

## Section

## 2

## Promotion of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

In order to improve the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as across the globe, and ensure the safety and prosperity of Japan, it is important to utilize the Japan-U.S. Alliance as an axis, while developing networks that combine bilateral and multilateral dialogue, cooperation and exchange

frameworks in a complementary and multilayered manner. Accordingly, the MOD and the SDF are conducting strategic defense cooperation and exchanges based on the characteristics of each country and region in question.

## 1

## Japan-Australia Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

### 1 Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Australia

Australia is an important partner for Japan in the Asia-Pacific region: Japan and Australia are allies of the United States and share not only universal values such as democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and capitalist economies, but also strategic stakes and interests in the security field. In particular, the norm that different countries should work in concert to address global challenges has become widespread in the international community in recent years. Therefore, as responsible countries in the Asia Pacific region, Japan and Australia are strengthening mutual cooperation focused primarily on areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities.

In terms of Japan-Australia bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, the first such joint declaration in the realm of security with a country other than the United States, was announced at the Japan-Australia summit meeting in March 2007. It has been making steady progress since then and has now reached the stage of more concrete and practical cooperation.

In May 2010, the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)<sup>1</sup> and its Procedural Arrangement were signed at the third Japan-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”), and entered into force in January 2013. The ACSA enabled the reciprocal provision of supplies and services by the SDF and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) during peacekeeping operations, international disaster relief, and other activities.

Moreover, the Japan-Australia Information Security Agreement signed in May 2012 entered into force in March 2013. The laying of foundations for sharing information between the two countries is expected to assist in strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Furthermore, at the fourth Japan-Australia “2+2” in September 2012, which was the first of these meetings to be held in Australia, both countries affirmed the importance of sharing a

common vision and goals, and issued a joint statement entitled Common Vision and Objectives agreeing to further expand defense cooperation between Japan and Australia.

### 2 Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

From the policy perspective, it was agreed that at the Japan-Australia Defense Ministers Meeting in September 2012, personnel in charge from the Australian Department of Defence will be dispatched to the Ministry of Defense in Japan as part of human resources exchanges in the capacity building support area for three months from July 2013. The ministers also agreed to establish vice-ministerial and working level meetings as a framework for discussions on defense equipment and technology cooperation. Furthermore, the Japan-Australia Defense Cooperation Office was established at the Internal Bureau since FY2014, in order to further enhance defense cooperation between the two countries.

In April 2014, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited Japan, and attended the special meeting of the National Security Council (meeting of four ministers) the first foreign leader to attend the meeting, and discussed the future direction of Japan-Australia security cooperation. In addition, the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting was held and the two leaders confirmed their intention to elevate the bilateral security and defense cooperation to a new level in the joint press release. In particular, in terms of the defense field, it was decided to enhance practical cooperation and commence negotiations towards a framework agreement in the field of defense equipment and technology cooperation, as well as confirming that interoperability between the defense units of the two countries will be improved, and further enhancing practical cooperation such as combined training.

In addition, in the same month, Minister of Defense Onodera held a meeting with Australian Minister for Defence David Johnston in Perth, and the two ministers confirmed that the two countries would promote joint research on marine

<sup>1</sup> Official title: The Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Australia concerning reciprocal provision of supplies and services between the SDF of Japan and the Australian Defence Force

hydrodynamics as an initial area of science and technology cooperation in the field of defense equipment and technology cooperation. Furthermore, in June 2014, the fifth Japan–Australia 2+2 Meeting was held in Tokyo, and the four ministers agreed to maintain strong opposition to the use of force or coercion to unilaterally alter the current status, as well as confirming the substantial conclusion of negotiations on an agreement for cooperation in the field of defense equipment and technology. At the Japan–Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting held on the same day, the two ministers agreed on further enhancement of defense cooperation between Japan and Australia, as well as Japan and the United States, including an expansion of Japan–Australia and Japan–U.S.–Australia joint exercises.

The ASDF Chief of Staff visited Australia in February 2013 and March 2014, holding informal discussions with the Australian Chief of Air Force, during which they exchanged opinions concerning such matters as the deepening of defense cooperation and exchanges between the ASDF and the Royal Australian Air Force.

As for the operational side, in 2012, in terms of support for UNMISS, the defense authorities of Japan and Australia agreed to enhance cooperation between SDF personnel and Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in peacekeeping activities. Following this, two ADF personnel have been working at a Coordination Center of the SDF since August of the same year, providing support for communication and coordination with the related organizations including the United Nations. This effort continued to be carried out even after the Coordination Center was integrated into the engineer unit as a coordination section. Moreover, through the international emergency relief activities for the typhoon disaster in the Philippines and the incident of the

missing Malaysian airplane, the strategic partnership between Japan and Australia has been facilitated and consolidated. It is anticipated that the cooperation between Japan and Australia facilitated and strengthened in this way will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, while also being conducive to fostering intraregional order through cooperation and efforts to achieve international peace undertaken by the United Nations in particular, such as conducting peacekeeping operations. As for the field of training and exercises, MSDF naval vessels and aircraft participated in the Kakadu 12 multinational naval exercise organized by the Royal Australian Navy in August 2012, as well as conducting Japan–Australia bilateral exercises in Japanese waters in June and September 2013.

See Reference 48 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Australia (Past Three Years))

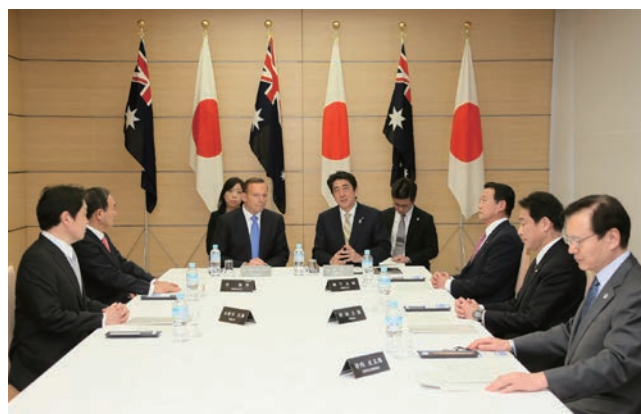


Photo: Australian Prime Minister Abbott (center left) attending the special meeting of National Security Council [meeting of four ministers]



## Firsthand Account of Defense Cooperation and Exchange

JGSDF Camp Ichigaya (Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)  
Sergeant (GSDF) Major Tomoyuki Nakata, Policy and Programs Department, GSO (currently the-Central Intelligence Unit)



For the roughly 4 years since being assigned to the International Policy Planning Section (currently the International Security Cooperation and Policy Office) in 2010, my duties have included interpretation and English translation of materials used in meetings.

Defense cooperation and exchange continues to be a critical means of fostering trust. Although due to the time differences between Japan and our counterpart countries there was often coordination work done over late night or early morning international phone calls, I always felt my work was rewarding and approached it with pride.

It is no easy task to maintain good relations with the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, and other countries' ground forces. I give the greatest possible attention to every word and phrase I utter and every word I write to avoid miscommunicating our intentions to our counterparts. Although the work requires a great deal of mental stamina and perseverance, I will continue dedicating myself every day to fulfilling my duties.

\* This column was written when Sergeant Major Nakata was a member of the Policy and Programs Department of the GSO.



Tomoyuki Nakata (left), interpreting at a conference among military personnel



### 3 Cooperative Relationship Between Japan, the United States, and Australia

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

At the working level too, the Security and Defense Cooperation Forum (SDCF), which is a Director General-level meeting among the three countries, has been held five times since April 2007, with discussions taking place on such issues as coordinated promotion of trilateral defense cooperation.

It is important for the three countries to develop a shared understanding of the situation and coordinate policies through such discussions and cooperation to further develop and deepen the collaborative relationship among the three countries, via more proactive promotion of trilateral cooperation in such operational areas disaster relief and joint exercises.

As for inter-service branch initiatives, the first Australia-Japan-United States Trilateral Senior Level Seminar was held in July 2013, in which the GSDF, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps and the Australian Army participated. At this seminar, they

shared recognition of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and the future direction of cooperation between Japan, the United States, and Australia towards the stability and security of the region.

In terms of training and exercises, the MSDF, the U.S. Navy, and the Royal Australian Navy held a joint exercise in waters around Guam in June 2013. In February 2014, the ASDF, the U.S. Air Force, and the Royal Australian Air Force conducted the joint exercises Cope North Guam, and in May 2014, the GSDF, the U.S. Army, and the Australian Army held the joint exercise Southern Jackaroo.



GSDF personnel participating in the Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise "Southern Jackaroo"

**VOICE**

## Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Exercise (Exercise Cope North Guam)

JASDF Tsuiki Airbase (Chikugo-gun, Fukuoka Prefecture)  
First Lieutenant (ASDF) Taiji Yamashita, Arms Platoon, Armament Maintenance Squadron,  
8th Air Wing Maintenance Supply Group



I took part in the Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral exercise among air forces in Guam (Cope North Guam 14) as a Support and Maintenance Team Member in the F-2 Fighting Fleet in February 2014. The aim of the exercise was to improve pilots' tactical skills, and the Support and Maintenance Team's mission was to provide various forms of support including preparing the aircraft and ordnance to be used in the exercise to ensure that operations went smoothly from start to finish. To this end, we worked closely with all relevant departments to make the arrangements for USAF facilities and regulations, conducting the exercise without issue. I was impressed by the well-mannered treatment shown to us by the United States Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force personnel throughout the course of making arrangements with relevant departments, and each organization learned about how to maintain each other's aircraft in our interactions. The experience was an extremely valuable one that allowed us to learn more about each other and strengthen friendships.

I believe the coordination among the three countries will be deepened further in the areas of not only security but also disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. I hope to make the most of this valuable experience and promote further understanding and trust among U.S., Japanese, and Australian personnel.



Japanese, U.S., and Australian maintenance personnel who participated in Cope North Guam 14 (Taiji Yamashita: front row, far right)

## 2

## Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

## 1 The Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchange with the Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has historically maintained close relations with Japan in economic, cultural, and other areas, and is extremely vital to Japan in geopolitical terms. In addition, as well as sharing fundamental values, the two countries share many strategic interests as allies of the United States. Therefore, even if difficult issues occasionally arise, close collaboration between the two countries on the security front has enormous significance for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Both Japan and the ROK are confronted with wide-ranging and complex security challenges including not only the North Korean nuclear and missile issues, but also counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations, large-scale natural disasters, anti-piracy measures, maritime security and so on. In order for the two countries to deal effectively with such challenges, it is important to carry out more broad-ranging and concrete defense cooperation and exchanges.

With this in mind, at talks between the defense ministers of the two countries held in January 2011, it was agreed to further exchange views concerning ACSA to enable reciprocal provision of water, food, fuel, and so on in PKO activities, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, etc. Furthermore, it was also agreed that the defense authorities of the two countries will exchange views on the content of information security agreement. Although the information security agreement was due to be signed in June 2012, it was postponed just before the signing ceremony at the request of the ROK side, due to domestic circumstances in the ROK.

## 2 Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchange

Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Nishi visited the ROK in November 2013 to attend the international conference “Seoul Defense Dialogue” organized by the Ministry of National Defense of the ROK, and had a Japan-ROK defense vice-ministerial meeting with Vice-Defense Minister Baek Seung-joo for the first time in two years. During the meeting, they discussed Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchanges and the situation in North Korea, and Mr. Nishi introduced Japan’s initiatives for national security. Moreover, a Japan-ROK defense vice-ministerial meeting was held in Indonesia in March 2014, at which opinions were exchanged concerning Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchanges and regional situations. Furthermore, the MSDF conducted a Japan-ROK search and rescue bilateral exercise in the waters west of Kyushu in December 2013, which further enhanced coordination with the ROK Navy.

See Reference 49 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with the ROK (Past Three Years))



Japan-ROK Defense Vice-ministerial Meeting at the Seoul Defense Dialogue

## 3 Cooperative Relationship Between Japan, the U.S., and the ROK

As both Japan and the ROK are allied with the United States, which plays an indispensable role for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, trilateral cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the ROK keeps on developing.

In March 2014, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Summit Meeting was held in the Hague, Netherlands, and the three countries confirmed the importance of further enhancement of close coordination in relation to the security in East Asia surrounding the issues with North Korea. Following this, in April of the same year, Defense Trilateral Talks were held among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK, at which the three countries reaffirmed that they do not accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state and agreed to closely coordinate to deter North Korean provocations. They also reaffirmed the necessity for a coordinated response to international security posted by North Korea’s nuclear, ballistic missile, and proliferation programs.

In June 2014, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Defense Ministerial Talks was held at the timing of the 13th Shangri-La Dialogue, and a joint statement was issued. At this meeting, the ministers discussed the regional situations including North Korea and the cooperation between Japan, the United States and the ROK. The three countries shared the recognition that a series of provocative activities by North Korea is a serious threat to the security of the region and the world, and agreed to continue close coordination among them. In addition, they reaffirmed the importance of information sharing between the three countries, and shared understanding of the necessity of

continuous discussions.

In July 2014, chief of Joint Staff Japan, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff held the first chief-of-staff-level meeting in Hawaii to discuss a broad range of issues, including the increasingly strained security situation, such as nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, and measures to enhance trilateral coordination among Japan, the United States and the ROK.

With regard to training and exercises, the MSDF participated in Japan-U.S.-ROK search and rescue trilateral exercises in the waters west of Kyushu in May and October 2013, and also conducted counter-piracy exercises in the Gulf of Aden in December 2013, to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among the three countries. In addition, the GSDF has been promoting initiatives to enhance relationships, starting at the junior officer level who will become future leaders, for example, through exchanges between junior officers held in December 2013 and April 2014. It is important to further develop cooperative relations among Japan, the United States, and the

ROK in this way, in order to contribute to the peace and stability of the region.



MSDF destroyers and other vessels conducting a Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral exercise in the Gulf of Aden (from the front to back, MSDF destroyer Setogiri, ROK Navy vessel Choi Young, MSDF destroyer Ariake, and U.S. Navy destroyer Bulkeley).

## 3

## Japan-India Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

## 1

## Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India

India is located in the center of sea lanes which connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa, making it an extremely important country geopolitically for Japan, which relies on maritime transportation for most of its trade. Furthermore, Japan and India share fundamental values, as well as having a common interest in the peace, stability, and prosperity of Asia and the world, and have established a strategic global partnership. Therefore, Japan and India have been strengthening relations in the area of security in recent years.

In October 2008, the prime ministers of Japan and India signed the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India (Joint Declaration). India is the third country with which Japan has signed a joint declaration specializing in security, following those with the United States and Australia. The declaration serves as a guideline for future cooperation in the field of security between Japan and India, covering such areas as meetings and dialogues at various levels such as the ministerial, vice-ministerial, and staff level, as well as service to service exchanges including bilateral and multilateral exercises.

Moreover, in December 2009, the prime ministers of Japan and India formulated the Action Plan to advance security cooperation between their two countries. The Action Plan includes measures to promote cooperation in maritime security such as cooperation in anti-piracy activities and the holding of joint exercises at sea.

## 2

## Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

Upon Prime Minister Singh's visit to Japan in May 2013, the prime ministers of Japan and India welcomed the expanding defense relations between the two countries based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India. Also they signed the joint statement in which they decided to conduct on a regular basis and with increased frequency bilateral exercises between the MSDF and the Indian Navy and to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) regarding the US-2 rescue amphibian.

**See** Part. IV, Chapter 1, Section 5 (Initiatives Aimed at Maintaining and Strengthening Defense Production and Technological Bases)

In January 2014, Minister of Defense Onodera visited India for the first time in about four years as a Japanese Defense Minister, and held a Japan-India Defense Ministerial Meeting. At the meeting, the two ministers shared views on the necessity to conduct regular high-level and working level exchanges, as well as to further promote exchanges between services and education/research exchanges, in order to continue enhancing mutual trust and understanding. In addition, they also shared views to strengthen Japan-India defense consultation and cooperation including those related to maritime security to further consolidate and strengthen the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India. Specifically, it was decided to conduct the following events: (1) the third Japan-India Vice-Ministerial (2+2) Dialogue and the fourth Vice-Ministerial Defense Policy Dialogue; (2) exchanges on U.N. peacekeeping operations between the International Peace Cooperation Japan



Peace Keeping Training and Research Center of the Joint Staff College, the GSDF Central Readiness Force and the Centre for UN Peacekeeping of India; (3) expert exchanges between the GSDF and the Indian Army in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counter terrorism; and (4) professional exchanges of test pilots, in flight safety, and of air transport squadrons of the ASDF and the Indian Air Force.

Furthermore, also in January 2014, Prime Minister Abe visited India to attend India's Republic Day Parade Celebration as the guest of honor. During his visit, the Japan-India Summit Meeting was held and the two leaders confirmed the realization of the visit of the Indian Defense Minister to Japan, continuous implementation of bilateral exercises between the MSDF and the Indian Navy, promotion of discussions in the field of security and defense at various levels, and further enhancement of bilateral defense cooperation, which was announced in the joint statement.

In terms of exercises and training, based on the agreement of the Japan-India Summit Meeting in May 2013, the MSDF and Indian Navy conducted their second bilateral exercise off the Chennai coast, India, in December 2013, which included

anti-submarine and on-site inspection exercises. The Indian Navy is to visit Japan in 2014 to conduct a joint exercise in the Pacific Ocean with the U.S. Navy.

See Reference 50 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India (Past Three Years))



MSDF Escort Ship Setogiri (front) and Indian Navy Vessel INS Ranvijay conducting the Japan-India Joint Exercise

## 4 Japan-China Defense Exchanges and Cooperation

### 1 Significance of Defense Exchange and Cooperation with China

China's economic development and the modernization of its military capabilities in recent years have raised its presence within the international community. Although there are pending issues with China, such as the slow progress of Japan-China bilateral cooperation resource development in the East China Sea and the question of transparency in regard to military capabilities, comprehensive promotion by Japan and China of the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests," and further deepening of friendly and cooperative relations are the common interests of both countries. In regard to this point, as well as improving the transparency of China's defense policy and bolstering mutual understanding and trust between Japan and China, promoting and maintaining defense exchange is important from the perspective of avoiding and preventing unforeseen consequences, so Japan is cooperating with allied nations and becoming actively involved in ensuring that China acts responsibly in the international community. Such initiatives are essential to the stabilization of the bilateral relationship in general and, consequently, to the peace and stability the Asia-Pacific region.

### 2 Recent Major Achievements in Defense Exchange

Japan and China have been striving to promote defense exchange at various levels, as well as seeking to increase mutual understanding and relationships of trust, based on the approach of comprehensively promoting a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship

Based on Common Strategic Interests." At the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Conference held in June, 2011, both Ministers agreed that promoting defense exchange between Japan and China in a stable manner through calm dialogues between the defense authorities of the two countries would develop the basis for the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests," as well as lead to the strengthening of a friendly and cooperative relationship between the two nations, and the improvement of transparency in defense policies.

Japan and China are undertaking initiatives to avoid and prevent unforeseen consequences, perceiving this to be an important aspect of defense exchange. In particular, the construction of a maritime communication mechanism between the defense authorities of the two countries has become an urgent matter. Accordingly, at the third Joint Working Group meeting held in Beijing in June 2012, it was agreed that the maritime communication mechanism would be constructed, consisting of (1) annual meetings and experts meetings; (2) high-level hotlines between the defense authorities of Japan and China; and (3) direct communications between naval vessels and aircraft. The objective of this was to avoid unexpected collisions and prevent unforeseen consequences in waters and airspace from escalating into military clashes or political problems, as well as increasing mutual understanding and relationships of trust, and enhancing defense cooperation. However, defense exchanges – including this process – stalled in September last year and remain stagnant. In relation to this, Japan has continued to make approaches aimed at continuing defense exchanges, but has had no success to date in achiev-

ing the active promotion of any of the proposed exchanges, such as bringing the maritime communication mechanism to fruition.

At present, due in part to the incident in January 2013 when a Chinese naval vessel locked its fire-control radar onto an MSDF destroyer, China's establishment of the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) based on its own claim in November 2013, and the incident when Chinese fighters flew abnormally close to the aircraft of SDF in May and June 2014, Japan is making approaches to China with the aim of commencing operation of this mechanism as soon as possible, in light of the increased necessity of such a maritime communication mechanism to avoid and prevent unforeseen consequences.

In regard to exchanges between troops, since 2007, the Chinese Navy destroyer Shenzhen and training vessel Zhenghe have visited Japan, while the MSDF destroyers Sazanami and, most recently (in December 2011), Kirisame have visited China.

Moreover, in June 2010, the Commanding General of the Jinan Military Region of the Chinese People's Liberation Army visited the GSDF Middle Army, while in March 2012, the Commanding General of the GSDF Middle Army visited the Jinan Military Region. In April 2014, the Chief of Staff of the MSDF visited Qingdao to attend the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).

At present Japan-China defense exchange is stagnated, including exchanges between troops; however, hereafter, as part of initiatives to construct a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests," it will be essential to strive to promote mutual trust and understanding between Japan and China through dialogue at various levels and in a range of areas, while also actively promoting concrete cooperation in non-traditional security areas, such as anti-piracy measures.

**See** Reference 51 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with China (Past Three Years))

## 5

## Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges and Cooperation

### 1 Significance of Defense Exchange and Cooperation with Russia

Russia has great influence on the security of Europe, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region, and is a neighboring country of Japan. It is therefore very important for Japan to deepen defense exchanges and promote mutual trust and cooperation with Russia. As Japan-Russia relations have continuously been developing in a wide range of areas, the MOD and the SDF have been steadily promoting exchanges with Russia at various levels in accordance with the Memorandum on Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges drawn up in 1999 (revised in 2006). Security consultations between foreign and defense authorities, and Military-Military Talks at the Director General-level and Councilor level, as well as annual meetings based on the Japan-Russia Agreement on Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas and bilateral search and rescue exercises are all held continuously.

### 2 Recent Major Achievements in Defense Exchange

At the Japan-Russia summit meeting in April 2013, the two leaders affirmed the importance of expanding cooperation between Japan and Russia in the field of security and defense, amid the growing role of the Asia-Pacific region and major changes in the international security environment, and agreed to set up the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting (the

"2+2" Meeting).

At the first Japan-Russia "2+2" Meeting in November 2013, the two countries agreed to conduct ground-to-ground unit exchanges between land forces and mutual dispatch of exercise observers on a regular basis, and bilateral exercises between counter piracy units of the MSDF and Russian Navy in the Gulf of Aden, as well as regular hosting of the Japan-Russia Cyber Security Meeting.

In December 2013, the MSDF conducted the 14th search and rescue joint training with Russia. During this training, based on the agreement of the "2+2" Meeting, Japan and Russia conducted counter terrorism and counter piracy training for the first time.

In February 2014, the Chief of Staff of the GSDF visited Russia for the first time in eight years, becoming the first Chief of Staff to visit Khabarovsk (Eastern Military District). In March 2014, the unit exchange visits between the GSDF Northern Army and Russian Eastern Military District was held, following on from last year. The situation in Ukraine has become increasingly tense since March 2014. Under such circumstances, it is important for the Ministry of Defense to take appropriate actions in terms of defense exchanges with Russia, in line with the trend of the international community.

**See** Reference 52 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Russia (Past Three Years))

## 6

## Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries

Southeast Asian countries are located in an area strategically important for the maritime traffic that connects Japan with the

Middle East and Europe, and have long been traditional partners for Japan, having close economic relations with Japan.

Promoting trust and cooperative relations for issues in various security challenges with these countries is meaningful for both Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Moreover, the countries of Southeast Asia are members of ADMM-Plus and ARF, so from the perspective of stabilizing the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, it is imperative to build relationships of trust and cooperation with each country, with a view to cooperation in multilateral frameworks.

In particular, as well as interaction with Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines, Japan is engaged in active exchanges of opinions with Thailand and Cambodia at various levels, concerning approaches to defense cooperation and exchange, and frameworks for regional security cooperation. In addition, Japan is proactively engaged in discussions with defense officials, unit exchanges, and the dispatch and hosting of international students. Furthermore, we are also striving to strengthen relationships with Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

As 2013 marked the 40th year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Prime Minister Abe announced the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy<sup>2</sup> and visited all of the ten ASEAN countries. In addition, the Ministry of Defense has been conducting cooperation and exchange programs at various levels and fields, such as capacity building assistance, in order to further enhance and deepen relationship between Japan and ASEAN countries.

## 1 Indonesia

Indonesia accounts for about 40% of the land and population of Southeast Asia and is a major power in the region, as well as being the largest island country in the world, and has been promoting close defense cooperation and exchanges. Specifically, during the Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting in June 2011, it was agreed to host regular defense ministerial consultations in order to enhance the “strategic partnership.” Following this, during the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2011 and June 2013, the Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministers meeting was held and it was agreed to continue the cooperation in the area of defense based on the concept of the strategic partnership. In November the same year, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Takeda held a meeting with Deputy Minister of Defense Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin. Furthermore, during the Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting in December 2013, it was agreed to host the Japan-Indonesia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting.

There have also been numerous developments at the

working level, including the discussions involving the diplomatic and defense authorities that began in November 2011, discussions between the defense authorities, and the sharing of knowledge and experience through various education and research exchange initiatives.

Furthermore, Japan is working with Indonesia in an initiative to strengthen cooperation through capacity building, and in February and July 2013, the MSDF officials and other personnel were dispatched to the Indonesian Navy Hydro-Oceanographic Office, to conduct a short-term seminar on marine meteorology. Inspection and training were also held in Japan in February 2014.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Activities of Short-Term Dispatch Program)

## 2 Vietnam

With a population of about 90 million people, Vietnam is a major power in Southeast Asia. In March 2014, President of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang, who was on a state visit to Japan, and Prime Minister Abe agreed to elevate the conventional “strategic partnership” to a higher level of cooperative relationship, calling it the “Extensive Strategic Partnership.” In addition, In recent years, Japan has been deepening cooperation with Vietnam, not only in economic fields, but also in the fields of security and defense. In October 2011, Vietnamese Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh became the first Vietnamese Defense Minister to visit Japan in 13 years, holding talks with Japan’s Minister of Defense, after which the two ministers signed a memorandum concerning Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation and exchanges, and agreed to promote high-level exchanges, regular dialogue at the vice-ministerial level, and cooperation in such fields as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

In September 2013, Minister of Defense Onodera visited Vietnam, and the two countries agreed to proactively promote Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation and exchanges, including cooperation towards the Vietnam’s first dispatch for U.N. peace-keeping operations. Minister Onodera also visited Cam Ranh Bay, a military port located at a key strategic choke point of the South China Sea, for the first time as a Japanese defense minister. As for vice-ministerial consultations, the first consultation was held in November 2012, and the second in August 2013. During these consultations, two vice-ministers exchanged opinions regarding regional situations, as well as discussing cooperation in the field of support for capacity building. In addition, in August 2013 the Chief of Staff of the GSDF visited Vietnam, and shared recognition of the situation and exchanged opinions regarding the future direction of Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation and exchanges

<sup>2</sup> (1) Protect and promote together with ASEAN member states universal values, such as freedom, democracy and basic human rights; (2) Ensure in cooperation with ASEAN member states that the free and open seas, which are the most vital common asset, are governed by laws and rules and not by force, and to welcome the United States’ rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific region; (3) Further promote trade and investment, including flows of goods, money, people and services, through various economic partnership networks, for Japan’s economic revitalization and prosperity of both Japan and ASEAN member states; (4) Protect and nurture Asia’s diverse cultural heritages and traditions; (5) Promote exchanges among the young generations to further foster mutual understanding.

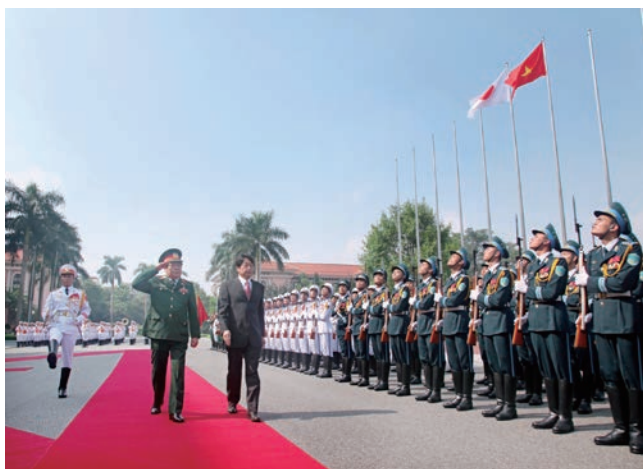


with high-ranking officials of the Vietnam People's Army.

With regard to capacity building programs, MSDF personnel and officials from the Internal Bureau had been dispatched to Vietnam in October 2012, May 2013 and March 2014, where they gave a short-term seminar to medical officers in the Vietnamese Navy concerning diving medicine, as well as inviting them to Japan to observe the training in September 2013. In addition, in February 2014, officers from the Vietnamese armed forces were invited to Japan to observe the Northeastern Army's disaster response training (tabletop exercise), as a short training course on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Furthermore, in September 2013, ASDF officers were dispatched to give a seminar regarding flight safety, and in March 2014, flight safety personnel of the Air Defence and Air Force of Vietnam were invited to Japan for short-term training on flight safety.

It will be vital to strengthen relationships in order to achieve more concrete, practical cooperation, with the memorandum on defense cooperation and exchange as the cornerstone of this.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Activities of Short-Term Dispatch Program)



Minister of Defense Onodera receiving a salute from the guards of honor at the Ministry of Defence in Vietnam

### 3 Singapore

In December 2009, Singapore became the first country in Southeast Asia with which Japan signed a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchange, and a cooperative relationship is progressing steadily based on this memorandum. In particular, discussions between the defense authorities of Japan and Singapore have the longest history of any of Japan's defense discussions with the countries of Southeast Asia, with the 13th round of talks being held in Tokyo in July 2013.

In terms of high-level exchange, Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Defence Chiang Chie Foo visited Japan in July 2012 and held discussions with the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense. Moreover, in October that year, Minister for Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen visited Japan and held a

Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting.

During the 132th Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2013 and the 2nd ADMM-Plus meeting in August 2013, Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meetings were held. In December the same year, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Takeda visited Singapore and held talks with Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Defence Chiang Chie Foo, in which they exchanged opinions on the regional situations.

In February 2014, for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and building mutual trust, the Chief of Staff of the ASDF attended the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and Singapore Airshow.

Furthermore, at the 13th Shangri-La Dialogue held in May 2014, Minister of Defense Onodera held talks with Singaporean Defense Minister Dr. Ng. Minister Onodera expressed his gratitude to the Singaporean Defense Ministry for its effort to host the Dialogue, and exchanged opinions on the regional situations.



ASDF Chief of Staff Saito and Chief of Air Force Mou (at Singapore Airshow)

### 4 The Philippines

To date, as well as high-level exchanges with the Philippines, involving visits by heads of defense from both countries, there have been frequent exchanges at the working level, including visits by naval vessels and discussions between the defense authorities of the two countries. In July 2012, at the ministerial talks held when Philippines Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin visited Japan, the two defense ministers signed a statement of intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and the Philippines, as well as exchanging opinions concerning the regional situation and defense cooperation and exchange between the two nations.

The Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and the Philippines included provisions concerning high-level interaction in the form of meetings between the defense ministers and vice-ministers, and reciprocal visits by chiefs of staff and commanding officers from

each service of the military. In addition, in terms of working-level exchange, it included provisions regarding discussions and dialogue between defense authorities at the director general level, as well as staff talks between the MSDF and the Philippine Navy, and exchanges between units, students, and research institutes.

In June 2013, Minister of Defense Onodera visited the Philippines and held defense ministerial talks. After the meetings, Japan and the Philippines issued a joint press release, announcing further cooperation in maritime and air defense. In addition, in December of the same year, Minister of Defense Onodera visited the Philippines in the aftermath of the recent typhoon, when the SDF were conducting international emergency relief operations, and held Japan-Philippine Defense Ministerial Meetings. During the meetings, Minister of Defense Onodera expressed his condolences for the damage caused by the typhoon, and Philippines Secretary of National Defense Voltaire Gazmin expressed his gratitude for the international emergency relief operations by the SDF; thus the two countries confirmed further enhancement of their cooperation.

### 5 Thailand

With Thailand, the dispatching of Defense Attachés and consultations between defense authorities were initiated at an early stage. Thailand is also the first country to send students to the National Defense Academy, and has sent the largest cumulative number of students. While maintaining the traditionally good relationship, the MOD and the SDF, since 2005, have been participating in the multilateral military exercises, Cobra Gold, hosted by the United States and Thailand. In January 2013, the Chief of Staff of the ASDF and the GSDF consecutively visited Thailand. In September 2013, Minister of Defense Onodera visited Thailand and held talks with then Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and other officials, confirming that both countries would further deepen the bilateral defense relationship. Furthermore, in February 2014, the Chairman of the Joint Staff Council visited Thailand to inspect the Cobra Gold 2014 exercise.



Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Nishi holding talks with Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence Sontam of the Ministry of Defense of Thailand in Myanmar

### 6 Cambodia

Cambodia is the first country to which Japan dispatched the SDF for UN peacekeeping operations in 1992. Since then, defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries have been continuously improving: in 2008, the Defense Attaché to Vietnam was also appointed as Defense Attaché to Cambodia, and support for capacity building was started in 2013. At the Japan-Cambodia Summit Meeting in December 2013, the bilateral relationship was upgraded to a “strategic partnership.” After the summit, Minister of Defense Onodera signed the “Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense, Japan and the Ministry of National Defence, the Kingdom of Cambodia,” with the attendance of the prime ministers of Japan and Cambodia.

### 7 Myanmar

Regarding Japan’s relations with Myanmar, Japan has been promoting exchanges since Myanmar’s transition from military rule to democratic government in March 2011, such as realizing the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense’s first visit to the country, and inviting Myanmar to multilateral conferences hosted by Japan. In particular, in September 2013, the Training Squadron of the MSDF made a call at Yangon Port for the first time. In November 2013, the first consultation between defense authorities was held in the capital city Naypyidaw, during which the two countries exchanged opinions regarding the regional situation, defense policies and the procedures for future exchanges, between the two nations and agreed to further promote exchanges. Furthermore, in May 2014 the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff visited Myanmar for the first time, and paid a courtesy visit to President Thein Sein. During his visit, he also held talks with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and exchanged views on the development of defense exchanges at various levels.

In addition, Japan has continued to dispatch a Defense Attaché to Myanmar since 1971.

### 8 Laos

Regarding Japan’s relations with Laos, defense cooperation and exchanges have been gradually developed since 2011, when the Defense Attaché to Vietnam was also appointed as Defense Attaché to Laos, as well as Defense Attaché to Cambodia. In April 2013, the National Defense Academy accepted students from Laos for the first time, and in August 2013, the first Japan-Laos Defense Ministerial Meeting was held during the 2nd ADMM-Plus meeting. During the Japan-Laos Summit Meeting in December 2013, it was agreed that both sides would coordinate toward early realization of security dialogue

VOICE

## National Defense Academy (BODAI) Alumni Network

Kingdom of Thailand

Admiral Tanarat Ubol, Special Advisor to the Royal Thai Navy



In this globalized age where people, capital and information transfer freely between borders, there have been new kinds of threats emerging such as natural disasters and terrorism, which call upon an international cooperation to address.

We can see some examples of such cooperation from past earthquakes or flooding in many countries, including the recent case of the missing flight MH 370 of Malaysia Airlines where many countries dispatched their ships and planes to aid in the search.

Such joint operation requires effective coordination. In Asian countries, especially, a kind of unofficial coordination that relies on personal networking is highly essential to success.

I had a chance to study at the National Defense Academy of Japan (BODAI) during 1975-1979 as the 23rd term student and was one of the first Thai students there funded by the Thai government. Back then, there were other foreign students there only coming from Singapore. By now, there are more than 150 Thai military graduates from BODAI working in all the three services of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. Every year, at a class reunion in Bangkok, we can hear all the alumni gathered at the reunion sing the school anthem “Boei Daigakko Gakuseika” altogether at the end of the event. It is a truly rare thing to see outside BODAI.

In coordination both between countries and armies, the BODAI alumni networking is greatly helpful. Even if some alumni don't know each other personally, they can coordinate easily thanks to this connection.

At present, BODAI provides education for students from many ASEAN countries. From this, we can see the growth of this network in ASEAN which will contribute to joint cooperation in the future.

All the foreign alumni have received education and training to make them good military officers. If the Ministry of Defense of Japan gives them further opportunities to go back and study courses in Japan such as professional courses in each field and senior courses, it will allow them to grow further in their government service career, and will strengthen this BODAI alumni network.



Admiral Tanarat Ubol (far right), receiving a visit from and exchanging views with a former academy exchange student, currently working for the Information Fusion Center in Singapore.

between the diplomatic and defense authorities, and the first security dialogue was held in April 2014.

In addition, in January 2014, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Laos for the first time, and held meetings with the Vice-Prime Minister and Defense Minister as

well as Vice-Minister of Defense of Laos. During the meetings, as the co-chair countries of the EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief of the ADMM-Plus, the two countries agreed to enhance cooperation in these fields.



## 9 Malaysia

Regarding Japan's relations with Malaysia, in April 2014, Minister of Defense Onodera visited Malaysia and paid a courtesy visit to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, as well as holding talks with Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein. During the talks the two ministers agreed to further promote Japan-Malaysia bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, such as enhancement of cooperation in maritime security and promotion of efforts for early realization of the signing of a memorandum on defense exchanges. As for service to service exchanges, in April 2014, vessels from the MSDF and the Royal Malaysian Navy conducted a goodwill exercise in waters west of Kyushu, and in June 2014 the Chief of Staff of the MSDF visited Malaysia. Thus, Japan has been promoting friendship and goodwill with the countries in Southeast Asia.

In addition, Japan has been dispatching a Defense Attaché to Malaysia since 1975 to this date.

## 10 Brunei Darussalam

Regarding Japan's relations with Brunei Darussalam, during the 2nd ADMM Plus meeting held in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013, Minister of Defense Onodera held talks with Brunei's Minister of Energy Mohammad Yasmin Umar and exchanged views on the initiatives of the ADMM Plus. As for service to service exchanges, in June 2013, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff visited Brunei Darussalam for the first time, and exchanged views on defense policies and the regional situations.

See Reference 53 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with ASEAN Countries (Past Three Years))

# 7 Japan-U.K. Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

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 with 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 through such global issues as international peace cooperation activities and anti-terrorism and piracy, and through information exchange relating to the regional situation.

In April 2012, when British Prime Minister David Cameron visited Japan, a joint statement was issued by the prime ministers of both countries, entitled "A Leading Strategic Partnership for Global Prosperity and Security," which stated that the two nations would begin negotiations concerning a government-to-government information security agreement, endorse the signing of the Defense Cooperation Memorandum, and promote the identification of appropriate defense equipment for joint development and production. In terms of interaction between the defense authorities of the two countries, in addition to the exchange of the memorandum on defense cooperation in June 2012, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited the United Kingdom in January 2013, paying a courtesy visit to Minister of State for the Armed Forces Andrew Robathan and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Security Strategy Andrew Murrison, as well as holding talks with Permanent Under Secretary Jon Thompson. During these talks, the two vice-ministers agreed to continue to share intelligence, and to deepen defense cooperation between Japan and the United Kingdom at various levels. In July 2013, the two governments concluded inter-governmental framework agreement regarding joint development of defense equipment etc., and started joint research concerning chemical and biological protection technology. Furthermore,

Japan-UK Information Security Agreement signed in July 2013 entered into force in January 2014 leading to the development of a foundation for information-sharing between the two countries. In addition, at the Japan-U.K. Summit Meeting which was held in May 2014 during Prime Minister Abe's visit to the United Kingdom, the prime ministers agreed to hold the first Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting, to start a negotiation for the conclusion of ACSA, and to further promote joint trainings between the SDF and the British Armed Forces.

In May 2014, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Kihara visited the United Kingdom and held a meeting with Mr. Andrew Murrison, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for International Security Strategy, and Mr. Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology.

During the Shangri-La Dialogue held in the same month, Defense Minister Onodera held talks with U.K. Secretary of State for Defence Philip Hammond in which the two leaders exchanged their views concerning the progress of defense cooperation between Japan and the United Kingdom as well as the regional situation. Both parties agreed to promote further discussions between the two nations toward the conclusion of the ACSA and to establish a framework for working level dialogue in order to promote cooperation in equipment and technology.

As for service to service exchanges, the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval staff of the British Royal Navy visited Japan in December 2013, as well as the Chief of Staff of the British Army in March 2014. During their visits, they held discussions with the Chief of Staff of the GSDF, and the two countries agreed to develop specific plans for the cooperation related to peace-keeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

See Reference 54 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with the United Kingdom (Past Three Years))



## Strengthening Relations Between Fellow Squadrons: No. 3 Squadron of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and 201st Squadron JASDF



ASDF Chitose Air Base (Chitose, Hokkaido)

Lieutenant Colonel (ASDF) Yoshifumi Nakata, Squadron Commander, the 201st Squadron, 2nd Squadron  
(Currently at Defense and Operation Division, Headquarters, Air Defense Command)

The 201st Squadron of the ASDF based at the ASDF Chitose Air Base and the No. 3 Squadron of the RAF based at RAF Coningsby announced a sister squadron relationship on July 18, 2013 as part of efforts to strengthen collaboration and exchange between Japanese and British defense forces.

Sister squadrons are flight units that regularly conduct activities together. In 2013, three members of the No. 3 Squadron, including Commanding Officer Ian Townsend, visited the 201st Squadron, exchanging views on topics such as squadron duties and flight operation and boarded one of the ASDF's F-15s. Through the exchange, it was an extremely interesting experience that reminded us of the many similarities we share in areas such as the operation of our units, and illuminated our differences in things like the extent to which we each use simulators.

We will be visiting the No. 3 Squadron of the RAF next, and I am eagerly looking forward to the discoveries we will make together. I hope to continue strengthening the bond we share with the No. 3 Squadron of the RAF so that we can further improve our skill in running our units.



Japanese and British sister squadrons, strengthening relations  
(Wing Commander Townsend: 3rd from left, Lieutenant Colonel Nakata: 3rd from right)



The two squadron commanders who completed a signing ceremony for becoming sister squadrons.

RAF Coningsby (Lincolnshire, England)

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Townsend, Wing Commander, No. 3 Squadron



In response to an agreement made by the RAF Chief of the Air Staff in August 2011 during a visit to Japan, No 3 (Fighter) Squadron (3(F) Sqn) were tasked to conduct an exchange visit to Japan in order to establish a UK/JASDF sqn-based affiliation.

3(F) Sqn were selected to participate in this exchange as 2 Japanese officers had previously served with the Sqn. In Oct 1927, Lieutenant Yoshir Kamei of the Imperial Japanese Navy became the first RAF foreign exchange officer, followed by Captain Namba from the Japanese Air Service who were to study the organisation, flying operations and daily running of an RAF fighter sqn.

In Jul 2013, 3 officers from 3(F) Sqn visited Chitose Airbase and were hosted by the 201st TFS. The aims of the visitors from the UK were very similar to those of the Japanese officers almost 90 years earlier with an emphasis on sharing information on how we conduct fighter operations. Of particular interest was the similarity in approach taken between the 2 nations in homeland defense and the delivery of Quick Reaction Alert fighters, a role undertaken at both RAF Coningsby and Chitose Airbase.

Having been exceptionally well hosted, a strong relationship has been formed between the 2 Squadrons and regular correspondence is undertaken updating each other on activities. A reciprocal visit to the UK is planned in the summer (2014) where 3(F) Sqn will, once again, host Japanese officers.



## 8

## Japan-France Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

France is a major power that has influence not only in Europe and Africa, but also in the world. Historically it has had a close relationship with Japan, and is positioned as a special partner in various international organizations.

The defense authorities of the two countries have held consultations annually since 1994 to exchange a wide range of opinions regarding regional situations and security issues. In addition, in October 2011, the Japan-France Information Security Agreement was signed to develop the infrastructure for sharing information.

In June 2013, French President Francois Hollande became the first French President to visit Japan in 17 years, and the two countries issued a joint statement regarding cooperation in the field of politics, security, economy and culture. In the same month, Minister of Defense Onodera held a meeting with French Minister of Defense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, during the Shangri-La Dialogue, and exchanged opinions regarding the present situation of defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and France, the regional situation.

In addition, during the first Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting held in Paris in January 2014, the two countries shared recognition on the importance of maintaining the freedom of the high seas and the freedom of flight in international airspace. Furthermore, the ministers issued a joint statement, which included an agreement to establish a framework for two dialogues in relation to export control measures and defense equipment cooperation. During the first meeting of the committee regarding defense equipment cooperation between Japan and France, which was held in April 2014 based on the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting, the two countries confirmed that they share the common interest in some areas including unmanned systems. In May 2014, Prime Minister Abe visited France and held talks with President

Hollande. The two leaders agreed to start negotiations on an agreement of defense equipment and technology cooperation, as well as to launch dialogue on cyber security and strengthen bilateral cooperation in maritime security. During the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2013, Minister of Defense Onodera held talks with French Defense Minister Le Drian, and exchanged views on the regional situations and Japan's security policy. In addition, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Takeda visited France in June 2014 and exchanged views with Minister of Defense Le Drian and other Minister of Defense officials and also visited an exhibition of defense equipment, etc.

As for service to service exchanges, in August 2013, the Chief of Staff of the MSDF visited France, and in March 2014, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff visited the country for the first time in about 14 years, and exchanged opinions regarding the security situations in the regions of both countries' interest as well as defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and France.



Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting [Copyright: Présidence de la République]

## 9

## Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries

## 1 European Countries

Europe shares fundamental values with Japan and plays a central role in working to address shared challenges to global security, focusing primarily on non-traditional security areas such as counter-terrorism and combating piracy, as well as international peace cooperation activities. Therefore, developing defense cooperation and exchange with the countries of Europe lays the foundations for Japan to become actively involved in dealing with challenges, and is important for both Japan and Europe.

In January 2013, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Spain, where he exchanged opinions with Secretary General for Defence Policy Alvargonzález, as well as paying

a courtesy visit to Minister of Defence Morenés. Furthermore, regarding Japan's relations with Sweden, the two countries signed a memorandum on defense exchanges on December 20, 2013.

In April 2013, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen visited Japan, and signed a Joint Political Declaration between Japan and NATO with Prime Minister Abe. Furthermore, in March 2014 the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff visited Belgium, Italy, EU and NATO headquarters, and exchanged opinions regarding the security situations of the regions of interest, and the defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and the counterpart country. In May 2014, Minister of Defense Onodera visited Italy and held talks with Italian Minister of Defense Roberta Pinotti. During the talks, the



two ministers agreed to continue promoting cooperation, such as cooperation towards the conclusion of information security agreement, in order to further enhance bilateral relations.

In April-May 2014, Prime Minister Abe made a round of visits to Germany, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Spain, France and Belgium, holding talks with the top leaders of these countries as well as the EU and NATO. He had a meeting with NATO Secretary General Rasmussen at the NATO Headquarters and put his signature on an Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP). Prime Minister Abe made an address before the North Atlantic Council<sup>3</sup>, drawing appreciation and support from European countries for Japan's security policy based on proactive contribution to peace. He also exchanged views with the permanent representatives of NATO's 28 member countries, developing the common recognition of the security environment between Japan and Europe. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed the principle of the freedom of the seas, and also agreed on joint exercises with NATO and the EU relating to counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden and cooperation in the field of defense equipment and technology with the United Kingdom and France.

Regarding information security agreements with European countries, Japan has concluded the agreement on the security of information with NATO (June 2010), France (October 2011), and the United Kingdom (January 2014), and the negotiation towards concluding an information security agreement with Italy is under way.

two countries exchanged opinions regarding defense cooperation and exchanges including support for capacity building.

High-level exchanges are also promoted, including Mongolian Minister of Defense Dashdemberel Bat-Erdene visiting Japan in April 2014. In terms of support for capacity building, Japan invited high-ranking military officers from Mongolia to provide training at the SDF Central Hospital regarding accepting a large number of injured persons in November 2013, and to provide educational training regarding engineering (road construction) at the GSDF engineer school in March 2014.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Activities of Short-Term Dispatch Program)

## (2) Turkey

The Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Turkey in July 2012, where he conducted talks with Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Defence Ümit Dündar, as well as paying a courtesy visit to Minister of National Defence Ismet Yilmaz. During this visit, a Statement of Intent was signed to promote defense cooperation and exchanges between two countries. In March 2013, Minister of National Defence Yilmaz visited Japan and held a defense ministerial meeting with Minister of Defense Onodera. At this meeting, as well as exchanging opinions concerning the regional situation, the two ministers agreed to hold discussions between the defense authorities of the two countries (at the director general level) at the earliest possible date, and to push forward with various forms of defense exchange.

## (3) Kazakhstan

The Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Kazakhstan for the first time in July 2012, and as well as paying a courtesy visit to Minister of Defence Dzhaksybekov, he held talks with First Deputy Minister of Defence Zhasuzakov. They concurred regarding the necessity of developing exchange between the two countries in the field of defense, and agreed to commence high-level exchanges, starting at the vice-ministerial level, as well as working-level discussions, starting with consultations between the defense authorities of the two nations. They also agreed to promote cooperation in the areas of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance, as well as promoting cooperation through exchanges between educational and research institutes.

## (4) Middle Eastern Countries

During his April 2013 visit to Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, at which they agreed to promote security dialogue and defense exchanges, and to start dialogue between the National Security Council (NSC) of the two countries. In

## 2 Other Countries

### (1) Mongolia

Following the signing of a memorandum on Japan–Mongolia defense cooperation and exchanges in January 2012, the first Defense Vice-ministerial Level Meeting was held in November 2012, and the second meeting in November 2013, in which the

<sup>3</sup> The decision-making body comprised of the representatives of 28 NATO member countries (Chairperson: NATO Secretary General).

February 2014, Crown Prince Salman visited Japan, and the two countries confirmed that they will continue further promoting consultations and cooperation at various levels, including the implementation of the above dialogue and starting dialogue between the NSC of both countries, as well as enhancing the comprehensive bilateral partnership.

In addition to Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Abe visited the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar in May and August 2013, and shared recognition of the necessity of promoting cooperation in the security and defense field.

In January 2014, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with His Majesty Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, at which they agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of maritime security, including counter-piracy measures for ensuring the security and safety of maritime routes, as well as promoting defense exchanges. In addition, in February 2014, the Chief of Staff of the MSDF visited Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

See Reference 55 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with European Nations and Others (Past Three Years))



MSDF Chief of Staff Katsutoshi Kawano received a decoration from Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia