

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,¹ and in accordance with the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG), 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. The MOD/SDF further intends to create a desirable security environment for Japan by engaging in the routine activities.

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 etc.→

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

(1) Significance of Security Cooperation and Dialogue, 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 political, economic and social systems in each nation widely differ in the region, visions of security vary from country to country. Furthermore, there has 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, the MOD/SDF intends to 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 faced.

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

Defense cooperation and exchanges have been delivered in the forms of high-level dialogues and exchanges, bilateral/multilateral exercises, capacity building for recipient countries (such as human resources development and

¹ In his keynote speech at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in Kenya in August 2016, Prime Minister Abe referred to the concept of a FOIP. In the Japan-U.S. Summit in November 2017, the United States expressed its support for the above vision presented by Japan. The leaders of the two countries urged all nations to respect the freedom of navigation and flight, and the rule of law, and agreed to build multi-layered relationships with countries that support this approach.

technical cooperation 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, the MOD/SDF has recently enhanced bilateral defense relationships from traditional exchanges to deeper cooperation in a phased manner by appropriately combining various means, including bilateral/multilateral training and exercises, capacity building, 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.

In response to the cancellation of meetings with foreign countries, such as the Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD, in connection with measures against novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the MOD has held more telephone conversations than usual, deepening communication with foreign countries and promoting defense cooperation and exchanges from the government office in Ichigaya, Tokyo.

Q See Reference 31 (Situations Concerning the Conclusion of Agreements)
Reference 32 (Exchange Student Acceptance Record [Number of Newly Accepted Students in FY2019])
Fig. III-3-1-1 (Defense Cooperation and Exchanges)
Fig. III-3-1-2 (Number of high-level bilateral dialogues and consultations [April 2019–March 2020])

2 Efforts under the Vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)

(1) Characteristics of the Indo-Pacific Region

Free and open maritime order, which relies on the rule of law, is the foundation for the stability and prosperity of the international community. The Indo-Pacific region is at the center of the world vitality, and home to more than half the world's population. It is important to establish this region as a free and open global commons to secure peace and prosperity in the region as a whole.

On the other hand, a range of challenges exist for the promotion of FOIP in the region, including Japan's vicinity, such as a rapid modernization of military forces and an increase in military activities.

(2) Direction of the MOD's Initiatives

In light of this situation, the MOD/SDF are promoting defense cooperation and exchanges to ensure that Japan can secure the stable use of major sea lanes. In addition, the MOD/SDF are promoting mutual understanding and confidence building with countries that have modernized their military forces and intensified their military activities to prevent contingencies and ensure Japan's security. Furthermore, for countries in the region that are taking steps to respond to changes in the environment, the MOD/SDF aim to contribute to regional peace and stability by supporting their efforts through defense cooperation and exchanges.

(3) Areas with Which Japan Will Enhance Cooperation for the Realization of FOIP

With respect to Southeast Asia, South Asia, Pacific Island countries, the Middle East and Djibouti, the MOD/SDF will enhance cooperation toward the realization of FOIP, utilizing a wide range of means for defense cooperation and exchanges, including cooperation and exchange of personnel, cooperation and exchange of troops, capacity building, and defense equipment and technology cooperation. Specifically, the MOD/SDF are promoting defense cooperation and exchanges to help countries in these regions to play more effective roles in achieving stability in the Indo-Pacific region, and to secure the stable use of sea lanes by establishing good relations with these countries and ensuring that the SDF has stable access to their ports and airports.

(4) Countries That Japan Works With to Realize FOIP

The United States as Japan's ally, Australia, India, the United Kingdom, France and other European countries, Canada and New Zealand are countries that not only share fundamental values with us, but also have geographic and historical ties to the Indo-Pacific region. The MOD/SDF have been encouraging these countries to become more involved in the Indo-Pacific region. At the same time, the MOD/SDF have also been promoting defense cooperation and exchanges with them so that we can work together as partners when promoting efforts for realizing FOIP in the areas listed in (3) above. This way, we aim to achieve stronger effects than when promoting efforts on our own.

Fig. III-3-1-1

Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

Defense cooperation and exchanges

"Defense cooperation and exchanges" refers to efforts to strengthen bilateral and multilateral defense relations by using various tools, which are **significant initiatives for securing the peace and stability of Japan and the international community.**

Purpose of defense cooperation and exchanges

- To create a security environment desirable for Japan
- To deter threats from reaching Japan by making opponents realize that doing harm to Japan would be difficult and consequential
- To prevent contingencies through promoting confidence-building and mutual understanding

Tools for defense cooperation and exchanges

Tool 1: Cooperation and exchanges among people

On such occasions as the **"2+2" Meeting, defense ministerial meetings, chief of staff-level meetings or other high-level meetings, working-level consultations among defense authorities, and multilateral international conferences**, participants frankly exchange views on defense policies, regional situations, defense cooperation and exchanges, etc., thereby developing mutual understanding and building confidence among them and further promoting defense cooperation and exchanges thereafter. Exchanges of students and interchange in education and research aim to facilitate understanding of defense policies and statuses of military units of other countries and promote relations of trust through network building.



Japan-India defense ministerial meeting



Chief of Staff of the French Army visiting GSDF Chief of Staff



Tokyo Defense Forum



Acceptance of foreign students at the National Defense Academy

Tool 2: Cooperation and exchanges among troops

Through **goodwill exercise, mutual visits of naval ships and aircraft (calling at ports and airports), and exchange events among units**, mutual trust with partner countries is developed and cooperative relationships are promoted. Bilateral and multilateral exercises aim to enhance SDF's capability to cooperate with troops of other countries and strengthen defense relations among relevant countries, in addition to improve personnel's skills.



Visit of representatives of ASEAN member countries to an SDF base



Japan-India bilateral exercise in the IPD2019



Joint training with the United States and Australia



Port call at the Port of Subic (the Philippines) in the IPD2019

Tool 3: Capacity building

Capacity building project by **holding seminars and field training in various fields, providing technical guidance, and organizing observation of education and training programs and opinion exchanges, etc.** aims to improve the capabilities of partner countries in a concrete and steady manner over a certain period of time and help their military forces play roles in contributing to international peace and regional stability.



Seminar on aviation meteorology (Myanmar)



Field training for HA/DR (Malaysia)



Seminar on undersea unexploded ordnance clearance (Vietnam)



Technical education for a military band (Papua New Guinea)

Tool 4: Defense equipment and technical cooperation

Through **overseas transfers of equipment, joint research and development, participation in international exhibitions, and holding of the Defence Industry Forum**, efforts are made to strengthen and maintain Japan's defense industrial base, enhance capacity both of the SDF and military forces of partner countries, and strengthen and maintain defense cooperation with those partner countries.



Transfer of TC-90 training aircraft to the Philippines



Joint research with the United Kingdom



Paris Air Show



Japan-India Defence Industry Forum

(Reference) Conclusion of various defense cooperation agreements

Through concluding such agreements as **Information Security Agreements, Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreements, Agreements concerning Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology**, the framework of cooperation has been materialized and institutionalized with the aim of promoting defense cooperation and exchanges more smoothly and stably.



Signing of the Japan-Canada Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement



Signing of the Japan-France Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreements



Signing of the Japan-Italy Agreement concerning Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology



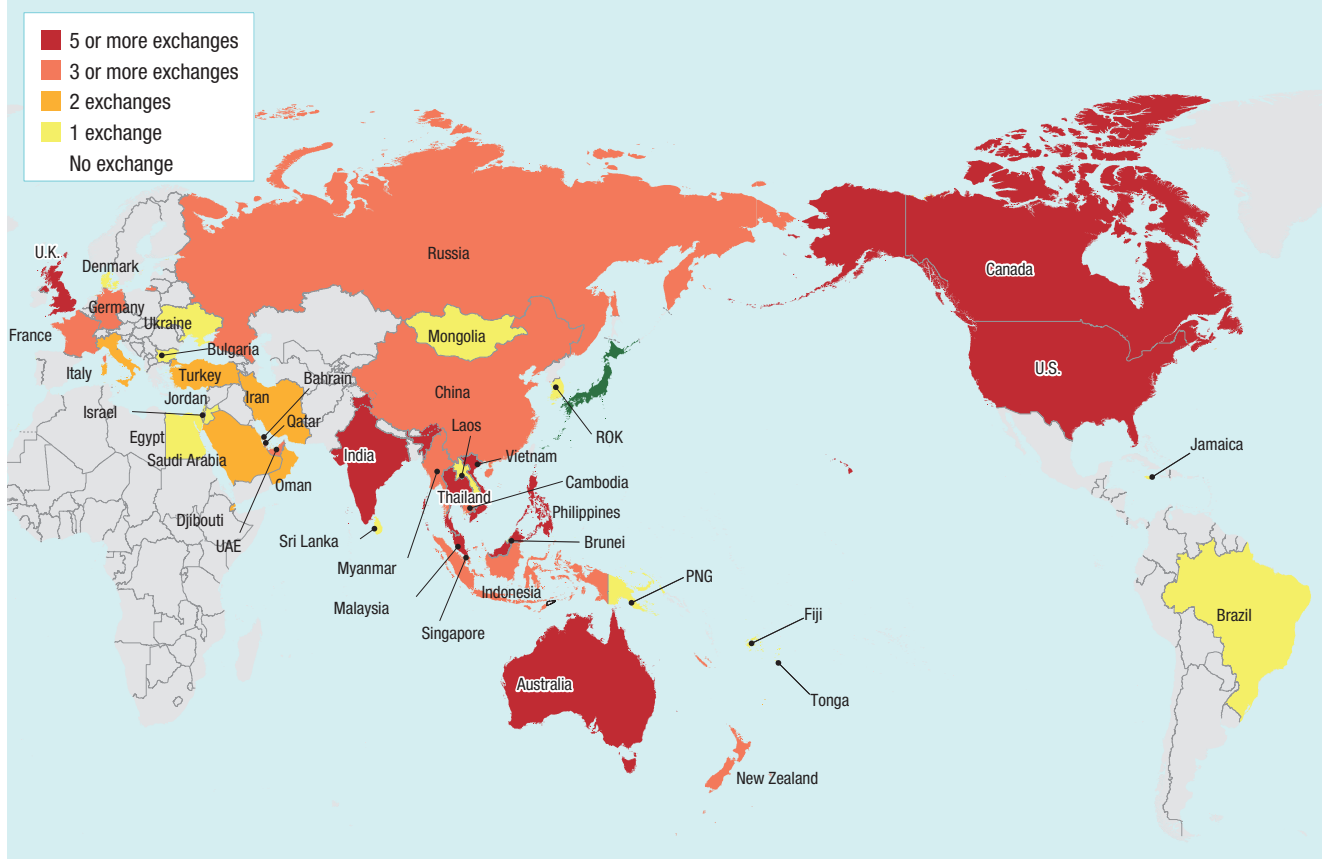
Signing of the Japan-Australia Information Security Agreement

Fig. III-3-1-2**Number of High-level Bilateral Dialogues and Consultations (April 2019–March 2020)**

Countries with Which High-level Bilateral Dialogues and Consultations were Conducted (April 2019–March 2020)

In this figure, “high-level bilateral dialogues and consultations” refers to bilateral meetings of the Minister of Defense, State Minister of Defense, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense, Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense, Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs, and Chiefs of Staff with their respective counterparts.

High-level bilateral dialogues and consultations were conducted with the following countries between April 2019 and March 2020, but had also been conducted with other countries prior to that period together with other types of defense cooperation and exchanges. It should be noted that Japan has conducted high-level bilateral dialogues and consultations with various countries across the globe.



(5) Countries with Which Japan Will Promote Mutual Understanding and Confidence Building

With regard to China and Russia, the MOD/SDF aim to avoid unforeseen events and ensure Japan's security by tapping into defense exchange opportunities and conveying Japan's concerns about the increased military activities and

military expansion in Japan's vicinity to promote mutual understanding and confidence building.



Fig. III-3-1-3 (MOD/SDF's Efforts under the Vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific [image])

Fig. III-3-1-3

MOD/SDF's Efforts under the Vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (image)

Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision: FOIP

Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision: FOIP

In August 2016, Prime Minister Abe unveiled the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" concept in his keynote address at TICAD VI in Kenya. Japan's fundamental aim is to foster regional stability and prosperity by improving connectivity between Asia and Africa through a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Three pillars of the vision

- (i) Promotion and establishment of the rule of law, freedom of navigation and free trade.
- (ii) Pursuit of economic prosperity (e.g. improving connectivity)
- (iii) Commitment to peace and stability



(Cited from the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

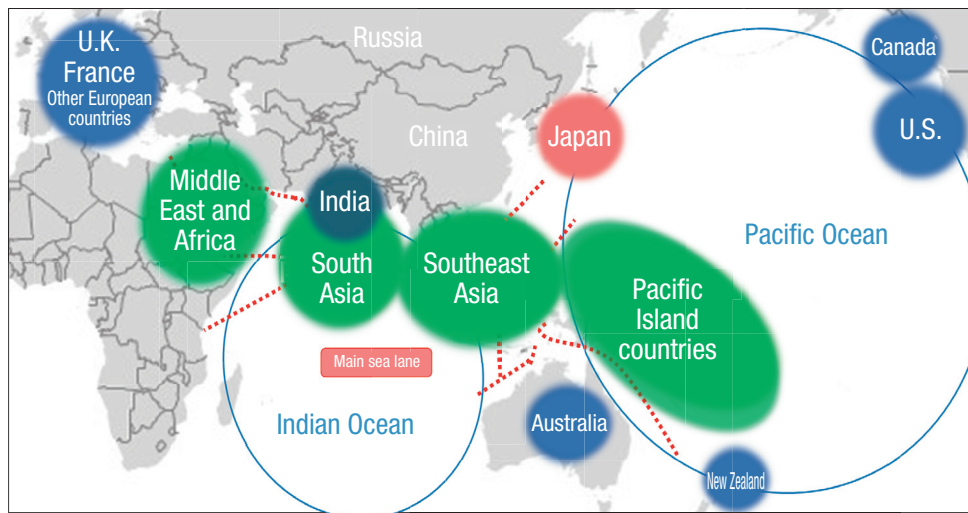
MOD's Approach to FOIP

MOD's Approach to FOIP Vision

1. Securing the stable use of major sea lanes by way of defense cooperation and exchange activities
2. Preventing contingencies through confidence building and mutual understanding
3. Contributing to peace and stability through active engagement in the region, in cooperation with partner countries

The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond clearly states that in line with the vision of free and open Indo-Pacific, Japan will strategically promote multi-faceted and multi-layered security cooperation, taking into account characteristics and situation specific to each region and country.

MOD's Specific Efforts for FOIP



Southeast Asia, South Asia and Pacific Island countries: Areas where several key sea lanes are located

Middle East and Africa: Key region in terms of energy security → Enhance cooperation for achieving FOIP

(Concrete initiatives)

- **Southeast Asia** ... Announcement of Vientiane Vision 2.0, an updated version of Vientiane Vision, which is a guideline for future ASEAN-Japan defense cooperation, including the strengthening of defense cooperation to support ASEAN's centrality and unity, continued implementation of capacity building and joint exercise with countries in Southeast Asia in the Indo-Pacific Deployment (IPD), granting of decommissioned equipment (transfer of TC-90 training aircraft to the Philippines), and pursuit of synergy between FOIP and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
- **South Asia** ... Provision of capacity building (air rescue) to the Sri Lanka Armed Forces and promotion of calling at ports and airports by SDF's assets (aircraft and naval ships) to Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives and Bangladesh
- **Pacific Island countries** ... Planning of the first Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue, as the first multilateral defense ministerial meeting for Japan, and provision of capacity building (military band development) to the Papua New Guinea Military Band
- **Middle East** ... Active participation in multinational security conferences held in the Middle East, and promotion of calling at ports and airports by SDF's assets (aircraft and naval ships) to Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain
- **Africa** ... Provision of capacity building (enhancement of disaster response capacity) to Djibouti forces

The United States, Australia, New Zealand, India, European countries such as the United Kingdom and France, and Canada

:Countries sharing values inherent to the FOIP vision and have ties to the region → Collaborate positively for achieving FOIP

(Concrete initiatives)

- **The United States** ... Provision of capacity building (underwater medicine) to Vietnam under Japan-U.S. collaboration, and implementation of Japan-U.S. bilateral exercise as part of the IPD, etc.
- **Australia and New Zealand** ... Participation in capacity building Hariri Hamutuk sponsored by Australian Defence Force in Timor-Leste and implementation of Japan-U.S.-Australia airforces' trilateral exercise Cope North, Multinational HA/DR exercise "Christmas Drop," etc.
- **India** ... Implementation of Japan-U.S.-India multilateral naval exercise Malabar, Japan-India bilateral exercise Dharma Guardian, and Japan-India bilateral exercise SHINYUU Maitri, and holding of the first Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting, etc.
- **The United Kingdom and France** ... Implementation of Japan-U.K. bilateral exercise Guardian North, Japan-France-Australia-U.S. multilateral naval exercise La Pérouse, Japan-U.K. bilateral army exercise Vigilant Isles (the first bilateral exercise between the U.K. and Japanese armies conducted in Japan in 2018), etc.

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, while taking matters such as regional situations, the situations of partner countries and their relationships with Japan into account.

1 Australia

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with 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 values² but also security strategic stakes and interests. In recent years, particularly, Japan and Australia as responsible countries in the Indo-Pacific region are strengthening mutual cooperation focusing on areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) activities and cooperation in capacity building.

With 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.



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Australian Defence Minister (November 2019)

Regarding the Japan-Australia ACSA,³ a new agreement for expanding the situations in which the provision of supplies and services is possible was signed by the two countries in January 2017. 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 with Japan.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

In November 2019, a Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting was held between Defense Minister Kono and Australian Defense Minister Reynolds. In this meeting, the Ministers emphasized that as Indo-Pacific security dynamics became more challenging, the strategic logic underpinning Japan-Australia cooperation was only getting stronger, and agreed to deepen the special strategic partnership between the two countries and aimed at contributing to a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. They also affirmed that they will accelerate defence cooperation in the coming years including in the fields of military exercises, personnel exchanges, space and cybersecurity policy, defence science and technology, and continue to make efforts towards concluding a reciprocal access agreement which would improve administrative, policy, and legal procedures to facilitate bilateral/multilateral operations and exercises. The two ministers reiterated their determination to work bilaterally to enhance defence and security cooperation with partners in the Indo-Pacific region including in the fields of, capacity building, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. They also exchanged their views on the regional issues, including the South China Sea, the East China Sea and North Korea, remained committed to efforts to achieve North Korea’s complete, verifiable

² The National Security Strategy stipulates “freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law” as universal values.

³ 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.

and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges of North Korea. and confirmed the coordination between the two countries on the issue of North Korea, including countermeasures against ship-to-ship transfers of goods to or from North Korean-flagged vessels, which is prohibited by the UN Security Council.

In October and December 2019, Defense Minister Kono and Defence Minister Reynolds held a total of three telephone conversations. They agreed that, as the Indo-Pacific region faces a range of challenges, defense cooperation between the two countries, which share universal values and strategic interests in security, is more important than ever, and that they would continue to work closely together to deepen the special strategic partnership. They also exchanged views on defense exchanges between Japan and Australia and the security situation surrounding the two countries. Defense Minister Kono also explained the SDF's information gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East.

As for bilateral service-to-service cooperation and exchanges, in November 2019, the Chief of Staff, JS met with Chief of the Defense Force Angus Campbell and confirmed the promotion of defense cooperation and exchange between the SDF and Australian forces under the FOIP initiative. In September and October 2019, the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy conducted the Nichi Gou Trident, a bilateral exercise to improve tactical skills and strengthen cooperation. From September to October 2019, the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) conducted the first Japan-Australia bilateral exercise Bushido Guardian 19 using fighter jets at Chitose Air Base and other locations in Japan to improve tactical skills and interoperability, and to deepen defense cooperation. In the same month, the Royal Australian Air Force KC-30A made its first call at Komaki Air Base and conducted a unit-to-unit exchange by refueling and transport aircraft units between Japan and Australia. In November 2019, Australian Chief of Joint Operations visited the Air Defense Command Headquarters and they exchanged views on the regional situation, defense cooperation and exchanges.

Q See Reference 33 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Australia [Past Three Years])

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



Australian Navy vessel "DIAMANTINA" brought alongside MSDF minesweeping tender JS "Uraga" while conducting a Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise (special mine warfare exercise) (November 2019)

Japan and Australia are both allied with the United States and share universal values. They cooperate closely to resolve the various challenges the Indo-Pacific region and the international community face. 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 been held 10 times since April 2007.

In June 2019, a Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting was held on the occasion of the Shangri-La Dialogue. At the meeting, the Strategic Action Agenda, which articulates their shared long-term vision for trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region was agreed on and released.

As for trilateral service-to-service cooperation and exchanges, in August 2019, the Chief of Staff, Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) participated in the Japan-U.S.-Australia Senior Leaders Seminar in Hawaii and exchanged views with the top officials of the U.S. Army Pacific, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, and the Australian Army. They shared a common understanding of cooperation and coordination for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. In November 2019, 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 Hyuga-nada Sea. The ASDF conducted a multilateral HA/DR exercise Christmas Drop, which included air transport, material packing, and air drop exercises, in the Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas in December 2019. From February



Video: Japan-Australia bilateral exercise Bushido Guardian 19
URL: <https://youtu.be/TxKXkRFk5Rw>

to March 2020, the ASDF cohosted a Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise “Cope North” which included 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.

2 India

Q See Reference 34 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges [Past Three Years])

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India

India is increasing its influence 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 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” meeting.

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 level, as well as service-to-service exchanges including bilateral and multilateral exercises, have been regularly conducted.



Japan-India “2+2” (November 2019)

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. In October 2018, Japan and India agreed to begin the negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). 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.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

In September 2019, a Japan-India Defense Ministerial Meeting was held between then Defense Minister Iwaya and Defense Minister Singh. At the meeting, the two ministers agreed to further deepen strategic and defense cooperation between Japan and India, and affirmed their intention to hold the first-ever India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting (“2+2”) to advance cooperation towards peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. They also welcomed the regular exchanges at all levels between the Japanese and Indian defense authorities, including bilateral exercises between all military services by the end of 2018, and agreed to promote defense cooperation and exchanges with the aim of further concrete cooperation among all military services.

In November 2019, a Defense Ministerial Meeting and the first Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting were held. The four Ministers—Defense Minister Kono, Foreign Minister Motegi, Defence Minister Singh and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar—acknowledged emerging security challenges at the meeting and reiterated their commitment to advancing bilateral security cooperation based on the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and the 2009 Action Plan to advance security cooperation based on the Declaration. They also shared the view to make continuous efforts for holding the bilateral exercises between the defence forces regularly and to expand them for the first Japan-India bilateral fighter aircraft exercise in Japan. The Ministers also appreciated the commencement of exchange of information based on the Implementing Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the MSDF and the Indian



GSDF Chief of Staff Yuasa holding a meeting with Indian Chief of the Army Staff (October 2019)



GSDF personnel collaborating with the Indian Army in the Japan-India bilateral exercise Dharma Guardian (October 2019)

Navy. With regard to the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), the two sides welcomed the significant progress made in the negotiations of the ACSA and expressed their desire for early conclusion of the negotiations. With regard to defense equipment and technology cooperation, they expressed hope for productive discussions at the working-level consultations, and exchanged views on multilateral cooperation and the regional affairs. In light of the first “2+2” meeting, they shared recognition on the importance of continuing exchange of opinions and decided to hold the next “2+2” Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo. In October 2019 and January 2020, Defense Minister Kono held telephone conversations with Defence Minister Singh to exchange views on the situation in the Indo-Pacific region and other topics.

As for defense equipment and technology cooperation, Japan and India have conducted the Cooperative Research on the Visual SLAM Based GNSS Augmentation Technology for UGV⁴/Robotics since July 2018. With the aim to launch concrete projects more, Japan and India held the Japan-India Defence Industry Forum in September 2017 and February 2019.

As for service-to-service exchanges, in January 2020, the Chief of Staff, JS visited India to participate in the multilateral forum Raisina Dialogue 2020, paid a courtesy call on Defence Minister Singh, and held the first-ever meeting with General Rawat, who became the first Chief of Defense Staff in the same month. At the meeting, the two sides shared an understanding of the regional situation and security environment in Japan and India, and exchanged views on deepening defense cooperation and exchanges. The Chief of Staff, GSDF visited India in October 2019, which was followed by a visit to Japan by then Chief of the Army Staff Rawat in December, realizing an intra-year mutual visit between the top brass of the Japanese and Indian ground service. In addition, in February 2020, the Chief of Staff,

MSDF visited India to exchange views on a wide range of topics, including naval cooperation and exchanges and the regional situation.

Japan and India have also conducted service-to-service exchanges through training and exercises. From October to November 2019, the GSDF and the Indian Army had the bilateral exercise, Dharma Guardian 19. In October 2019, the ASDF conducted the bilateral exercise with the Indian Air Force, SHINYUU Maitri 19.

The three countries of Japan, the United States, and India have been conducting a trilateral naval exercise “Malabar” since 2017. In September 2019, Japan hosted “Malabar 2019” in the waters near Japan to promote trilateral cooperation.

Following the first Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting held in November 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 trilateral cooperation in various fields, such as maritime security, space and cyberspace.

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 strategically 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

⁴ “UGV” stands for “Unmanned Ground Vehicle.”

VOICE**Voice of SDF Personnel Who Participated in Japan-India bilateral exercise SHINYUU Maitri 19**

First Lieutenant TATEYAMA Masaki,
C-130 pilot, 401st Squadron, 1st Tactical Airlift Wing, ASDF

I am a C-130 pilot of 1st Tactical Airlift Wing, ASDF. I would like to communicate a small part of what I felt when I participated in the Japan-India bilateral exercise (commonly known as SHINYUU Maitri 19) last fall. SHINYUU is a Japanese word for “best friend” and Maitri is Hindi for “friendship.”

This occasion was the first time for me to both participate in an exercise abroad and visit India. When carrying out the bilateral exercise with the Indian Air Force, I was at a loss at first due to differences in weather characteristics and other factors, but eventually I could personally experience the difference in operation procedures between the two air forces, which was a valuable experience for me as a pilot. From the cockpit on the way to the exercise airspace, I saw a great river the width of which is unimaginable in Japan calmly flowing through a vast land. I will never forget the view.



Group photograph taken after the cargo crew flight exchange

Spending time together with Indian Air Force officers was also a valuable experience for me. It may be little known that the Indian Air Force is small for the country’s population. For this reason, its officers are true elites and I am impressed by their knowledge and sense of humor.

Would you like to participate in overseas exercises together with me some day? You would have a truly unique experience.

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, unity, and resilience 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, bilateral/multilateral exercises, 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 the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The Vientiane Vision, which was presented as a guideline for future ASEAN-Japan defense cooperation at the second ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers’ Informal Meeting in November 2016, outlined the full picture of the future direction of defense cooperation for ASEAN as a whole in a transparent manner. In November 2019, at the 5th

ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers’ Informal Meeting held in Thailand, Defense Minister Kono announced the Vientiane Vision 2.0, an updated version of the Vientiane Vision, and ASEAN ministers welcomed.

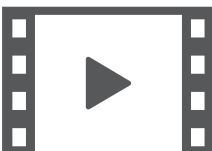
From the viewpoint of actively promoting such bilateral and multilateral cooperation and stabilizing the security environment of the Indo-Pacific region, the MOD will strive to enhance defense cooperation and exchanges with ASEAN member states.



Section 1-3 of this Chapter (Promotion of Multilateral Security Cooperation)
Section 1-4 of this Chapter (Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building)
Reference 35 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with ASEAN member states [Past Three Years])
Reference 47 (Vientiane Vision 2.0)

(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



Video: The Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program based on the Vientiane Vision
URL: <https://youtu.be/Mm9w7Y0B1i0>

VOICE

Announcement of "Vientiane Vision 2.0": Voice of Personnel Who Engaged in its Development

Deputy Director ISHIDA Tomonori, International Policy Division, Bureau of Defense Policy, Internal Bureau

The MOD/SDF, announcing "Vientiane Vision," a guideline for the Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation in 2016, has carried out initiatives to contribute to ASEAN as a whole with particular emphasis on the realization of international order based on the "rule of law" in the maritime domain. In order to amplify such efforts, "Vientiane Vision 2.0" was set forth at the ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting in November 2019.

The main point of this update is to redefine the aim of our efforts to contribute to ASEAN's resilience. ASEAN, consisting of diverse member states, is making earnest efforts to show its international presence by playing a central role in the development of regional cooperation with its unity. With a

view to upholding ASEAN centrality and unity, the updated vision sets forth the idea that it is important to contribute to its resilience so that it can withstand and repel external stress flexibly without losing its autonomy.

In addition, redefining the Vision in the much broader context of Japan's vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" is another important point of this update.

For the development of the Vision, studies were made by the entire ministry from the Bureau and four Staff Offices to experts of the National Institute for Defense Studies. Through this process, we discussed new initiatives beyond the Vision and I am confident that solid progress has been made on the Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation.



The 5th ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, where "Vientiane Vision 2.0" was announced



The author during a meeting

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 initiate negotiations over an Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, actively participate in the multilateral naval exercise (KOMODO 2016), and further advance capacity building. 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 November 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto on the occasion of

the 6th ADMM-Plus held in Thailand. At the meeting, Defense Minister Kono stated that Japan would like to promote cooperation such as port calls by vessels and aircraft, and JSDF's participation in the multilateral naval exercise KOMODO. In response, Minister Prabowo stated that Indonesia welcomes those proposals. Both ministers agreed to further enhance defense cooperation in broad fields including this cooperation mentioned above. In December of the same year, Defense Minister Kono again met with Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the defense policies of both countries and the regional situation, and agreed to promote cooperation in HA/DR, which is a shared priority area for both countries, and to continue to promote personnel exchanges in the field of education.

Similarly, at the working level, various exchanges have

been carried out, including Politico-Military Consultation, Military-Military Consultation, and other educational and academic exchanges.

In November 2019, the SDF started HA/DR capacity building project for Indonesia, and held an HA/DR seminar for about 100 Indonesian military officials in the capital city, Jakarta. In the seminar, the SDF's lessons in disaster response was shared so that the Indonesian officials could better understand the SDF's capabilities and improve their disaster response capabilities.

(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, the "Joint Vision Statement on Japan-Vietnam Defense Cooperation (Japan-Vietnam Joint Vision Statement)" was signed to further promote 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, then 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 with Defense Minister Lich, he paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Phuc and exchanged opinions with the Commander of the Navy Nam. 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, which was announced in 2018. Regarding the regional situation, they agreed to cooperate toward denuclearization of North Korea, shared concerns about the unilateral moves in the South China Sea 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, the 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. In November 2019, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited Vietnam to pay a courtesy visit to Defense Minister Lich and hold a vice-ministerial consultation with Vice Defense Minister Vinh to exchange views on the regional situation and on defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries. Japan and Vietnam will co-chair framework of the Experts' Working Group (EWG) in the PKO field held under the ADMM-plus from 2020 to 2023.

As for the major service-to-service exchanges, in March 2020, the Chief of Staff, JS visited Vietnam to pay a courtesy call on Defense Minister Lich. He also held talks with Chief of the General Staff Giang, agreeing to promote defense cooperation and exchanges based on the Japan-Vietnam Joint Vision and sharing their understanding of the security environment surrounding the region. In July 2019, Major General Dũng, Director of the Military Science Academy of Vietnam, and four others visited the GSDF Military Intelligence School. In October 2019, the GSDF and ASDF officials who participated in the Japan-India bilateral exercise Dharma Guardian 19 visited the Vietnamese units in Da Nang to deepen exchanges. In December, the Chief of Staff, MSDF made a visit to Vietnam and held talks with the Commander of the Vietnam People's Navy Nam, where they agreed to strengthen relations between the two countries' navies.

As for capacity building the ASDF held a follow-up seminar in Hanoi in August 2019 for 18 cybersecurity personnel of the People's Army of Vietnam in order to check the retention of the cybersecurity training that had been conducted twice in the past. In December 2019, a workshop on the disposal of unexploded ordnance in water was held for about 30 officials from the Vietnam People's Navy on board the minesweeping tender JS "Bungo," which was in port in Da Nang. The participants were briefed by the ship's crew on the system for the disposal of unexploded ordnance in water, which was followed by a briefing by the ship's underwater disposers on the procedures for disposal. They were also trained on various equipment on board the ship.

It remains vital that Japan and Vietnam strengthen their relationship in order to achieve more concrete and practical 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. Since then, the cooperative relationship, including port calls, has been progressing steadily based on the memorandum. Singapore and Japan have so far conducted 15 meetings on a regular basis 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 November 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with Defense Minister Ng on the occasion of the 6th ADMM-Plus. Based on Vientiane Vision 2.0, the two ministers agreed to promote cooperation, including high-level exchanges and port calls by vessels and aircraft, while also exchanging opinions on regional situations, including those of North Korea and the South China Sea. In addition, in February 2020, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited Singapore and held a meeting with Defense Permanent Secretary Chiang to exchange views on the regional situation and on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

As for the major service-to-service exchanges, a delegation led by the Colonel Koh, Assistant Chief of the General Staff (training) visited Japan in July 2019 and held the 12th JGSDF-Singapore Army Staff Talks in order to share the recognition to the future program on defense cooperation and exchanges between the GSDF and the Singapore Army. As for naval exchanges, the MSDF made four port calls to Singapore during 2019 alone on the way to and back from counter-piracy operations. In May 2019, Destroyers JS "Izumo" and JS "Murasame," which were on the Indo-Pacific Deployment, called at Singapore during the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Exercise to join IMDEX Asia 2019, a maritime and defense exhibition, which was ongoing at the moment and held an onboard reception and goodwill training. In addition, the Chief of Staff, MSDF visited Singapore to speak at IMDEX Asia 2019 in conjunction with the call of

these ships. In October 2019, the Chief of Staff, ASDF made a visit to Singapore, where he met with Singapore's Air Force Commander Khong and exchanged views on service-to-service cooperation in defense and security. Additionally, MSDF vessels have made port calls in Singapore during international cooperation operations, such as United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and counter-piracy operations. Also, service-to-service exchanges have been actively conducted.

(4) The Philippines

Between Japan and the Philippines, a coastal state in the South China Sea and an ally of the United States, there are frequent mutual visits by naval vessels, working-level exchanges including Military-Military Consultation, and service-to-service exchanges along with high-level exchanges. At the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting between then Minister of Defense Nakatani and then Secretary of National Defense Gazmin 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 Staff, JS 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, Prime Minister Abe and then President Aquino 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. Two TC-90s were delivered in March 2017 and three TC-90s in March 2018, which completed the transfer of a total of five TC-90s to the Philippine Navy.

Moreover, at the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting between then Defense Minister Onodera and Secretary of National Defense Lorenzana 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. The delivery of parts began in March 2019, and was completed in September of the same year.



ASDF Chief of Staff Marumo having talks with the Singaporean Air Force commander (October 2019)

At the Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting in April 2019, then Defense Minister Iwaya and Secretary of National Defense Lorenzana 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,” which made a port call at the Port of Subic during the Indo-Pacific



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines at the time of the ADMM-Plus (November 2019)

VOICE

Enhancing the Ability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to Respond to Disasters

Major OKUNISHI Yoshikazu,
Commanding Officer of the Medical Service Unit,
the 4th Logistics Support Regiment, GSDF
(Kasuga City, Fukuoka Prefecture)

From June 30 to July 4, 2019, I lectured in a seminar of a capacity building program for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). At the seminar I exhibited and explained about equipment of the lifesaving systems held by GSDF. The lifesaving systems were deployed to GSDF across Japan, learning from the experiences after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and have been used in the ensuing disaster relief activities. As the leader of the five dispatched members, I provided explanations on the activities and record of the Western Army's disaster relief, while the rest of members demonstrated how to use a variety of equipment and conducted a rescue drill simulating a disaster site.

The seminar conducted in the MSDF Destroyer JS “Izumo,” stopping in the Philippines as part of Indo-Pacific Deployment



The author making a presentation

2019 (IPD19), was a valuable opportunity of training not only for AFP personnel but also for civilian officials of the government of the Philippines. Before leaving Japan, we repeated intensive rehearsals on explanation in a limited exhibition place and time, communication in English, in particular, and how to show the equipment effectively. We also tried to provide accurate explanations because the AFP plans to introduce similar equipment.

As a result, the seminar provided a very meaningful opportunity as the trainees expressed a lot of interest in the performance, intended usage and specific use situation, and we were also able to exchange opinions on disaster relief posture and lifesaving drills. In order to contribute to effective use of the lifesaving systems in the Philippines, a country vulnerable to many natural disasters, I am willing to take any opportunity to engage in education for units to which the equipment will be deployed.



Member(s) explaining how to use the equipment

Deployment in September 2018, to meet then Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Ono and exchange opinions on the bilateral relationship. In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with Secretary of the National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana of the Philippines at the 6th ADMM-Plus. Minister Kono stated that Japan would like to promote cooperation such as port calls by vessels and aircraft, Japan-Philippines-U.S. trilateral cooperation including JSDF's participation in the Philippines-U.S. bilateral exercises, personnel exchanges including high-level talks and defense equipment and technology cooperation based on the "Vientiane Vision 2.0." In response, Secretary Lorenzana stated that the Philippines welcomes these measures. Both Ministers agreed to further enhance defense cooperation in broad fields including the cooperation mentioned above. In November 2019, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited the Philippines for vice-ministerial consultations with Undersecretary of National Defense Luna to exchange views on the regional situation and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

With regard to the major service-to-service cooperation and exchanges, in December 2019, the Chief of Staff, JS met with then Chief of Staff Clement, Armed Forces of the Philippines at the Ministry of Defense and reaffirmed the importance of promoting FOIP and defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries. In October 2019, the GSDF Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade and others participated in the Philippines-U.S. bilateral exercise "KAMANDAG 19" to improve HA/DR capabilities during the deployment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR) and to strengthen U.S.-Japan and Japan-Philippines defense

cooperation. In September 2019, Destroyer JS "Asagiri" conducted bilateral exercise with the Philippine Navy at the Port of Subic Bay and the surrounding sea and airspace in the Philippines to improve tactical skills and promote mutual understanding and trust. In October 2019, two P-3C patrol aircraft participated for the first time in the U.S.-Philippines bilateral exercise Sama Sama to strengthen cooperation between Japan, the U.S., and Philippine navies. In July 2019, the ASDF Air Support Command conducted overseas flight training in C-1 to improve the ability of operation personnel to carry out overseas missions at Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in the Philippines, and also conducted unit-to-unit exchanges with the Philippine Air Force.

As for capability building, the MSDF held an HA/DR seminar in July 2019 on the occasion of its destroyer's port call to the Philippines during the Indo-Pacific Deployment.

Q See 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 from early years. 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 2020, an exercise on rescue of Japanese nationals and others overseas was conducted to enhance joint operation capacities during Cobra Gold 20.

In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Prayut on the occasion of the 6th ADMM-Plus. During the meeting, Defense Minister Kono stated that Japan would like to promote cooperation such as port calls by vessels and aircraft, JSDF's participation in the multilateral exercise Cobra Gold, and holding staff talks. In response, Minister Purayuth stated that Thailand welcomes these measures. Both ministers agreed to further enhance defense cooperation in broad fields based on the Memorandum of Arrangement between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defence of the



GSDF personnel making adjustments with other countries' military personnel in KAMANDAG 19, a U.S.-Philippines bilateral exercise (October 2019)



Video: Multilateral exercise Cobra Gold 20
URL: <https://youtu.be/-NSkcCEd5Ag>

Kingdom of Thailand on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Defense they had signed. From February to March 2020, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited Thailand to inspect Cobra Gold 20 and meet with the Director General of the Office of Policy and Planning of the Ministry of Defense to exchange views on the regional situation and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

As for recent service-to-service exchanges, in March 2020, the Chief of Staff, JS visited Thailand to see Cobra Gold 20. He also paid a courtesy call on Deputy Defense Minister Chaichan and met with Chief of Defense Forces Pornpipat to share their understanding of the regional situation and the strengthening of bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. As for army exchanges, in August 2019, the 2nd Royal Thai Army – Japan Ground Self Defense Force Staff Working Group was held to make future exchanges between the armies more concrete.

As for capacity building 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, which covered the characteristics of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Command, engineering missions, and other matters. 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 in the field of aviation safety.

(6) Cambodia

In 1992, Cambodia became the first country to which Japan sent an SDF unit for UN PKO. As indicated by Japan's capacity building 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 and service-to-service exchanges.

As for recent service-to-service exchanges, in February



GSDF Chief of Staff Yuasa holding a meeting with Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army (February 2020)

2020, the Chief of Staff, GSDF visited Cambodia and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Hun Sen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Tea Banh, and Commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Vong Pisen, and met with Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army Hun Manet to share their understanding of the regional situation and the promotion of bilateral defense cooperation and exchange.

The GSDF has worked to enhance bilateral cooperation through capacity building programs, including 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 from June to July 2019. The graduation ceremony in July 2019 was attended by the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs. In conjunction with his participation in the ceremony, the Vice-Minister paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Tea Banh and met with Secretary of State for National Defense, Ministry of National Defense Neang Phat exchange views on the regional situation and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

(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. 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 October 2019, Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces Min Aung Hlaing visited the Chief of Staff, JS for the first time to confirm the promotion of defense cooperation and exchanges between the SDF and the Myanmar Armed Forces under the FOIP initiative. In the same month, during his visit to Japan, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe. Prime Minister Abe expressed his wish for further development of cooperation based on the long history of friendship between the Myanmar Armed Forces and the SDF, and the commander called for the SDF's cooperation for the modernization of the Myanmar Armed Forces. In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono held a meeting with Defense Minister Sein Win on the occasion of the 6th ADMM-Plus, and they agreed to further enhance defense cooperation in broad fields and exchanged views on the regional situation.

The ASDF supported the establishment of a weather services unit within the Myanmar Air Force through a seminar in the field of aviation meteorology, which was held in October 2018 and January and September 2019. In December 2018, Japan held a seminar 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

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, 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 visited the Lao Ministry of National Defense to meet Permanent Secretary of Defense Khamsy Vongkhamsoo. In this meeting, they agreed to work together for an early signing of the memorandum.

In October 2019, Deputy Defense Minister Yamamoto met with Deputy Defense Minister Onsi, who had been invited as a special speaker at the 11th Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum. After the meeting, the Memorandum between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defense of the Laos on Defense Cooperation and Exchange was signed. The two vice ministers agreed that the two countries will promote defense cooperation in a wide range of fields, including HA/DR, based on the memorandum.

As for capacity building, the GSDF provided the engineering unit and medical unit of the Royal Lao Army with practical training on HA/DR in November 2018. These units were invited to Japan for the first time in October 2019. In addition to training at a disaster response command post, they received training at the GSDF Matsumoto Camp from GSDF personnel regarding the preparation of training plans for search and rescue and sanitation. Furthermore, in November 2019, GSDF personnel were dispatched to Laos to provide guidance to the Royal Lao Army on education and training in the areas of search and rescue and sanitation.

(9) Malaysia

Japan signed the agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology with Malaysia in April 2018. In September 2018, then 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 make defense cooperation more concrete in various fields including service-to-service exchanges based on the memorandum. Also in December 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with then Defense Minister Mohamad on the occasion of the 19th Doha Forum in Qatar. During the meeting, Defense Minister Kono stated that Japan would like to further advance defense cooperation and exchanges with Malaysia, based on the "Vientiane Vision 2.0" that Japan had announced in November of the same year. Then Minister Mohamad welcomed the updated Vientiane Vision. Both Ministers confirmed to move forward defense equipment and technology cooperation as well as personnel exchanges in the education field, following the conclusion of the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology in April 2018. In February 2020, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs also visited Malaysia to pay a courtesy call on then Deputy Defense Minister Liew Chin Tong to exchange views on the regional situation and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

In October 2019, the Chief of Staff, ASDF made an official visit to Malaysia and met with the then Chief of Air Force Affendi to exchange views on the strengthening of the



ASDF Chief of Staff Marumo having talks with the Malaysian Air Force commander (October 2019)

relationship between the two air forces.

As for capacity building, an HA/DR seminar was held in May 2019 on the occasion of a port call of a destroyer to Malaysia during the Indo-Pacific Deployment.

(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 March 2020, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited Brunei and paid a courtesy call on Second Minister of Defence Halbi and met with Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence Shahril for an exchange of views on the regional situation and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. As for recent service-to-service exchanges, in February 2019, the Chief of Staff, MSDF visited Brunei to meet then 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. In addition, in February 2020, the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited Brunei to pay a courtesy call on Second Minister of Defence Halbi, and they agreed to further develop bilateral defense cooperation.

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, and maritime security.

On the other hand, issues between the defense authorities of Japan and ROK are affecting bilateral defense cooperation and exchange. Examples include the ROK's response to the MSDF's flags⁵ at an international fleet review ceremony hosted by the ROK in October 2018, the irradiation of a fire control radar at an MSDF aircraft by an ROK Navy destroyer in December 2018,⁶ and the ROK's response to the Japan-ROK General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA). The MOD/SDF will continue to call on the ROK side to appropriately deal with these matters.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

a. Overview

In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono held a meeting with Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo on the occasion of the 6th ADMM-Plus. Defense Minister Kono stated that Japan-ROK bilateral relations as well as the trilateral relations between Japan, the ROK and the U.S. are extremely significant in the severe security environment surrounding Japan and the ROK although the defense relations between the two countries have been extremely sour because of various bilateral issues since 2018. The two Ministers agreed that the two defense authorities would continue their communication.

b. Japan-ROK 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 military information shared between the Japanese and ROK governments. In August 2019, the Government of the ROK notified the Government of Japan of its intention to terminate the GSOMIA in writing. However, in November 2019, the ROK government notified Japan about the

⁵ As for MSDF's ship flag, see the MOD website (<https://www.mod.go.jp/j/publication/net/shiritai/flag/index.html>)

⁶ In December 2018, Gwanggaeto-daewang, the Great class destroyer of the ROK Navy, directed a fire control-radar at a MSDF patrol aircraft conducting warning and surveillance activities off the coast of Noto Peninsula (within Japan's exclusive economic zone). Taking the incident seriously, in January 2019, the MOD published its final statement, compiling objective facts, and has been urging the Korean side to take recurrence prevention measures. The SDF patrol aircraft was flying while keeping sufficient altitude and distance, and did not fly in a way that could have threatened the Korean navy vessel. The MOD will expend all possible means to monitor the situation and gather intelligence. For details, see the MOD website (https://www.mod.go.jp/e/d_act/radar/index.html).

suspension of this notification.⁷ In response, Defense Minister Kono commented that Japan-U.S. and Japan-ROK bilateral cooperation and Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral cooperation are important amid the severe security environment in East Asia, and that he considered that the ROK government made its decision from a strategic perspective taking into account the current security situation in the region.

Q See Reference 36 (Recent Japan-ROK Defense Cooperation and 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, then Defense Minister Iwaya, ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo, and then 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 Japan-U.S.-ROK Defense Ministerial Meeting held by Defense Minister Kono, ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper on the occasion of the 6th ADMM-Plus in November 2019, the three ministers committed to further trilateral security cooperation, including information sharing, high-level policy consultation, and bilateral/multilateral exercises,



Chief of Joint Staff Yamazaki holding a meeting with U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (October 2019)

based on the international community's shared goal which calls for North Korea's complete denuclearization as well as the abandonment of ballistic missiles in a verifiable and irreversible manner, North Korea's full compliance with its international obligations in accordance with all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and the importance of a rules-based order.

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 2020, a plenary meeting of Director-Generals was held in the form of a video-teleconference. The representatives of the three countries engaged in consultation on the North Korean nuclear and missile threat, regional security, the coronavirus pandemic, and substantive ways to strengthen trilateral security cooperation.

As for service-to-service exchange, the Chief of Staff, JS visited the United States in October 2019 to participate in the Japan-U.S.-ROK chiefs of staff meeting. At this meeting, the Chief of Joint Staff, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Milley, and ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Park discussed trilateral defense cooperation from the viewpoint of promoting the peace and stability of Northeast Asia. Also, in July 2019, the Chief of Joint Staff and members of the GSDF Chemical School participated in Eastern Endeavour 19, an ROK-hosted Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) training exercise held in Busan. In addition to the MOD/SDF, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the National Police Agency, and the Japan Coast Guard participated in the training along with the relevant organizations of other

⁷ 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.

participating countries. The training included an exercise on operational procedures for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Through this exercise, the participants strengthened cooperation and deepened mutual understanding with the relevant organizations of the other participating countries.

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 this is important for all of Japan, European countries, Canada, and New Zealand.

Q See Reference 37 (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 concerning 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



Destroyer JS "Teruzuki" conducting goodwill training with the Royal Navy survey vessel HMS "Enterprise" (October 2019)

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. In January 2017, the Japan-U.K. ACSA⁸ 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 supplies and services, such as water, food, fuel and transportation, between the SDF and U.K. Armed Forces through unified procedures in bilateral 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 U.K. Army, British naval ships' deployment to the Indo-Pacific region and bilateral exercises with the SDF, and progress of the joint research on new air-to-air missiles. In addition, in November 2019, Defense Minister Kono held a telephone conversation with Defense Minister Wallace. The two ministers exchanged views on bilateral

⁸ The ACSA applies to the following activities: (1) bilateral/multilateral 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 Japanese nationals and others overseas 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.



MSDF Chief of Staff Yamamura exchanging opinions with U.S. Chief of Naval Operations and U.K. First Sea Lord on board the British aircraft carrier "Queen Elizabeth" (November 2019)

defense cooperation and exchanges and the security situation surrounding the two countries. In addition, Defense Minister Kono explained the SDF's intelligence gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East. The security cooperation between the two countries has been steadily deepening.

As for service-to-service exchanges, from September to October 2019, the GSDF Central Band supported the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Military Band in participating in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo hosted by the United Kingdom and held in Australia, contributing to the improvement of the band's performance and techniques, the strengthening of the relationship between U.K., Japanese, Australian, and PNG forces, and the enhancement of Japan's credibility in the international community. In May 2019, the SDF supported U.K. Army's pre-dispatch training on UNMISS, which led to the first ever exchange of experts in PKO between U.K. and Japanese armies. The GSDF and U.K. Army held the bilateral exercise "Vigilant Isles" from September to October 2019 to improve their tactical skills and bilateral coordination. In October 2019, the MSDF conducted goodwill training with the Royal Navy survey vessel HMS "Enterprise." In November 2019, the Chief of Staff, MSDF visited the United States, and on board U.K. aircraft carrier "Queen Elizabeth," he exchanged views with the Chief of Naval Operations Gilday and First Sea Lord Radakin on the deepening of trilateral cooperation for leading the international community and maintaining maritime order. Following this talk, they issued a joint statement. In January 2020, the Chief of Staff, ASDF made a visit to the United Kingdom and exchanged views with the U.K. Chief of the Air Staff and other officials.

(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.

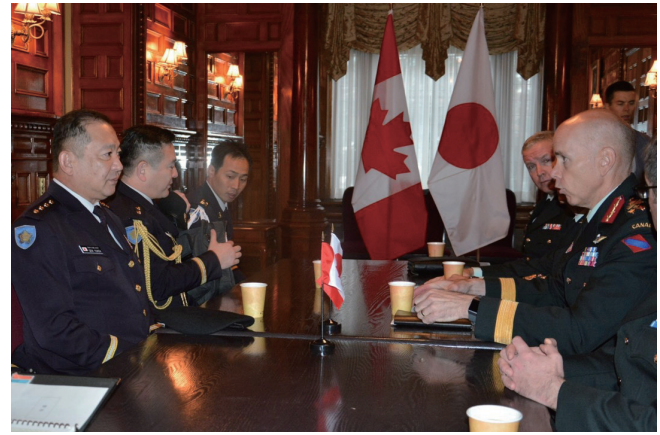
The first Japan-France "2+2" Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting was held in Paris in January 2014, followed by the visit of then Minister of the Armed Forces Le Drian to Japan in July of the same year when the Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges was signed. From 2015 to 2018, four "2+2" meetings were held. At these meetings, Japan and France discussed issues including the following: international terrorism, maritime security, defense equipment and technology cooperation, ACSA, bilateral exercises, cooperation in the space domain, and collaboration in capacity building 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 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 of the same year.

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 FOIP. They also welcomed the commencement of the cooperative research on the Feasibility Study For Mine Countermeasure Technological Activities, and agreed to promote bilateral exercises involving French aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle," deployed in the Indian Ocean, and to collaborate in capacity building 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. Based on this initiative, the Japan-France-Australia-U.S. multilateral exercise "La Perouse" was conducted in the Indian Ocean in May 2019 with the aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle." Furthermore, Japan highly appreciated France's decision



Defense Minister Kono holding a meeting with the French Minister of the Armed Forces at the time of the Manama Dialogue (November 2019)



GSDF Chief of Staff Yuasa holding a meeting with the Commander of the Canadian Army (October 2019)

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. Defense Minister Kono met with Minister of the Armed Forces Parly at the 15th Manama Dialogue in Bahrain in November 2019 and at the Munich Security Conference held in Germany in February 2020. Both ministers welcomed that Japan-France defense cooperation is advancing, and they confirmed to closely work together for the potential “2+2” meeting to be held in Tokyo. Both ministers also shared views to promote concrete cooperation as partners to promote “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

As for major service-to-service exchanges, the SDF has participated in the HA/DR exercises (“Equateur”) hosted by the French Armed Forces stationed in New Caledonia since 2014. In August 2018, an MSDF training squadron conducted goodwill training with French replenishment oiler “Somme” in Brest. 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 addition, in August 2019, an MSDF training squadron and the French Navy held a goodwill exercise off the coast of French Polynesia. Furthermore, in June 2019, C-2 transport aircraft participated in the Paris Air Show for the first time. In January 2020, the Chief of Staff, ASDF made a visit to France and exchanged views with the Chief of Staff of the French Air Force. In May 2020, the two chiefs signed the Strategic Orientation and agreed to strengthen cooperation between two air forces.

(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 “2+2” Foreign and Defense Vice-Ministerial meeting held in December 2018, both sides reaffirmed that they would promote further cooperation.

In June 2019, which marked the 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations, then Defense Minister Iwaya held the first Japan-Canada Defense Ministerial Meeting in three years with Canadian Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan. It was the first official visit to Japan by Canadian Defence Minister in 13 years. At the meeting, the ministers welcomed the deepening of the two countries’ relationship, including the signing of the Japan-Canada ACSA and cooperation in warning and 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 bilateral exercises. 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 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 joint statement to be issued by the defense authorities of Japan and Canada. In February 2020, Defense Minister Kono met with Defence Minister Sajjan on the occasion of his attendance at the 56th Munich Security Conference. At the meeting, the Ministers welcomed the progress in bilateral defense cooperation in various fields, reviewed recent bilateral cooperation and exchanges, and agreed to foster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

As for major service-to-service exchanges, the Chief of Staff, GSDF made a visit to Canada for the first time in October 2019, where he met with the Commander of the Canadian Army Eyre. In June 2019, the destroyers JS “Izumo,” JS “Murasame,” and JS “Akebono” conducted the bilateral exercise KAEDEX19-1 with the Canadian



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Canadian Defence Minister at the Munich Security Conference (February 2020)



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Defence Minister of New Zealand at the occasion of the ADMM-Plus (November 2019)

Navy ships HMCS “Regina” and MV “Asterix” in the sea and airspace off the coast of Vietnam. In October 2019, the destroyers JS “Shimakaze” and JS “Chokai,” and the Canadian Navy ship HMCS “Ottawa,” conducted the bilateral exercise KAEDEX19-2 in the sea and airspace south of the Kanto region to improve tactical skills and strengthen cooperation. In February 2020, Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force Meinzingler visited Japan to meet with the Chief of Staff, ASDF and the Commander of the Air Defense Command. They agreed to strengthen cooperation between the air forces in light of the recent developments in the relationship between the Japanese and Canadian defense authorities.

(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 addition, at the Summit Meeting in September 2019, the two leaders shared the view that two countries will commence a joint study toward negotiations for an agreement on security information sharing. In June 2019, then 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 and the defense policies of both countries. Concerning warning and surveillance activities against illicit ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea, they agreed to continue to work together. In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with Defence Minister Mark on the occasion of the 6th ADMM-Plus. Defense Minister Kono expressed gratitude for New Zealand’s deployment of a patrol aircraft to collect evidence of North Korea’s “ship-to-ship” transfers, which is the second deployment by the country following on from a deployment in 2018. He added that he would like to continue to foster relations with New Zealand. The ministers welcomed active

high-level exchanges between the two defense authorities. Also, they expressed their strong willingness in pursuing possibilities of bilateral cooperation on Pacific island countries. In addition, the ministers exchanged views on regional situation in Oceania, including Pacific island countries and New Zealand.

As for service-to-service exchanges, Chief of the New Zealand Army Boswell visited Japan in September 2019. In November 2019, Chief of Air Force Clark visited Japan. In December 2019, the three countries of Japan, the United States, and Australia held a multilateral HA/DR exercise “Christmas Drop” for the first time with the participation of New Zealand.

(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, SDF 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 addition, from December 2019, an ASDF Lieutenant Colonel has been assigned to the NATO Headquarters Consultation, Command and Control Staff (NHQC3S) as staff responsible for managing information and communications for various NATO policies and projects. The MOD also sent a liaison officer to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in February 2017 and a liaison officer to the NATO Maritime Command (MARCOM) in June 2019. 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 the cyber field, since March 2019, the MOD official

has been being dispatched to the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE). In December 2019, Japan participated for the first time in the NATO cyber defense exercise Cyber Coalition 2019 in Estonia. In February 2020, Defense Minister Kono held a meeting with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg at the 56th Munich Security Conference, where they welcomed the progress of cooperation between Japan and NATO, especially in the fields of cyber and maritime security, and exchanged views on regional security issues.

(6) Other European Countries

Japan and Germany signed the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology 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 to conclude an agreement on the security of information reached an agreement in principle, and affirmed that they would seize this opportunity to promote bilateral security and defense cooperation. In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono held a telephone conversation with Defence Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer to exchange views on bilateral defense exchanges and the security situation surrounding the two countries. He also explained the SDF's information gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East. In February 2020, Defense Minister Kono met Defence Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer at the 56th Munich Security Conference, where both ministers shared the view that they would promote concrete cooperation to realize the vision of a FOIP, and exchanged views on issues such as security situations in the Indo-Pacific region.

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 concerning the Transfer of the Defence Equipment and Technology in May 2017 that 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 Defence Elisabetta Trenta. In the meeting, the two ministers agreed to further strengthen bilateral coordination in maritime security. In addition, in January 2020, the Chief of Staff, ASDf made his first visit to Italy, exchanging views with the Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force and others on the regional

situation and defense policy.

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 Defence 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 then chair of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea.

In September 2018, Estonian Minister of Defence 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 CCDCOE.

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defence 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 2020, Defense Minister Kono held the first defense ministerial meeting with Defence Minister Zahorodniuk at the 56th Munich Security Conference. Defense Minister Kono stated that Japan consistently respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that Japan's position is that it will not accept any attempt to change the status quo by coercion. Both ministers affirmed the importance of bilateral defense cooperation, and shared the view that they would materialize various cooperation based on the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges that they signed in 2018. Both ministers exchanged views on issues such as security situations surrounding both countries.

In February 2019, then Finnish Minister of Defence 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.

With Denmark, Defense Minister Kono held a telephone conversation with Defense Minister Bramsen in October 2019, where they exchanged views on bilateral defense exchanges and the security situation surrounding both countries. In addition, Defense Minister Kono explained the SDF's intelligence gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East.

In February 2020, at the 56th Munich Security Conference, Minister of Defense Kono held talks with EU High Representative Borrell, where they welcomed that the cooperation is advancing especially in the field of maritime security, and shared the view that they would continue to promote concrete defense cooperation and exchanges. They exchanged views on issues such as security situations in the Indo-Pacific region.

6 China

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges 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, the MOD/SDF will promote multi-layered dialogues and exchanges with China. In doing so, Japan will continue to encourage China to play a responsible and 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 between then Japanese Defense Minister Nakatani and then Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan. In addition, in June 2019, following the Defense Ministerial Meeting held during the previous year's ADMM-Plus, then Defense Minister Iwaya and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe held a meeting during the Shangri-La Dialogue, where both ministers shared the recognition of the importance to realize the mutual visits between the Japanese Defense Minister and the Chinese Defense Minister as soon as possible. Based on this shared understanding, in December 2019, Defense Minister Kono visited China for the first time in 10 years as defense minister. At this meeting with Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe, Defense Minister Kono conveyed his concerns about the activities of the Chinese military regarding the situation in the East China Sea, including the sea and airspace around the Senkaku Islands. Defense Minister Kono also strongly urged a positive response from the Chinese side. The ministers then welcomed the steady progress of exchanges for mutual understanding and trust between the defense authorities of Japan and China, agreeing to continue such efforts between the two countries. 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, 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 the same month, the Chief of Staff, MSDF, who visited China for the first time in about five and



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Chinese Defense Minister (December 2019)

a half years, attended a high-level symposium held on the sideline of the Fleet Review. On this occasion, the MSDF Chief of Staff conveyed the importance of free and open seas. Following this, in October 2019, the Chinese navy guided-missile destroyer “Taiyuan” became the first Chinese naval vessel to visit Japan in about 10 years, and conducted the third goodwill training with an SDF destroyer, which was the first such training in about eight years.

As for unit-to-unit exchanges, a delegation from the Eastern Theater Command, headed by the deputy commander, visited Japan in November 2018, followed by a delegation from the SDF, led by the Western Army commanding General, visiting the Eastern Theater Command and other areas in November 2019. 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 and

September 2019, the Chinese delegation consisting of field-grade officers of the People’s Liberation Army visited Japan, in addition, the Japanese delegation consisting of field-grade officers of the SDF visited China in September 2018 and April 2019. The Japanese delegate paid courtesy calls to important persons and visited military units etc.

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 and exchange in non-traditional security areas, such as counter-piracy measures.

VOICE

Voice of SDF Personnel Who Participated in the International Fleet Review to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Navy

Captain MOTOMURA Shingo, Escort Division 8 Commander, MSDF

As Escort Division 8 Commander, I commanded Destroyer JS “Suzutsuki” and participated in the International Fleet Review during the FY2018 ocean training exercise (flight). The review was held by China to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Navy. This was a large-scale event reviewed by President Xi Jinping and with the participation of approximately 30 Chinese military vessels, including aircraft carrier “Liaoning,” and approximately 20 aircraft, as well as 18 military vessels from 13 countries. When participating in the fleet review, Destroyer JS “Suzutsuki” had an opportunity to call at Qingdao of Shandong. The opening of the destroyer to the public at the place was enormously popular, attracting many Qingdao citizens.



The author participating in the event to welcome the arrival (center)

It is very meaningful that a destroyer of MSDF visited China for the first time in approximately seven-and-a-half years and participated for the first time in a fleet review held by the Chinese Navy. The fact that the maritime exchange between the MSDF and the Chinese Navy was resumed with the participation in the fleet review was very gratifying for me, as I had served as Defense Attache to China. In October 2019, guided missile destroyer “Taiyuan” of the Chinese Navy became the first Chinese military vessel to call at Japan in approximately 10 years, and goodwill training with a MSDF destroyer was implemented for the first time in approximately eight years. I think that continued Japan-China maritime exchange will lead to the promotion of mutual understanding and trust.



Destroyer JS “Suzutsuki” in full dressing at the Port of Qingdao

(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 memorandum⁹ 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 and exchange; (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.

Under the mechanism, the first annual and expert meetings were held between the defense authorities in December 2018, and the second annual and experts' meetings were held in January 2020, to exchange views on the maritime security policies of the two countries, the operational status and improvement of the mechanism, as well as to coordinate the establishment of a hotline. At the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting in December 2019, the ministers also confirmed that the mechanism has been operating appropriately since its inception and has played an important role in building trust between the defense authorities of Japan and China and avoiding contingencies in the field. The ministers also agreed to accelerate efforts to establish the hotline as soon as possible.

Q See

Reference 38 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with China [Past Three Years])

7 Russia

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchange 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,¹⁰ and bilateral search and rescue exercises.

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



MSDF Chief of Staff Yamamura having talks with the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy (November 2019)

⁹ Official title: Memorandum on the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Japanese Ministry of Defense and the Chinese Ministry of National Defense

¹⁰ Official title: Japan-Russia Agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea beyond territorial waters and the air space above them

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 Cybersecurity 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 Defense Ministerial Meeting. In these meetings, Japan and Russia agreed on promoting bilateral defense exchanges, including a visit by the Chief of Staff, JS 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 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 and does not pose a threat to Russia.

As for service-to-service exchanges, following a visit to Russia by the Chief of Staff, GSDF in May 2019, from August to September of the same year, the GSDF band participated for the first time in the 12th Spasskaya Tower International Military Music Festival in Moscow, deepening mutual understanding and trust between JGSDF and Russian armies. In December 2019, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Yevmenov was invited to Japan. This was the first visit to Japan by a commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy in 18 years. This promoted mutual understanding and confidence building between the two navies.

In January 2020, the SDF conducted its second bilateral counter-piracy exercise with Russian naval vessels in the Gulf of Aden.

Q See Reference 39 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Russia [Past Three Years])

8 Pacific Island Countries

Q See Reference 40 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Pacific Island countries [Past Three Years])

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 Pacific Island countries. From January to February 2020, State Minister of Defense Yamamoto visited Fiji, PNG, and Tonga, three Pacific island countries with armed forces, for the first time as a political officer of the Ministry of Defense, and held talks with the defense ministers and other officials of each country. In all of these high-level talks, he exchanged views on a wide range of topics in defense cooperation and exchange, and confirmed their will for further promoting it in the future.

Since 2015, Japan has cooperated and strengthened the bilateral relationship with PNG with regard to establishing and training a military band through a capacity building 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 Chief of Staff, GSDF visited PNG for the first time in March 2019, Commander of the PNG Defence Force Gilbert Toropo expressed his appreciation for the capacity building Japan had provided. The two leaders shared the view that they continue to promote defense cooperation and exchanges in the future.

From September to October 2019, the SDF provided guidance on performance and techniques to the PNG Military Band, which participated in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a military music festival hosted by the United Kingdom and held in Australia.

In addition to these efforts, the MSDF and ASDF have strengthened Japan’s relationships with Pacific Island

countries by calling at ports and airports. Since 2015, the ASDF has conducted the multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise Christmas Drop in the Federated States of Micronesia. In the airdrop exercises, Japan has



State Minister of Defense Yamamoto holding a meeting with Minister for Defence, National Security, and Foreign Affairs of Fiji (January 2020)

also dropped various donations to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands. In October 2019, the ASDF U-4 transport aircraft and the JMSDF Training Squadron called at the Republic of Palau. The GSDF also took this opportunity to visit the Republic of Palau, and the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF officers participated in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Palau. Following this visit to the Republic of Palau, the U-4s made its first call to the Federated States of Micronesia, where they handed over donated wheelchairs. As part of the Pacific Partnership 2019 led by the United States Pacific Fleet, the MOD/SDF personnel were sent to the Marshall Islands to conduct cultural exchanges, including medical activities and musical performances.

Moreover, in November 2019, transport aircraft C-130H called at the Republic of the Marshall Islands International

VOICE

Voice of the First Official Trip to Pacific Island Countries by State Minister of Defense, One of the political officers of the MOD and Support Staff

**Defense Official HORIMOTO Kumiko,
International Policy Division, Bureau of Defense Policy,
Internal Bureau, MOD**

Pacific Island countries are 14 countries located at the center of the South Pacific Ocean. Their importance has also been increasing from the strategic viewpoint. Three of them, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga have their own military forces. State Minister of Defense Yamamoto visited all three countries from January to February of 2020. This was the first visit to these countries by one of the political officers of the MOD and could send a clear message of our intent to strengthen the relationship with the defense authorities of the Pacific Island countries.

As a person in charge of promoting defense cooperation and exchange with Pacific Island countries, I engaged in preparation for the meeting with the ministers of defense held in the countries and planning of an entire program including inspection of troops. I also attended the State Minister and assisted him and served as his interpreter at the meetings. On the day of our visit to Fiji, the country was hit by a cyclone, but the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Seruiratu swiftly arranged a change of venue to make the meeting possible.

I am delighted that through these visits we could build face-to-face relationships at a high level as the first step to promote further defense cooperation and exchange.



Meeting with the Minister for Defence, National Security, and Foreign Affairs of Fiji
(The author is to the left, in the second row)



Defense Minister of Tonga and State Minister of Defense Yamamoto



Papua New Guinea military band and the Japanese Delegation
(The author is at the left end of the front row)



Video: Joint HA/DR exercise Christmas Drop in the Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Commonwealth of Northern Marianas

URL: <https://youtu.be/t-7o82vZHAS>

Airport on the sidelines of an exercise in the United States. As an inter-agency cooperation project with the MOFA, the ASDF transported materials for dengue fever countermeasures (mosquito nets and repellents, etc.) at the request of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in light of the epidemic in the region. In addition, in August 2019, Destroyer JS “Ise” and amphibious transport dock ship JS “Kunisaki” called at Port Moresby, and between August and September of the same year, MSDF training ship JS “Kashima” and escort ship JS “Inazuma” called at the port of Suva, Fiji and the port of Rabaul, PNG, to conduct various goodwill events.

9 Middle Eastern Countries

Q See Reference 41 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Middle Eastern Countries [Past Three Years])

Since peace and stability in the Middle East are extremely important for the peace and prosperity of the international community, including Japan, the MOD/SDF have been promoting high-level exchanges and unit-to-unit exchanges in order to build and strengthen cooperative relationships with countries in the region.

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 Staff, JS made a visit to the UAE as the first Chief of Joint Staff of Japan, and paid a courtesy call to, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed. 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. In October 2019 and March 2020, Defense Minister Kono held a telephone conversation with Minister of State for Defense Affairs Bowardi, in which they exchanged views on bilateral defense exchanges and regional issues. The SDF sent a C-2 transport aircraft to the Dubai Air Show in November 2019. In January 2020, Prime Minister Abe visited the UAE and met Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed to exchange views and explain Japan’s efforts to ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East, gaining his support for such efforts.

Japan and Israel held the first politico-military dialogue 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 Staff, JS visited Israel for the first time as a Chief of Joint Staff of Japan. In September 2019, the defense authorities signed Memorandum on Protection of Information for the Exchange of Classified Information on Defense Equipment and Technology between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel. Through these efforts, Japan and Israel have strengthened their relationship in the security field.

At the Japan-Iran Summit in December 2019, Prime Minister Abe gave a detailed explanation of Japan’s efforts to ensure the safety of the navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East. In addition, in October 2019 and January 2020, Defense Minister Kono held the first defense ministerial telephone conversation with Defense and Logistics Minister Hatami, in which the two ministers exchanged views on the regional situation and other issues. During the January telephone conversation, Defense Minister Kono explained the SDF’s information gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japanese vessels in the Middle East.

Then State Minister of Defense Yamamoto visited Egypt in September 2017, marking the first visit by one of the political officers of the MOD. Moreover, in June 2019, the Chief of Staff, JS visited the country, and held a meeting with Lieutenant General Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud Hegazy, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

In March 2019, Minister Responsible for Defense Affairs Sayyid Badr visited Japan and met then Minister of Defense Iwaya and signed a memorandum on defense exchanges. In October 2019, Defense Minister Kono held a telephone conversation with Minister Responsible for Defense Affairs Badr. In December 2019, Defense Minister Kono visited Oman for the first time as a defense minister and met with Minister Responsible for Defense Affairs Badr. Both ministers confirmed to continue deepening defense cooperation and exchanges such as cooperation between the naval services under the FOIP vision. In January 2020, Prime Minister Abe visited Oman to exchange views with the new King Haitham and directly briefed him on Japan’s efforts to ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East, gaining his support for such efforts.

Japan and Qatar signed a memorandum on defense exchanges in February 2015. In May 2019, Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Attiyah visited Japan and the first defense ministers meeting was held between Minister Attiyah and then Defense Minister Iwaya. In October 2019, a telephone conversation was held between Defense Minister Kono and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs Attiyah, where the two ministers exchanged views on bilateral defense exchanges. In December 2019, Defense Minister Kono attended the 19th Doha Forum hosted by Qatar for the first time as a defense minister and met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Minister Responsible for Defense Affairs of Oman (December 2019)

of State for Defense Affairs Attiyah. At the meeting, both Ministers welcomed that Japan-Qatar defense cooperation and exchanges are moving forward, and confirmed to continue deepening defense cooperation and exchanges in areas such as education and training.

Japan signed a memorandum on defense exchanges with Saudi Arabia in September 2016. In addition, in October and December 2019, telephone conversations were held between Defense Minister Kono and Crown Prince and Minister of Defense Mohammed. The two parties exchanged views on bilateral defense exchanges and regional developments. Defense Minister Kono also explained the SDF's information gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East. In January 2020, Prime Minister Abe visited Saudi Arabia to exchange views with King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed, and explained and gained their support for Japan's efforts to ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East.

Japan's then Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense signed a Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges with Turkey's then Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Defense Ümit Dündar in July 2012 during their talk. In June 2019, Commander of the Turkish Land Forces General Ümit Dündar visited Japan, held a meeting with the Chief of Staff, GSDF, and paid a courtesy call to State-Minister of Defense of Japan. In July 2019, Defense Minister Akar accompanied the president to Japan for the G20 and held talks with then Defense Minister Iwaya.

With Bahrain, Defense Minister Kono held a telephone conversation with the Commander in Chief of Bahrain Defense Force Khalifa to exchange views on bilateral defense exchange and the situation in the Middle East. In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono met with Commander Khalifa on the occasion of the 15th Manama Dialogue held in Bahrain. This was the first ministerial-level meeting between defense authorities of the two countries. At the meeting, both sides agreed to continue high-level exchanges as well as exchanges of mainly naval services.

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 then Minister of Defense Iwaya's courtesy visit to him and during his visit to the GSDF units of Camp Narashino. In addition, Defense Minister Kono, who visited Jordan for the first time as defense minister in December 2019, met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Yousef Huneiti. During the meeting, Lt Gen Huneiti stated that bilateral defense exchanges are making progress such as the first politico-military dialogue being held for the first time in July 2019, and also stated that he would like to continue advancing cooperation in areas such as training and equipment. In response, Minister Kono stated that he would like to consider cooperation in the fields raised by Lt Gen Huneiti.

10 South Asian Countries



Reference 42 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with South Asian Countries [Past Three Years])

(1) Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an important country located at a key point on the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean. In recent years, Japan has proactively worked to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges with Sri Lanka. In August 2018, then Defense Minister Onodera made the first visit to Sri Lanka as a Japanese Defense Minister. During this visit, the first-ever Defense Ministerial Meeting between the two countries was also held between then Defense Minister Onodera and then Sri Lankan State Minister of Defence Ruwan Wijewardene, in which they exchanged their opinions on maritime security and safety. The Sri Lankan State Minister of Defence 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. In July 2019, then State Minister of Defence Harada visited Sri Lanka for a meeting with then State Minister of Defence Wijewardene and paid a courtesy call on then President and Minister of Defence Sirisena to share their views on the need to further strengthen the partnership between the maritime states of Sri Lanka and Japan to promote FOIP.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the naval forces of the two countries agreed to hold the first staff consultations in February 2019, and to conduct the bilateral HA/DR exercise JA-LAN on an annual basis. In March 2019, a U-4 made a call at the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport to conduct

unit-to-unit exchanges with the Sri Lankan Air Force.

As for capacity building, in October 2019, six members of the Sri Lankan Air Force were invited to training in search and rescue provided by the ASDF air rescue unit. The invitees boarded the U-125A and UH-60J operated by the Naha Air Rescue Squadron and underwent a series of training such as the search, detection and rescue of search targets at sea.

(2) Pakistan

Located at the junction of South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, Pakistan is an important state for stability in the Indo-Pacific region, and it faces an important sea lane for Japan. Pakistan is a pro-Japanese country that has traditionally had a friendly relationship with Japan. Building on this relationship, the two countries have promoted defense cooperation and exchanges.

Since 2004, Japan and Pakistan have conducted Director-General level dialogues on defense policy on a biennial basis. However, in June 2019, the two countries held a Military-to-Military Talks for the second year in a row, in which they signed Memorandum on Japan-Pakistan Defense Cooperation and Exchange. In February 2019, Deputy Chief of Joint Staff visited Pakistan and held meetings with senior Pakistani military officials.

As for service-to-service exchanges, the MSDF participated in AMAN, a multinational exercise by Pakistan, while also conducting educational exchanges.



ASDF personnel providing the Sri Lankan Air Force with capacity building regarding the search and discovery of search targets at sea (October 2019)

11 African countries

Q See Reference 43 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries [Past Three Years])

With Djibouti, the only country where an overseas SDF facility is located, the MOD/SDF has been cooperating in counter-piracy operations. The facility was used for transporting goods to the unit dispatched to the UNMISS. From October to December 2019, the facility was used as an accommodation for SDF instructors that attended a training program for Djibouti's military engineers on the operation of heavy machinery, which was conducted as part of Japan's disaster response capacity building for Djibouti. In December 2019, Defense Minister Kono visited Djibouti and held a meeting with Defense Minister Burhan. At the meeting, the two ministers confirmed that they would continue to strengthen cooperation between the defense authorities in order to deepen bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. Minister Kono also expressed his appreciation for the government's support for the operation of the SDF's facility in Djibouti, and explained the use of fixed-wing patrol aircraft of the SDF's counter-piracy unit based in Djibouti for information gathering activities to ensure the safety of Japanese vessels in the Middle East.

Japan will work on the stable, long-term use of this facility for security cooperation in the Middle East and Africa.

12 Latin American Countries

Q See Reference 43 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries[Past Three Years])

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. In addition, in July 2019, General Pujol made his first visit to Japan as Commander of the Brazilian Army and met with the Chief of Staff, GSDF. In the meeting, they agreed that deepening defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries is important for peace and stability in the international community.

With Jamaica, in December 2019, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Holness visited Japan and met with Defense Minister Kono.



Minister of Defense Kono holding a meeting with the Defense Minister of Djibouti (December 2019)



GSDF personnel providing Djibouti's military engineers with education on Engineer Machines (October 2019)

3 Promotion of Multilateral Security Cooperation

1 Multilateral Security Framework and Dialogue Initiatives

Multilateral framework initiatives, especially the ADMM-Plus and the ARF,¹¹ have made steady progress and served as an important foundation for dialogue and cooperation and exchanges on the security of Asia Pacific. Japan puts importance on such multilateral frameworks and intends to strengthen cooperation and mutual confidence with countries in the region. Moreover, Japan hosts the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum and the Tokyo Defense Forum annually, which contribute to the multilateral defense cooperation.

Q See Reference 44 (Record of Multinational Security Dialogues

[Indo-Pacific Region; Past Three Years])

Reference 45 (Multilateral Security Dialogues Hosted by the MOD)

Reference 46 (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 Dialogue Partner including Japan.¹²

The ADMM-Plus is the only meeting hosted by a

government which allows defense ministers in the Asia Pacific region, including ASEAN member states to attend. Thus, the ADMM-Plus is highly significant from the perspective of promoting the development and deepening of regional security and defense cooperation. The MOD/SDF has been participating in and providing support for the meeting. There are (1) the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM)-Plus, (2) ADSOM-Plus Working Group (ADSOM-Plus WG), and (3) EWGs under the ministerial level ADMM-Plus.¹³

In November 2019, Minister of Defense Kono attended the sixth ADMM-Plus held in Thailand. He conveyed Japan's determination to make every effort to uphold and reinforce the international order based on the rule of law, in line with our vision for FOIP.

Minister Kono stated that Japan is determined to continue playing a constructive role, respecting ADMM-Plus, in order to support the resilience of the region. Also, he stated that Japan is strongly opposed to all unilateral attempts to change the status quo. In addition, he reiterated that Japan strongly expects that an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) to be concluded in accordance with international law. As to international security challenges, he reiterated that solidarity of the international society is indispensable to ensure the effectiveness of UN Security Council Resolutions, including countering "ship-to-ship transfers". In addition, he stated our determination to continue playing our role by assuming a co-chair of the EWG

¹¹ 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, PNG, 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.

¹² 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 Dialogue Partners.

¹³ 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 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.

on PKO with Viet Nam in the fourth cycle (2020-2023).¹⁴ The ADMM Plus adopted a joint statement on “Advancing Partnership for Sustainable Security”. In addition, various exercises were conducted as a culmination of the third cycle (2017-2019) of the EWG, which provides practical cooperation in seven areas.¹⁵ The MOD/SDF participated in the exercises in HA/DR, maritime security, defense medicine, and PKO.

Q See Fig. III-3-1-4 (Organizational Chart and Overview of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus [ADMM-Plus])



Defense Ministers' Meeting at the ADMM-Plus (November 2019)

(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 assistance 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.

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

a. ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting and Vientiane Vision 2.0

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 2019, at the 5th ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting held in Thailand, Defense Minister Kono announced an updated version of Japan's original initiative Vientiane Vision; “Vientiane Vision

2.0” with a view to accelerating the momentum of Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation. Ministers of ASEAN member states welcomed “Vientiane Vision 2.0” and expressed their expectations towards promotion of even more practical Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation in future under the updated vision.

The Vientiane Vision presents an overall picture of the priority areas of the future direction of ASEAN-wide defense cooperation in a transparent manner. Vientiane Vision 2.0 retains the basic framework of the initial Vision, including its objectives, direction, and means of cooperation, but introduces three new pillars: firstly, establishing three principles of Japan-ASEAN cooperation which are “heart-to-heart cooperation”, “tailored and lasting cooperation” and “equal and open cooperation”; secondly, introducing the concept of “resilience” to clarify the connection between our efforts and ASEAN's centrality and unity; and thirdly, pursuing synergies between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) announced by ASEAN in June 2018 and Japan's FOIP.

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 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 the field of international aviation law and security in the air of aviation, the Professional Airmanship Program was

¹⁴ First cycle: 2011 to 2013; Second cycle: 2014 to 2016; Third cycle: 2017 to 2019; Fourth cycle: 2020 to 2023

¹⁵ Expert meetings have been established in the following seven areas: counter-terrorism, HA/DR, maritime security, defense medicine, peacekeeping, mine operations, and cybersecurity.

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.

Fig. III-3-1-4 Organizational Chart and Overview of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

The only government-sponsored official meeting of the defense ministers in the Indo-Pacific region that includes countries outside the ASEAN region

* Participating countries: 10 ASEAN member countries + 8 countries (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russia, and the U.S.)

The Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) established under the framework of the ADMM-Plus take practical actions, such as joint exercises, to address security issues in the Indo-Pacific region, which is a unique feature of the ADMM-Plus.



Experts' Working Groups (EWGs)

EWGs were established in seven fields. Each EWG is hosted jointly by one of the 10 ASEAN member countries and one of the additional 8 countries for a term of three years.

* Seven fields: (i) counter-terrorism, (ii) HA/DR, (iii) maritime security, (iv) military medicine, (v) peacekeeping, (vi) mine operations, and (vii) cyber security

EWGs respectively take practical actions such as sharing information, holding workshops and seminars, conducting joint training, and submitting recommendations and reports concerning respective areas.

held for the first time in July 2019, inviting ASEAN from all ASEAN membered air force. During the program, the participants attended a symposium and base visits to promote confidence building among the air components of Japan and ASEAN member states, contribute to ensuring the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region, and bring better impact on the regional stability.

In addition, in June 2019, the Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program was conducted on board Destroyer JS “Izumo,” during the Indo-Pacific Deployment, with 10 participants from all ASEAN member state and the Secretariat. In the program, participants experienced a five-day voyage from Muara in Brunei to Subic in the Philippines, during which seminars on international maritime law and HA/DR at sea and a table top exercise on HA/DR at Sea, were also conducted to improve their knowledge of maritime security.

Through these initiatives, Japan has worked to promote capacity building, 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 47 (Vientiane Vision 2.0)

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 October 2019, the 11th Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum was held in Tokyo, with the participation of vice ministers from all ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat, to exchange views on the following three themes: 1) Regional Security Situation; 2) Visions for the Indo-Pacific: Towards the Free and Open Regional Order; and 3) ASEAN’s Initiatives for Regional Defense Cooperation. Participants shared the recognition that ensuring the centrality and unity of ASEAN, which is the keystone of regional cooperation, is important to maintain free and open regional order which is the fundamental basis of peace and prosperity of the region in light of current regional trends of immense engagement of external states.

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.

In November 2019, as an effort to strengthen relations with international students who had graduated from the National Defense Academy (NDA), a gathering was held for the first time with about 50 international students who had graduated from the main course of the NDA. Defense Minister Kono also joined this gathering.

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

a. International Conferences Hosted by International Organizations

In July 2019, the Chief of Staff, GSDF participated in the UN PKO Chiefs of Defense Conference at UN Headquarters. The conference was attended by 403 people, including the chiefs of staff from 106 countries. At the conference, the GSDF Chief of Staff presented the results of the revision of the Military Engineer Unit Manual and Japan’s efforts to further contribute to the UN Triangular Partnership Project (UNTPP), which won the understanding of the chiefs of staff of the armed forces of all participating countries. The participants also shared an understanding of the challenges of UN peacekeeping operations and the efforts of each country for peacekeeping operations.

 Section 5-2 (Initiatives to Support UN PKO, etc.)

b. 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 IISS Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue),¹⁸ IISS Regional Security Summit (Manama Dialogue),¹⁹ and the Munich Security Conference,²⁰ one of the most prestigious

¹⁸ This is a multilateral conference sponsored by the IISS, a private U.K. 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 An international conference hosted by the U.K. IISS, where foreign and defense authorities and other stakeholders mainly from Middle Eastern countries exchange views on security issues. It is held annually in Manama, Bahrain.

²⁰ 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.

meetings on security in Europe and the United States. Defense Minister and MOD officials actively participate in these meetings, holding talks with defense ministers and other representatives from other countries, while making speeches at these meetings, in order to build trust and share mutual recognition with high-level officials and to send out positive messages.

In November 2019, Defense Minister Kono attended the 15th Manama Dialogue. This was the first time for a Japanese Defense Minister to participate in the event. At the meeting, he delivered a speech and held bilateral talks with the French Minister of the Armed Forces and ministerial-level officials from Jordan, Bahrain, and Yemen. In his speech at the 15th Manama Dialogue in November 2019, Defense Minister Kono stated that Japan has continuously contributed to peace and stability in the Middle East based on an understanding that an open and secure maritime order provides the basis for a stable and prosperous international community, and that the SDF is forging broader and closer ties with this Middle East through human contributions to maritime security in the region, participation in exercises, defense equipment cooperation, person-to-person links, and other initiatives. He also stated that Japan attaches importance to the freedom of navigation and the rule of law at sea, and that in order to ensure the safety of Japan-related ships and also to secure the peace and stability of the Middle East region, Japan has started to consider how we can best utilize the assets of the SDF as our independent efforts to reinforce our information gathering.

In December 2019, Defense Minister Kono also attended the 19th Doha Forum organized by the Government of Qatar for the first time as a defense minister. He held bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Defense of Qatar and Malaysia and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Jordan, while also delivering a speech at the main meeting. In his speech on multilateral security cooperation, Defense Minister Kono expressed concern over the strengthening of North Korea's military capabilities, including its nuclear and missile capabilities. He also stated that it is necessary to reinforce arms control and disarmament and the rule of law in the international community, and that Japan is working with other countries to promote FOIP through bilateral/multilateral exercises, capacity building, and defense equipment and technology cooperation based on the rule of law. He cited Vientiane Vision 2.0 as an example of Japan's multilateral security cooperation efforts, and said that Japan would continue to promote multilateral security cooperation.

Minister of Defense Kono and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mogi attended the 56th Munich Security Conference in February 2020. On the occasion of the conference, Defense Minister Kono held the first defense ministerial meeting with Ukraine's Defense Minister, as well as bilateral and other meetings with the defense ministers of Canada, France, and Germany, as well as with the High Representative of the EU and the Secretary General of NATO, where they exchanged views on defense cooperation and exchanges and regional situations.

c. Service-to-Service Exchange Initiatives

In August 2019, the Chief of Staff, JS attended the Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD) held by the United States Indo-



Minister of Defense Kono delivering a speech at the Manama Dialogue (November 2019)



Minister of Defense Kono delivering a speech at the Doha Forum (December 2019)

Pacific Command. In this Conference, he shared with other countries his view on the importance of FOIP, while also

promoting an understanding of Japan's and other countries' defense policies and situations. In January 2020, the Chief of Joint Staff participated as a panelist at the multilateral forum Raisina Dialogue 2020 in India, together with the Deputy Commander of the Australian Defense Force, the Deputy Director General for International Relations and Strategy at the French Ministry of the Armed Forces, the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff of the Royal Navy, the Chief of Naval of the Indian Navy, and the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, to convey the importance of Japan's efforts to stabilize the international order for FOIP and of collaboration among nations that share values.

In July 2019, the Chief of Staff, GSDF cooperated and participated in the Megacities Conference organized by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the U.S. Army to discuss HA/DR in the event of a natural or man-made disaster in a megacity with the armed forces of other countries, as well as internal and external experts, to promote mutual understanding and strengthen cooperation. In September 2019, he participated in the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC), where he shared his understanding of the importance of service-to-service cooperation for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, developed and strengthened relationships with chiefs of army staff and others through exchanging information and views, and promoted security cooperation.

In October 2019, the Chief of Staff, MSDF attended the Regional Seapower Symposium (RSS) hosted by the Italian Navy, promoting mutual understanding and trust, and communicating the MSDF's efforts to the international community through information sharing and opinion exchange with the chiefs of naval staff of the G7 nations.

The Chief of Staff, ASDF attended the Air and Space Power Conference (ASPC) and the RIAT hosted by the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom in July 2019. In November 2019, at the invitation of the UAE Air Force Chief of Staff,

he participated in the Dubai Air Show hosted by the UAE. In March 2020, the ASDF Chief of Staff participated in the Air Power Conference hosted by Australia, where he exchanged views on a wide range of topics, including regional and international security issues.

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 non-governmental 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 in Timor-Leste.

(2) Multilateral Exercises

a. Significance of Multilateral 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 exercises 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 48 (Participation in Multilateral Exercise [Past Three Years])

b. 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.



Chief of Joint Staff Yamazaki participating in the Raisina Dialogue 2020, a multilateral forum (January 2020)



GSDF personnel deepening mutual friendship with other countries' military personnel in the multilateral exercise Cobra Gold (February 2020)



ASDF personnel packing various donations together with other countries' military personnel for the multilateral HA/DR exercise Christmas Drop (December 2019)

To improve the integrated operational capability, the SDF joined the multilateral exercise Cobra Gold from January to March 2020, which included training on rescue of Japanese nationals and others overseas.

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.

The MSDF participated in the eighth multilateral exercise for submarine rescue drills in the Western Pacific submarine rescue exercise "Pacific Reach 2019" with 20 nations hosted by the Royal Australian Navy in the waters west of Perth, Commonwealth of Australia, from October to December 2019. In addition, from April to July 2019, three destroyers, including Destroyer JS "Izumo," were dispatched for the Indo-Pacific Deployment. In this Deployment, in addition

to the ADMM-Plus maritime security exercise, in which 11 countries participated, multilateral exercises such as the Japan-US-India-Philippines multilateral Exercise and the Japan-France-Australia-US quadrilateral Exercise La Perouse were conducted.

In December 2019, the ASDF participated in the multinational HA/DR exercise Christmas Drop in the Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Commonwealth of Northern Marianas and so on. New Zealand joined the exercise for the first time this round. Christmas Drop is now a quadrilateral exercise between Japan, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. In addition, in February 2020, the ASDF participated in a Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise and the U.S.-Japan-Australia joint HA/DR exercise Cope North.

Video: The eighth western Pacific submarine rescue exercise Pacific Reach 2019
 URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnB8XzMVcOI>

Video: The Indo-Pacific Deployment
 URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAKdirKVIHc>

4 Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building

1 Objectives of Capacity Building

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 undertake capacity building, or expressed their expectations for such cooperation. In response to such expectations, the MOD/SDF started to provide capacity building in the security and defense areas in 2012.

Capacity building has the following objectives: (1) creating desirable security environment for Japan by supporting partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region to develop their own capacity in a sustainable manner, and enabling the recipient countries' forces to undertake adequate roles in maintaining international peace and regional stability; (2) strengthening bilateral relationships with partner countries; (3) strengthening relationships with other donor countries, such as the United States and Australia; and (4) promoting Japan's proactive and independent efforts to realizing regional peace and stability, and to gain trust in the MOD/SDF as well as and Japan.

The MOD/SDF will implement capacity building 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 in such areas as HA/DR, PKO, and maritime security to 15 countries and one organization in the Indo-Pacific region.

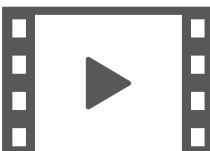
 See Fig. III-3-1-5 (Recent Capacity Building Initiatives [from April 2019 to March 2020])

The MOD/SDF's capacity building 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 2019, the number of capacity building programs conducted by means of dispatch was 126 (11 countries, 20 projects), and the number of those conducted by means of invitation was 75 (four countries, one organization and six projects). Under the dispatch programs for capacity building, the MOD/SDF has provided technical cooperation on engineering activities, such as road construction in Mongolia, and heavy equipment maintenance and surveying for the Harii Hamutuk training program sponsored by Australian forces in Timor-Leste. Japan has also provided guidance on techniques to PNG Military Band, which participated in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Australia, hosted by the United Kingdom. With regard to the project to support Mongolia in building capacity in the field of engineering, Defense Minister Enkhbold, who made the first Defense Minister's visit to Japan in about five and a half years in December 2019, commented that the technical guidance provided by the SDF had enabled the Mongolian Armed Forces to construct roads, which had contributed significantly to the plan for dispatching facility units to UN peacekeeping operations. These projects have contributed to making specific and steady improvements in the capabilities of the recipient nations' forces. Other programs that have thus far been conducted include a workshop on the disposal of underwater unexploded ordnance in Vietnam, and field training on aviation meteorology for the establishment of a weather services unit of the Myanmar Air Force, and field training on search and rescue and medical activities in Laos. In addition, the MOD/SDF held an HA/DR seminar in Indonesia to share its initiatives to increase various disaster response capabilities. In addition, as for invitation programs, the MOD/SDF conducted such programs as air rescue training for the Sri Lankan Air Force and the Third Japan-ASEAN HA/DR Invitation Program.

In addition, as part of capacity building for Africa, the



Video: Capacity building in PNG (training for PNG Military Band)
URL: https://youtu.be/VII_S03YPOw

Fig. III-3-1-5

Recent Capacity Building Initiatives (from April 2019 to March 2020)

Capacity Building

Capacity building ... Project aiming to improve the capabilities of partner countries in a concrete and steady manner over a certain period of time through dispatch of SDF personnel, etc. and invitation of personnel from recipient countries

Dispatch ... Dispatch SDF personnel or others with expert knowledge to partner countries to provide seminars, exercises, and technical guidance, etc. with the aim of improving the capabilities of military forces and related organizations of recipient countries

Invitation ... Invite officials of partner countries to the MOD, SDF units or other related organizations, and provide them with seminars, exercises, observation of education and training programs and opinion exchanges, etc.

Countries for which capacity building has been provided and fields (April 2019–March 2020)

* shows program provided together with the United States and Australia.

* Those in red are fields shown in photos.



GSD Central Band officer providing guidance to the Papua New Guinea Military Band, participating in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (September 2019)

MOD/SDF implemented in 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.

3 Collaboration with Related Countries

In efforts to stabilize the regional security environment, collaboration with other donor countries is essential. In particular, collaboration with the United States, and Australia is considered a priority.

The joint statement of the Japan-U.S. “2+2” in April 2015 states that the two countries would strengthen their continued close coordination on cooperation including capacity building to realize peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. The two ministers agreed to promote defense cooperation with Southeast Asian countries.

Under a Japan-Australia personnel exchange program, the MOD has received four officials 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 three officials to the Australian Department of Defense three times since 2015.

In November 2017, Japan and Australia held the first working group on capacity building.

Japan has also cooperated with the United States and Australia in providing capacity building to Timor-Leste. The

SDF and the U.S. forces participated in the Harii Hamutuk Exercise sponsored by the Australian forces in Timor-Leste five times since October 2015, providing technical guidance on engineering for engineering units of the Timor-Leste forces.

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

VOICE**Voice of SDF Personnel who Participated in Capacity Building for Lao People's Army**

Captain YOSHIDA Tatsuru,
Head of the 2nd Division, the 13th Infantry Regiment,
GSDF (Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture)

Capacity building for the Lao People's Army started in 2016, with the aim of contributing to the enhancement of their disaster response capabilities. Since then, employing the GSDF's technologies and skills in search and rescue and hygiene activities, the program has conducted education for commanding personnel of the Lao People's Army and steadily built results. I, as the team leader, explained the disaster relief activities of the JSDF for 12 commanding personnel of the Lao People's Army who were invited to Japan in October 2019, and I also provided them with education on planning disaster response training. In November of the same year, I was sent to Laos and provided guidance when the Lao People's Army implemented training on search and rescue and first aid activities based on a plan prepared by the commanding personnel.

The participants from the Lao People's Army participating in daily education and training showed a keen sense of responsibility and sincere attitude, which impressed us. They mastered a series of training management procedures



Instruction for preparation of a training implementation plan

including planning, implementation and evaluation of disaster response training.

The global intensification of disasters in recent years requires swift and sophisticated disaster response capability. Through this project, I felt that I was contributing to the enhancement of the disaster response capability of the Lao People's Army and development of a friendly and trusting relationship between the two countries.