

**PRESS RELEASE**January 17, 2022
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

Indo-Pacific and Middle East Deployment 2023

The JMSDF starts Indo-Pacific and Middle East Deployment 2023(IMED23) in order to realize “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” as described below.

1. Objectives

- (1) To improve the JMSDF tactical capabilities and to strengthen cooperation with partner navies in the Indo-Pacific and Middle East region through conducting joint exercises
- (2) To contribute to the peace and stability of the region and to enhance mutual understanding and relationship with partner countries to visit through the development

2. Period

January 19-May 23, 2023

3. Participating Units

- (1) Commanding Officer
Commander, Mine Division 1, CAPT NAKAI Eiichi
- (2) Units
JS *URAGA*(MST463) and JS *AWAJI*(MSO304)
- (3) Personnel
Approx. 200

4. Port of Call (In alphabetic sequence)

Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of India, Republic of Maldives, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

5. Type of Exercise

Mine Warfare Exercise etc.

6. Notes

- (1) The IMED23 unit will participate in the IMX/CE23.

※IMX/CE23:International Maritime Exercise/Cutlass Express 23

- (2) Preventive measures against COVID-19 will be implemented during the deployment.