visits of naval ships, as well as on cooperation towards the denuclearization of North Korea, which has been a shared goal for the two countries.

In May 2019, the Japan-Russia Defense Ministerial Meeting and the fourth Japan-Russia "2+2" Meeting were held in Tokyo. Regarding defense exchange, the Ministers agreed on the first participation by the GSDF Central Band in an international military music festival in Russia to be held in the summer of 2019. Regarding defense policy, the Japanese side explained that Japan's Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system is a purely defensive one that does not pose a threat to Russia.

In part of recent major Japan-Russia military exchanges, the Chief of Joint Staff visited Russia in October 2018 based on the agreement in the above Defense Ministerial Meeting. He met Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoygu and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov to enhance mutual understanding, defense cooperation, and trust between the two countries. In May 2019, when the GSDF Chief of Staff visited Russia, he held a meeting with Oleg Salyukov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Land



Then GSDF Chief of Staff Yamazaki visiting Papua New Guinea and attending the performance by the military band of the Papua New Guinea Defense Force with Major General Toropo, Chief of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (right) (March 2019)

Forces, and paid a courtesy call to Valery Gerasimov, the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. Through his visit to Russia, which was the first time in four years for the GSDF Chief of Staff, the mutual understanding and relationship of trust between the GSDF and the Russian Land Forces deepened.

As for exercises and drills, the first counter-piracy exercise was held with the Russian Navy ships in the Gulf of Aden in November 2018. In addition, the MSDF and the



Transportation of Donated Goods to the Republic of the Marshall Islands

In December 2018, taking the opportunity of an exercise implemented on the Continental United States, the 401st Tactical Airlift Squadron of the 1st Tactical Airlift Wing (Komaki Air Base, Aichi Prefecture) stopped on route at the Republic of the Marshall Islands. C-130H transport aircraft delivered goods including wheelchairs, stationery and sports equipment, etc. donated by public interest incorporated foundations in Japan for the people of the Marshall Islands based on a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The wheelchairs transported by ASDF had been used at Japanese homes and repaired for recycling by Japanese technical high school students. This was the first aerial transportation of donated goods through the inter-ministerial cooperation framework, taking the opportunity of an ASDF exercise.

President Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands attended the handing-over ceremony. The ceremony included Kagami Biraki using Japanese sake presented by MOD/SDF volunteers and was held in a friendly atmosphere from start to finish. The year 2018 commemorated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. We believe that we were able to contribute to further deepening of the friendly relationship between the two countries.



Kagami Biraki with President Heine (third from right)



Donated goods (wheelchair)



Man using a donated wheelchair

Russian Navy conducted the 19th search and rescue exercise in the Sea of Japan in June 2019.

Q See Reference 45 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Russia [Past Three Years])

8 Pacific Island Countries

Q See Reference 46 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries [Past Three Years])

The Pacific Island countries are important countries that share the importance of a free, open, and sustainable maritime order based on the rule of law as maritime nations, as well as bear strong historical relationships with Japan. At the eighth Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in 2018, Japan expressed its intention to strengthen its commitment to the stability and prosperity of the region. In addition, the NDPG published in the same year referred for the first time to Japan's intention to promote cooperation and exchanges with the Pacific Island countries.

Since 2015, Japan has cooperated and strengthened the bilateral relationship with Papua New Guinea with regard to establishing and training a military band through a capacity building assistance program. After about three years and five months of training, the band gave an excellent performance of the tunes Port Moresby and Kimigayo on the occasion of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in front of the national leaders in November 2018. When the GSDF Chief of Staff visited Papua New Guinea for the first time in March 2019, Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Gilbert Toropo expressed his appreciation for the capacity building assistance Japan had provided. The two leaders shared the view that they continue to promote defense cooperation and exchanges into the future. In September 2018, MSDF Destroyer JS "Sazanami" called at Port Moresby and held various goodwill events.

In November 2018, three officers of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) were invited to Japan to participate in a capacity building assistance program through observing the disaster relief exercise called Michinoku ALERT 2018 and visiting the GSDF Engineer School. They exchanged with the MOD opinions on how to improve disaster response capabilities of the RFMF (three Papua New Guinea Defence Force officers also participated in this training).

In addition to these efforts, the MSDF and ASDF have strengthened Japan's relationships with the Pacific Island countries by calling at ports and airports.

Since 2015, Japan has participated in the Japan-U.S.-Australia joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise Christmas Drop. In the airdrop exercises, Japan has

also dropped various donations to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

As part of the Pacific Partnership 2016 led by the United States Pacific Fleet, MSDF transport ship "Shimokita" called at Palau to conduct medical and facility maintenance activities and cultural exchanges. These activities in Palau were the first activities under the Pacific Partnership that were led by Japan from planning to implementation.

Moreover, in December 2018, as a collaborative effort by the MOD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ASDF transport aircraft C-130H called at Marshall Islands International Airport on the sidelines of an exercise in the United States. The aircraft carried donations to the Marshall Islands, including wheelchairs and sports goods donated by Japanese public interest incorporated foundations. The wheelchairs had long been used in Japan and were repaired and maintained by Japanese technical high school students.

In March 2019, C-2 called at Fiji on the way back from the Australian International Airshow and held various exchange programs.

9 Other Countries

Q See Reference 46 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries [Past Three Years])

(1) Middle Eastern Countries

Japan's Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense signed a Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges with Turkey's Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Defense Ümit Dündar in July 2012 during their talk. In March 2013, then Minister of National Defense Yilmaz visited Japan for a Japan-Turkey Defense Ministerial Meeting. At this meeting, the ministers of the two countries agreed to hold a meeting between their defense authorities at the earliest possible date and promote a variety of defense exchanges. In June 2019, Commander of the Turkish Land Forces General Ümit Dündar visited Japan, held a meeting with the GSDF Chief of Staff, and paid a courtesy call to State-Minister of Defense of Japan. During the meeting, both sides agreed that it is important for Japan and Turkey to deepen their defense cooperation and exchanges for the peace and stability of the international community.

Between Japan and Jordan, a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges was signed when Jordanian King Abdullah II visited Japan in October 2016. In November 2018, the King visited Japan and welcomed the steady progress concerning the defense authorities meetings and unit-to-unit exchanges during Minister of Defense Iwaya's

courtesy visit to him and during his visit to the GSDF units of Camp Narashino.

Prime Minister Abe visited Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar in August 2013 and shared the view with the leaders of the countries on the need for promoting security and defense cooperation. In addition, Japan signed a memorandum on defense exchanges with Bahrain in April 2012, with Qatar in February 2015, and with Saudi Arabia in September 2016. In May 2019, Qatari Minister of State for Defense Khalid Al-Attiyah visited Japan and held the first Japan-Qatar Defense Ministerial Meeting with Defense Minister Iwaya, and they agreed that Japan and Qatar will engage in defense exchange in a broader range of fields.

Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have promoted deeper bilateral defense exchanges. The two countries signed a memorandum on defense exchanges in May 2018, and held a meeting between defense authorities in December 2018. In addition, in June 2019, the Chief of Joint Staff made an official visit to the UAE as the first Chief of Joint Staff of Japan, and paid a courtesy call to Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. He also held a meeting with Lieutenant General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, and agreed to promote defense cooperation and exchanges in a broad range of fields.

Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said in January 2014 and they agreed to enhance cooperation and promote defense exchanges in the field of maritime security, including counter-piracy measures to ensure the security and safety of sea-lanes. In March 2019, Minister Responsible for Defense Affairs Sayyid Badr visited Japan and met Minister of Defense Iwaya and signed a memorandum on defense exchanges.

Japan and Israel held the first foreign and defense authorities' meeting in October 2018. This was held in accordance with the agreement reached during Prime Minister

Abe's visit to Israel in May 2018. In the first meeting, the leaders exchanged opinions on a wide range of topics, from regional situations to security issues. In November 2018, the fourth Dialogue on Cyber Issues between Japan and Israel was held. In addition, in June 2019, the Chief of Joint Staff made an official visit to Israel as the first Chief of Joint Staff of Japan. He held a meeting with Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi, Chief of the General Staff, Israel Defense Forces, and agreed to promote defense cooperation and exchanges in a broad range of fields. Through these efforts, Japan and Israel have strengthened their relationship in the security field.

Then State Minister of Defense Yamamoto visited Egypt in September 2017, marking the first high-level visit from the Japanese MOD. Moreover, in June 2019, the Chief of Joint Staff visited the country, and held a meeting with Lieutenant General Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud Hegazy, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

(2) African Countries

With Djibouti, the only country where an overseas SDF base is located, the MOD/SDF has been cooperating in counter-piracy operations. The base was used for transporting goods to the unit sent to the UNMISS. In addition, the base was used in October 2018, when Japan conducted a training exercise on the operation of heavy equipment as part of its capacity building assistance for Djibouti. Japan will work on the stable, long-term use of this base for security cooperation in the Middle East and Africa.

(3) South American Countries

In December 2016, Japan and Colombia signed a memorandum on defense exchanges.

From April to May 2018, then State Minister of Defense Yamamoto visited Brazil for talks with then Brazilian Defense Minister Silva e Luna.

3 Promotion of Multilateral Security Cooperation

1 Multilateral Security Framework and Dialogue Initiatives

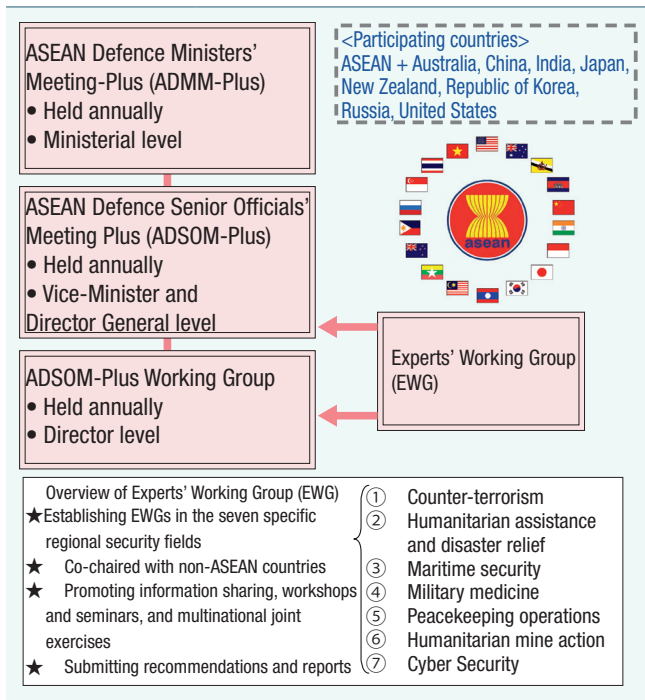
Multilateral framework initiatives, such as the ADMM-Plus and the ARF,¹³ a security cooperation framework in the Asia-Pacific region, have made steady progress and served

as an important foundation for discussion and cooperation and exchange in the security field. Japan attaches importance to such multilateral frameworks and intends to work to strengthen cooperation and mutual confidence with countries in the region. Moreover, Japan has contributed to

¹³ The ARF, a forum aimed at improving the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region through dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues, has been held since 1994. The ARF currently comprises 26 countries and one organization as members and holds various inter-governmental meetings that are attended by both foreign affairs and defense officials to exchange opinions on the regional situation and the security area. The 26 countries are the 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia (since 1995) and Myanmar (since 1996)), Japan, Australia, Canada, China and India (since 1996), New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the ROK, Russia, the United States and Mongolia (since 1998), North Korea (since 2000), Pakistan (since 2004), Timor-Leste (since 2005), Bangladesh (since 2006), and Sri Lanka (since 2007). The organization member is the EU.

Fig. III-3-1-5

Organizational Chart and Overview of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)



the enhancement of multilateral cooperation in the region by holding the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum and the Tokyo Defense Forum annually.

Q See Reference 47 (Record of Multinational Security Dialogues [Indo-Pacific Region; Past Three Years])
 Reference 48 (Multilateral Security Dialogues Hosted by the Ministry of Defense)
 Reference 49 (Other Multilateral Security Dialogues)

(1) Initiatives under the ADMM-Plus

The ASEAN member states hold the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), a ministerial level meeting among defense authorities in the ASEAN region, and the ADMM-Plus comprising the ASEAN member states and eight non-ASEAN countries including Japan.¹⁴

The ADMM-Plus is the only official meeting of the defense ministers in the Asia-Pacific region that includes countries outside the ASEAN region. Thus, the ADMM-Plus is highly significant from the perspective of promoting the development and deepening of security and defense cooperation in the region. The MOD/SDF has been participating in and providing support for the meeting. Established under the ministerial-level ADMM-Plus are (1) the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM)-

Plus, (2) ADSOM-Plus Working Group (ADSOM-Plus WG), and (3) Experts' Working Groups (EWGs).¹⁵

In October 2018, Minister of Defense Iwaya attended the fifth ADMM-Plus held in Singapore. In his speech, he touched on the “free and open Indo-Pacific” and denounced unilateral, coercive attempts to alter the status-quo, stressing the importance of maintaining the rule of law.

He also highly appreciated the adoption of the Guidelines for Air Military Encounters (GAME), stating that the enhancement and development of the rule of law would contribute to building confidence within the region. At this Meeting, the Ministers issued the Joint Statement on Practical Confidence Building Measures and the Joint Statement on Preventing and Countering the Threat of Terrorism.

Q See See Fig. III-3-1-5 (Organizational Chart and Overview of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus [ADMM-Plus])

(2) ARF

Regarding the ARF, in which mainly diplomatic authorities are engaged, concrete efforts¹⁶ have been made in recent years for specific initiatives in non-traditional security areas such as disaster relief, maritime security, and peacekeeping and peace building. The MOD/SDF has been making active contributions to this forum. At an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) that has been held since 2009,¹⁷ for example, Japan has taken leadership in formulating a collection of best practices concerning support for capacity building in the field of maritime security. In the field of disaster relief, the MOD/SDF has dispatched SDF personnel and aircraft to ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF-DiREx) conducted since 2009.

In September 2018, National Institute for Defense Studies held the 22nd ARF Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions Meeting. The participants discussed research and education at defense universities as well as inter-university cooperation in the context of the focus of this meeting, “Building Partnerships and Capacities to Meet Emerging Security Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region.”

(3) Multilateral Security Dialogues Sponsored by the MOD/SDF

(A) ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting and Vientiane Vision

¹⁴ The ADMM-Plus was founded in October 2010. Japan, the United States, Australia, the ROK, India, New Zealand, China and Russia participate in this meeting as non-ASEAN countries.

¹⁵ Japan proactively contributed to the EWGs in 2018, participating in the EWG on HA/DR in February, April, July and September, in the EWG on PKO in April and November, in the EWG on Humanitarian Mine Action in April and October, in the EWG on counter-terrorism in August, in the EWG on Cyber Security in May and November, in the EWG on Maritime Security in May and November, and in the EWG on Military Medicine in February and December.

¹⁶ In addition to the Ministers' meeting at the foreign minister level, the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) are held each year, as well as meetings of the Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM/PD) and the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC). Moreover, since the Ministers' meeting in 2002, the ARF Defense Officials' Dialogues (DOD) has been held ahead of the main meeting.

¹⁷ In 2011, Japan, Indonesia and New Zealand co-hosted the third ISM on MS in Tokyo. In 2017, Japan, the Philippines and the United States co-hosted the ninth one in Tokyo.

Based on the proposal by Prime Minister Abe at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013, the first ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting took place in Bagan, Myanmar, in November 2014. This meeting, in which opinions were exchanged on cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as HA/DR and maritime security, was a breakthrough opportunity bringing defense ministers from Japan and the ASEAN member states together for the first time in the history of nearly 50 years of friendship and cooperation between Japan and ASEAN. This marked an important first step towards strengthening defense cooperation in the future.

In November 2016, the second ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting was held in Vientiane, Laos. At that meeting, then Defense Minister Inada announced Japan's own initiative called the "Vientiane Vision: Japan's Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN" as a guideline for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, which was welcomed by all ASEAN member states.

The "Vientiane Vision" is the first of its kind to present an overall picture of the priority areas of the future direction of ASEAN-wide defense cooperation in a transparent manner. Specifically, the vision that urges that cooperation contributing to capacity building in each ASEAN country and the entire ASEAN give priority to three points: (1) consolidating the order based on the principles of international law; (2) promoting maritime security; and (3) coping with increasingly diversifying and complex security issues. Based on the vision, Japan has promoted practical defense cooperation with ASEAN by combining diverse measures including: (1) promotion of international law to share understanding and experience regarding international law; (2) capacity building assistance; (3) defense equipment and technology cooperation; (4) joint training and exercises; and (5) human resource development and academic exchange.

Since the year after the announcement of the vision, the Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation program has been implemented every year. In the field of maritime security, since 2017, Japan has invited participants in the Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program from all ASEAN nations and the ASEAN Secretariat. In June 2019, Japan implemented the third Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program on MSDF Destroyer JS "Izumo," which was sailing from Brunei to the Philippines. Japan conducted seminars on HA/DR and international law and international aviation law related to maritime security.

In the field of HA/DR, since 2018, Japan has held the Japan-ASEAN Invitation Program on HA/DR. In February 2019, Japan held the second round of the invitation program, inviting participants from all ASEAN member states and



The 4th ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting held on the margins of the ADMM-Plus meeting (October 2018)

the ASEAN Secretariat. In this program, a seminar on the Japanese large-scale disaster response guidelines and the first table-top exercise were conducted.

In the field of international law, in November 2018, Japan invited all ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat to the Japan-ASEAN Symposium on International Law titled "Regional Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the Rule of Law."

In October 2018, on the sidelines of the fifth ADMM-Plus, the fourth ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting was held. In this Meeting, Minister of Defense Iwaya stated that more practical defense cooperation between Japan and ASEAN would be even more important as security issues in the Indo-Pacific region become more diverse and complicated. As a specific measure to strengthen such cooperation, Minister of Defense Iwaya announced that the Professional Airmanship Program would be conducted as a Japan-ASEAN cooperation program to build confidence among air services and promote shared values to maintain the rule of law, inviting air officers from all ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat to Japan. ASEAN welcomed the recent progress in Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation achieved through various programs since the Vientiane Vision was announced, and ASEAN agreed with Japan to further promote practical defense cooperation going forward.

Through these initiatives, Japan has worked to promote capacity building assistance, mutual understanding, and network building with participants from all ASEAN member states through seminars and training programs in various areas, including maritime security and HA/DR, while also fostering a shared recognition about international law, which has contributed to the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.



Reference 50 (Vientiane Vision: Japan's Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN)



Asia-Pacific Defense Forum (Tokyo Defense Forum) held by the MOD

(B) Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum

Since 2009, the MOD has annually held the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum for the purpose of strengthening bilateral and multilateral relationships through the development of human networks between Japanese and ASEAN vice-ministerial level officials.

In September 2017, the MOD held the tenth Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum in Nagoya, in which vice-ministerial level officials from all ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat participated to exchange their views on three themes: (1) efforts to share universal values, including the rule of law and challenges; (2) measures for disaster response and challenges; and (3) prospects for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation. The participants of the Forum shared the view that, with threats becoming more complicated and diverse, it is important to promote shared universal values, including the rule of law, and improve capabilities to respond to frequent disaster. They also agreed that it is important for the defense authorities to work closely with each other to this end.

(C) Tokyo Defense Forum, Etc.

The MOD has held the Asia-Pacific Defense Forum (Tokyo Defense Forum) every year since 1996 for senior officials in charge of defense policy (Director-General level officials and general-level officers) from the countries in the region to discuss defense policies of the participating countries and confidence-building measures in the field of defense.

The 23rd Forum, held in March 2019, was attended by 28 countries that are mainly from the Indo-Pacific region as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, the EU and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The participants discussed a wide range of matters in the context of the themes of the Forum, “security issues in the Indo-Pacific region” and “changing security challenges and prospects.”

Since 2002, Japan has invited people engaging in the field of security policy from Asia-Pacific countries to Japan as opinion leaders, in order to foster understanding of Japan’s security and defense policies and the situation of the SDF.

(4) Others

(1) International Conferences Hosted by International Organizations

In the Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference held in New York in March 2019, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs referred in his speech to Japan’s recent greater contribution to the United Nations Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities (RDEC), which had been carried out at Japan’s initiative, as well as its efforts for updating the manual for the UN PKO engineering unit, and efforts for increasing the number of female officers in the PKO field.

Q See Chapter 5 Section 2 (Initiatives to Support UN Peacekeeping Operations, etc.)

(2) International Conferences Hosted by Private Organizations

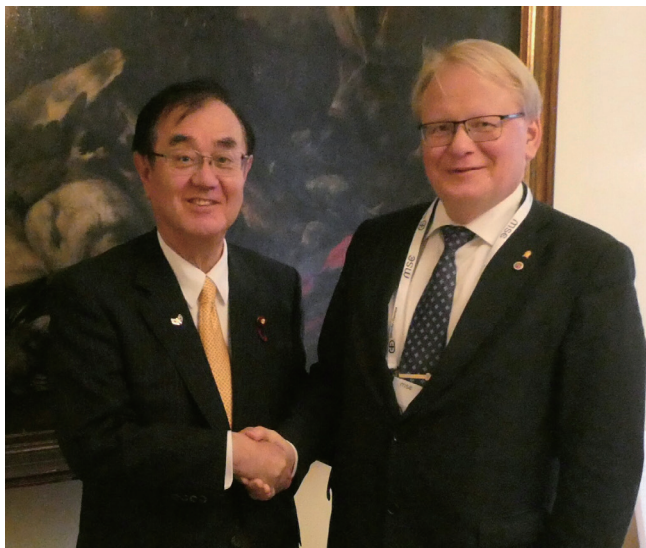
International conferences on security include not only inter-governmental conferences but also meetings organized by private organizations in which various people, such as government officials, scholars, and journalists, participate to discuss medium- to long- term security issues. Major international conferences organized by private bodies include the Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue)¹⁸ hosted by IISS and the Munich Security Conference,¹⁹ one of the most prestigious meetings on security in Europe and the United States.

Japan’s Foreign Minister Kono and State Minister of Defense Harada attended the 55th Munich Security Conference in February 2019. Dozens of foreign and defense ministers and heads of more than ten international organizations participated in the conference to discuss various matters related to security in Europe, including the issues surrounding NATO and the EU, keeping in mind the security environment that is becoming more complicated.

At the 18th Shangri-La Dialogue that was held in June 2019, Defense Minister Iwaya made a speech at the second session, titled “Korean Security: the Next Steps”. In the speech, he called for support for the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” vision, which is shared by Japan and the United States. Having said that, he expressed Japan’s view on

¹⁸ This is a multilateral conference sponsored by the IISS, a private British think tank, in which defense ministers from various countries participate with the objective of discussing defense-related issues and regional defense cooperation. It has been held in Singapore every year since 2002 and is known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, named after the hotel where it takes place.

¹⁹ This is one of the most prestigious international security meetings organized by private bodies in Europe and the United States and has been held annually (usually in February) since 1962. Usual participants in the meeting include officials at the ministerial level from major European countries as well as top leaders, ministers, and lawmakers from countries in the world, and key executives of international organizations.



State Minister of Defense Harada holding a meeting with Swedish Defense Minister Hultqvist at the Munich Security Conference (February 2019)

the situation of the Korean Peninsula by underlining the importance of pursuing the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges and calling for solidarity in the international community. Minister Iwaya also held bilateral and trilateral meetings with participating countries, exchanging opinions on the regional situation, including the North Korea situation, and defense exchange and confirming ways of strengthening cooperation in the future.

(3) Service-to-Service Exchange Initiatives

In September 2018, the Chief of Joint Staff attended the Chief of Defense Conference (CHOD) held by the United States Indo-Pacific Command. In this Conference, he shared with other countries his view on the needs for international coordination towards the denuclearization of North Korea, and on the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific from the viewpoint of freedom of navigation and the rule of law. In January 2019, the Chief of Joint Staff attended the Raisina Dialogue, a multilateral forum held in India, as one of the panelists along with the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force, the Commander of the French Navy, the Commander of the Indian Army, and the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command. In his speech, the Chief of Joint Staff emphasized the importance of multilateral coordination in accordance with universal values, including the rule of law and freedom of navigation, and of strong cooperation among Japan, the United States, Australia, India, and France, in order to bring about a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The GSDF Chief of Staff attended the Chief of Army Land Forces Seminar (CALFS) hosted by the Australian Army in September 2018. He shared his view with other army leaders on the importance, diversity, and instability of



Then Chief of Joint Staff Kawano participating in the Raisina Dialogue, a multilateral forum held in India (from left: the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force, the Commander of the French Navy, then Chief of Joint Staff Kawano, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the Commander of the Indian Army)

the Indo-Pacific region as well as on the growing importance of the roles of ground forces and mutual trust among them.

In September 2019, the MSDF Chief of Staff attended the International Seapower Symposium (ISS) hosted by the United States Navy, promoting mutual understanding and trust, and communicating the MSDF's efforts to the international community through information sharing and opinion exchange with other high-level navy officers. In November 2019, the MSDF Chief of Staff attended the seminar of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which was held celebrating its tenth anniversary, in which he promoted mutual understanding and strengthened cooperative relationships with the Indian Navy and other IONS members.

The ASDF Chief of Staff attended the Royal Air Force's 100th anniversary event, the Air Power Conference (APC) and the RIAT hosted by the Royal Air Force of UK in July 2018. He exchanged opinions with the British representatives on a variety of topics, including security issues, regional situations, and security cooperation, strengthening the relationship between the air forces of the two countries. In February 2019, the ASDF Chief of Staff attended the International Forum for Air Force Chiefs of Staff in Australia, the Australian International Airshow, the AVALON International Airshow and the International Aerospace and Defence Exposition, building mutual understanding and trust through visits to other countries' air squadrons and exchanging opinions on security and defense with the commanders of air forces.

2 Promoting Practical Multilateral Security Cooperation Initiatives

(1) Pacific Partnership

The Pacific Partnership (PP), which started in 2007, is an initiative in which naval vessels, primarily those from the

U.S. Navy, visit countries in the Asia-Pacific region to provide medical care, conduct facility repair activities, and engage in cultural exchange to strengthen cooperation between countries participating in the initiative and facilitate international peace cooperation activities through cooperation with governments, military forces, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in those countries.

Japan has dispatched SDF medical personnel and units under the Pacific Partnership since 2007. In 2019, Japan dispatched medical personnel to the Marshall Islands and Vietnam, in addition to sending its music band members to the Marshall Islands, for medical activities and cultural exchanges. Moreover, Japan also sent lecturers on women's studies, peace, and security.

(2) Multilateral Training and Exercises

(1) Significance of Multilateral Training and Exercises in the Indo-Pacific Region

In the Indo-Pacific region, the MOD/SDF has actively participated in multilateral training and exercises in non-traditional security fields, such as HA/DR and Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO), in addition to traditional training conducted in preparation for combat situations. It is important to participate in such multilateral training so as not only to raise the skill level of the SDF, but also to create a cooperative platform with relevant countries. In light of this perspective, the MOD/SDF intends to continue to actively engage in such training.

 **Reference 51** (Participation in Multilateral Training [Past Three Years])

(2) Initiatives for Multilateral Exercises

The multilateral relationships have recently shifted from the phrase for building trust to the phrase for developing more concrete and practical cooperative relationships. Various multilateral training and exercises have been actively conducted as important initiatives to effectively help this shifting.

The SDF joined the multilateral exercise cohosted by the United States and Thailand, Cobra Gold, from January to February 2019. Specifically, the SDF participated in the staff exercises on counter-piracy operations and cooperation and assistance for foreign armies, the field training exercises on rescuing Japanese nationals overseas, and humanitarian and civilian assistance training (humanitarian assistance and disaster relief department and engineering department).

The GSDF participated in a multilateral exercise, Khaan Quest 18, in Mongolia in June 2018, and joined by 18 countries. In addition, the GSDF has hosted the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP) every year since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperation initiatives, inviting officers from relevant countries. In November 2018, the North Eastern Army conducted the large-scale disaster response exercise, Michinoku ALERT 2018, with participants from 15 countries to share knowledge in the HA/DR field.

The MSDF participated in Rim of the Pacific Joint Exercise (RIMPAC) 2018, a multilateral exercise hosted by the United States Navy and joined by 26 countries, in the surrounding waters of Hawaii and California from June to August 2018. In August 2018, the MSDF participated in the multilateral exercise Kakadu 2018 hosted by the Australian Navy in the surrounding waters and airspace of Australia.

In December 2018, the ASDF participated in the Japan-U.S.-Australia joint HA/DR exercise, Christmas Drop, in the Federal States of Micronesia.

4 Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation Initiatives

1 Significance of Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation

Defense equipment and technology cooperation is one of the important defense cooperation initiatives. The MOD aims to maintain and strengthen Japan's defense industrial base, the capabilities of recipient forces, and mid- to long-term relationships with recipient countries, by enhancing various defense equipment and technology assistance initiatives, including the overseas

transfer²⁰ of defense equipment within the scope that is approved under the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology. In particular, by combining such initiatives with other initiatives, such as joint training and exercises and capacity building assistance, Japan aims to implement defense equipment and technology cooperation initiatives when necessary in an effective manner and contributes to the enhancement of Japan's security and defense cooperation.

²⁰ In case of overseas transfer of defense equipment, an international agreement must be concluded with the recipient country in order to prevent extra-purpose use and transfer to third parties without Japan's consent. For details, see Part IV, Chapter 2, Section 5

Q See Part IV, Chapter 2, Section 5 (Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

2 Cooperation with Other Countries

The MOD works closely with the National Security Secretariat (NSS), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to develop specific cooperation programs and frameworks through consultations with other countries. In order to deepen defense equipment and technology cooperation,

Japan will continue to promote various efforts, including collecting information on recipients' needs, joint research and development with countries with advanced technology, assistance for the maintenance and management of equipment, and communication of information through public-private initiatives, while also working toward the establishment of a regular working-level consultation framework.

Q See Reference 37 (Situations Concerning the Conclusion of Agreements)
Reference 62 (Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology)

5 Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building Assistance

1 Objectives of Capacity Building Assistance

In today's security environment, no country can maintain its peace and stability on its own. It is indispensable for the international community to unite to resolve global issues. The defense authorities of Southeast Asian and other countries have either requested the MOD to provide capacity building assistance, or expressed their expectations for such cooperation. In response to such expectations, the MOD/SDF started to provide capacity building assistance in the security and defense areas in 2012.

Providing assistance for capacity building has the following objectives: (1) creating an ideal of a more advantageous security environment for Japan by cooperating with recipient countries in the Indo-Pacific and other regions to help with the steady development of their own capacity building initiatives, develop in a steady manner, and enabling the recipient countries' forces to play adequate roles in maintaining international peace and regional stability; (2) strengthening bilateral relationships with recipient countries; (3) strengthening relationships with other donor countries, such as the United States and Australia; and (4) promoting Japan's efforts to work proactively and independently to realize regional peace and stability, and to gain trust in the MOD/SDF and Japan as a whole. Capacity building assistance initiatives also facilitate the improvement of SDF capabilities.

The MOD/SDF will implement capacity building assistance programs effectively by carefully coordinating with diplomatic policies and combining various means to maximize effects, while also tapping into the knowledge accumulated at the SDF.

2 Specific Activities

The MOD/SDF has provided capacity building assistance in such areas as HA/DR, PKO, and maritime security to 15 countries and one organization in the Asia-Pacific and other regions.

Q See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Recent Capacity Building Assistance Initiatives (from April 2018 to May 2019))

The MOD/SDF's capacity building assistance programs are aimed at improving the capabilities of recipient countries in a concrete and steady manner over a certain period of time. Some programs are carried out by dispatching MOD/SDF officials to the recipient country, by inviting recipient country's officials to Japan, or by a combination of both. With the first method, SDF officials with technical knowledge are dispatched to the recipient country to help the recipient country's forces and their related organizations through seminars, field training, and technical guidance. With the second method, the recipient country's officials are invited to the MOD/SDF's units and institutions to learn human resources development, education, and training that the MOD/SDF provides through seminars, field training, and observing the education and training programs.

In 2018, the number of capacity building assistance programs conducted by means of dispatch was 137 (13 countries, 23 officials), and the number of those conducted by means of invitation was 63 (7 countries, 9 trainees).

Under the dispatch programs, the MOD/SDF has provided technical assistance on engineering activities, such as road construction in Mongolia, which builds on previous assistance, and engineering assistance for the Harii Hamutuk training program sponsored by Australian forces in Timor-Leste. Japan has also provided support for a military band in Papua New Guinea, which served in 2018 as the chair of the APEC forum. This program was conducted in coordination with MOFA's assistance, which involved the granting of new musical instruments through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the dispatch of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) experts. On a made-by-government basis, Japan thus supported the establishment and training of the military band of the Papua New Guinea Defense Force. The band gave an excellent performance in front of national leaders at the APEC meeting in November

Fig. III-3-1-6 Recent Capacity Building Assistance Initiatives (from April 2018 to May 2019)

2018, contributing to the success of APEC. Other programs that have thus far been conducted include seminars on air rescue, PKO, and submarine medicine in Vietnam, seminars and field training on aviation meteorology for the establishment of a weather services unit of the Myanmar Air Force, and practical training on search and rescue and medical activities in Laos.

The invitation programs conducted so far include seminars on SDF medical training for medical personnel of the Sri Lanka Navy, training at the GSDF Quartermaster School for Royal Thai Army personnel to be dispatched to the UNMISS, and medical training for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In addition, as part of capacity building assistance for Africa, the MOD/SDF implemented from October to December 2018 a program for supporting the enhancement of disaster response capacity for Djibouti forces, including education on how to operate engineering equipment, such as hydraulic shovels, graders, and dozers, in order to strengthen the bilateral relationship.



ASDF personnel explaining aviation meteorology to the Myanmar Air Force (January 2019)

3 Cooperation with Partner Countries

In efforts to stabilize the regional security environment, Japan's cooperation with other donor countries is essential. In particular, Japan's capacity building cooperation with the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom is considered a priority.

The joint statement of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative

VOICE

Practical Initiatives Toward Enhancement of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Capabilities of ASEAN

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On January 30, 2019, I participated as a facilitator in a tabletop exercise on Japan-ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (Japan-ASEAN HA/DR Table Top Exercise [TTX]) conducted at the National Institute for Defense Studies. I was also involved in the agenda setting and scenario drafting for the TTX. The TTX was part of the 2nd Japan-ASEAN Invitation Program on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) hosted by the International Policy Division, inviting military and other participants from all ASEAN member states. Its purpose was to familiarize participants with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC) developed by initiatives taken by Japan and Laos in preparation for disasters.

In recent years, ASEAN has been exploring joint disaster relief operation, including the establishment of ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HA/DR, which specializes in HA/DR. In order to support the united approaches of ASEAN, this TTX discussed specific operations of SOP based on a scenario assuming typhoon damage in the region in three phases: (1) immediately after the disaster; (2) a week after the disaster; and (3) the period of withdrawal of assisting countries.

Through the day-long discussion, both Japanese and ASEAN participants were able to deepen their understanding of the roles assigned by SOP to individual groups and MNCC operations. This was a wonderful opportunity for me as a researcher to experience defense diplomacy directly. I strongly hope that the TTX will contribute to the improvement of joint disaster relief operations in the region and to the strengthening of Japan-ASEAN relations.



Author listening to a presentation by a participant in the TTX
(second from left)



Author moderating during the TTX

Committee (SCC) in April 2015 states that the two countries would strengthen their continued close coordination on cooperation including capacity building assistance to realize peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. The two ministers agreed to promote defense cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, including capacity building assistance.

Under a Japan-Australia personnel exchange program, the MOD has received an official from the Australian Department of Defense to its International Policy Division's Capacity Building Office four times since 2013. In exchange, the MOD has dispatched an official to the Australian Department of Defense three times since 2015. In November 2017, Japan and Australia held the first working group on capacity building assistance.

Japan has also cooperated with the United States and Australia in providing capacity building assistance to Timor-Leste. The SDF and the U.S. forces participated in the Harii

Hamutuk capacity building assistance program sponsored by the Australian forces in Timor-Leste four times since October 2015, providing technical guidance on engineering, including construction for engineering units of the Timor-Leste forces.

In the joint statement issued for the third Japan-UK Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting in December 2017, Japan and the United Kingdom welcomed progress of coordination of capacity building in developing countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa, and shared the view to use a coordination mechanism for future joint capacity building in strategic priorities such as maritime security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, HA/DR.

It is important for Japan and other countries providing capacity building assistance to conduct such assistance effectively and efficiently by closely coordinating with and mutually complementing each other.