

Chapter 3 Active Promotion of Security Cooperation

The international community today is facing an increasing number of challenges, which are extremely difficult for one country to deal with on its own. Therefore, it is important to strengthen bilateral and multilateral security cooperation, as well as proactively engage in international peace cooperation activities, from the perspective of “proactive contribution to peace” based on the principle of international cooperation.

In light of this situation, the National Defense

Program Guidelines aims to continuously promote and enhance various initiatives related to capacity building, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in order to address global security issues, such as local conflicts, expansion and spread of international terrorism, failed states, and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), while promoting cooperation with the allied countries and the related countries that share the security benefits in peacetime.

Section 1 Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries and Regions

1 Significance and Evolution of Security Cooperation and Dialogue and Defense Cooperation and Exchange

In recent years, dialogues and exchanges with other countries have been deepened qualitatively and expanded quantitatively. In the security field, the following approaches are necessary: nurturing the habits of cooperation, and promoting practical and concrete cooperation for building regional order and establishing common norms and standards; eliminating the sense of confrontation and sense of caution in our neighboring countries and region in order to foster a collaborative and cooperative atmosphere with a future-oriented perspective; and actively promoting cooperation in bilateral and multilateral arenas. To that

end, the MOD and the SDF are promoting multi-layered security cooperation and dialogue, defense cooperation and exchange, as well as joint training and exercises, utilizing the limited resources effectively and efficiently, and taking into account the characteristics of each country and region.

See Reference 54 (Record of Major Multinational Security Dialogues (Asia-Pacific Region, Last Five Years)), Reference 55 (Exchange Student Acceptance Record (Number of Newly Accepted Students in FY2014))

See Fig. III-3-1-1 (High-Level Visits (January 2014-May 2015))
Fig. III-3-1-2 (Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges)
Fig. III-3-1-3 (From Dialogues and Exchanges to Cooperation)
Fig. III-3-1-4 (Image of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges)

2 Initiatives under the Multilateral Security Framework and through Dialogue

1 Initiatives under the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Framework

The countries of ASEAN hold meetings such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)¹, which serves as a security framework for the region, and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), which is a ministerial level meeting between defense authorities in the ASEAN countries. In addition to these meetings, a decision was taken to establish the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), which added eight new non-ASEAN countries² including Japan to the members, and the 1st ADMM-Plus was held in October 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Until the establishment of the ADMM-Plus, there had been no official meeting for the region's defense ministers in the Asia Pacific region including the countries

outside the ASEAN region. Thus, the establishment of the ADMM-Plus is highly significant from the perspective of encouraging the development and deepening of security and defense cooperation in the region, and the MOD and the SDF are providing active support for its initiatives.

The ADMM-Plus is comprised of (1) ADSOM-Plus (ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Plus), (2) ADSOM-Plus Working Groups (ADSOM-Plus WG), and (3) Experts' Working Groups (EWG). Japan and Singapore served as co-chairs of the EWG on Military Medicine until March 2014, and the participants in the meeting exchanged practical opinions on approaches to cooperation with each country in the field of military medicine at times of a major disaster. Furthermore, at meetings of the EWG on Maritime Security, Japan emphasized the importance of establishing shared customary “manners” by which all countries abide,

1 The ARF, a forum aimed at improving the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region through dialogue and cooperation on the political and security sectors, has been held since 1994. The ARF currently comprises the following 26 countries and 1 organization as member states, and holds various inter-governmental meetings on security that are attended by both foreign affairs officials and defense officials to exchange opinions on the regional situation and security areas that require a particular focus. The 26 countries consist of 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia (since 1995) and Myanmar (since 1996)), in addition to Japan, Australia, Canada, China and India (since 1996), New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea (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), plus the European Union (EU).

2 Japan, the United States, Australia, the ROK, India, New Zealand, China, and Russia.

Fig. III-3-1-1 High-Level Visits (January 2014-May 2015)

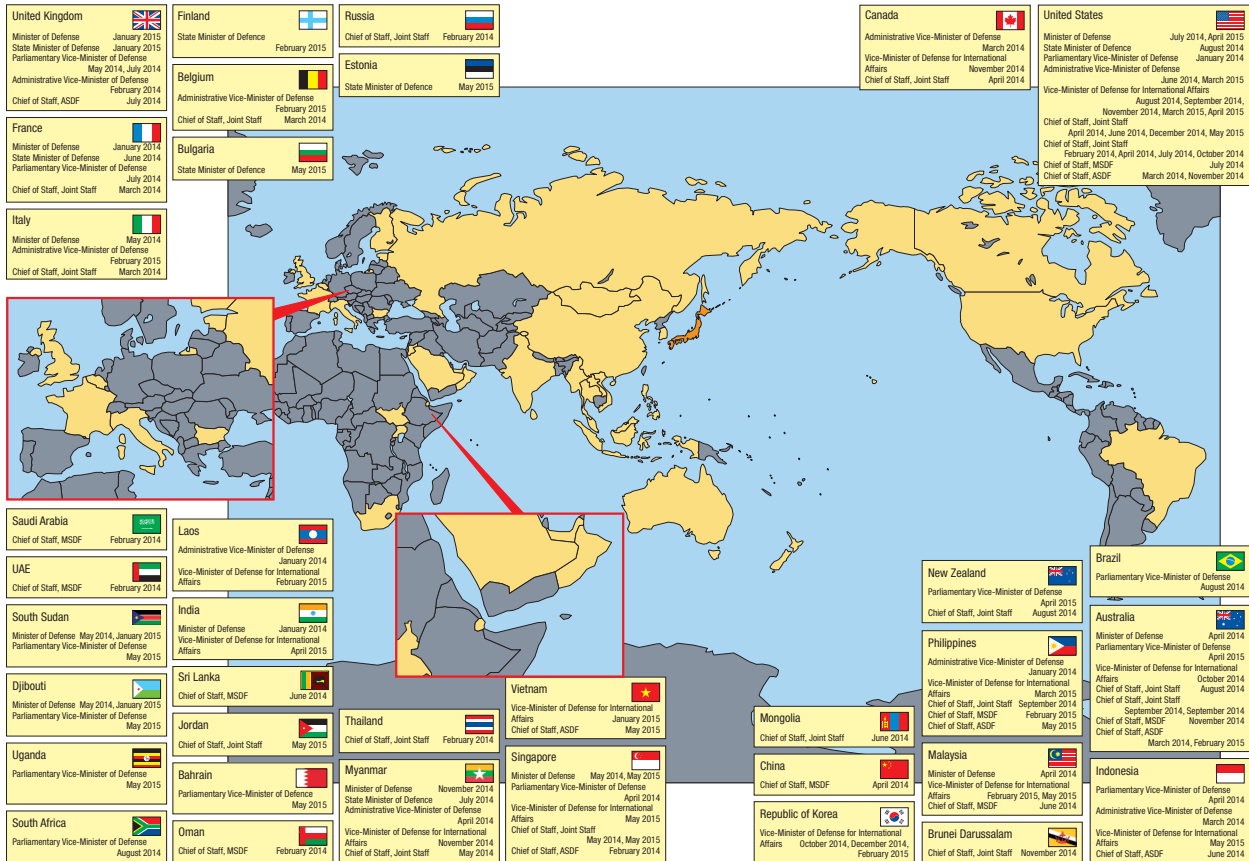


Fig. III-3-1-2 Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges

Classification	Type	Significance	Outline
Bilateral	Exchange between Defense Ministers and high-level officials	Improving and reinforcing mutual trust and cooperation through frank exchanges of views on regional situations and national defense policies that are important common interests to both sides, as well as enhancing the following defense exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan's Defense Minister and Defense Ministers from other countries Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan's Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Defense; Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense; Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense; Chief of Joint Staff; GSDF, MSDF, ASDF Chiefs; and their counterparts in other countries
	Regular consultation between defense officials	Paving the way for high-level dialogues and exchanges through continuous and direct exchanges of views between national defense policy-makers, and contributing to the enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation between related countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations between Director-General-level officials, Deputy Director-General-level officials, and their counterparts Dialogue between Japan's Joint Staff, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, and their counterparts in foreign countries
	Exchange between units	Contributing to the improvement and enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation between related countries through bilateral exercises and events for exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel exchanges Mutual visits to training squadrons aircraft, and bilateral exercises for search and rescue operations
	Exchange of students	In addition to the original educational purposes, deepening the understanding of the other countries' defense policies and the situation of their defense units, as well as building mutual trust through the promotion of relatively long-term personnel, and establishing human networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual acceptance of students Dispatch of students to overseas military-related organizations
	Research exchanges	Deepening mutual understanding between researchers of both countries through frank exchange of opinions for the maintenance and promotion of defense exchanges	Research exchanges between Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies and military-related research organizations in other countries
Multilateral	Security dialogue	Deepening mutual understanding on the recognition of situations and on security perceptions among related countries, and multilateral issues broadly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogues at the ADMM-Plus and ARF Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the Ministry of Defense Japan Multilateral dialogues sponsored by governments Multilateral dialogues sponsored by private sectors
	Multilateral exercises and seminars	Improving skills and contributing to enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation through multilateral exercises and seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel exchanges Multilateral exercises and seminars related to disaster relief, minesweeping, and submarine rescue operations

Fig. III-3-1-3 From Dialogues and Exchanges to Cooperation

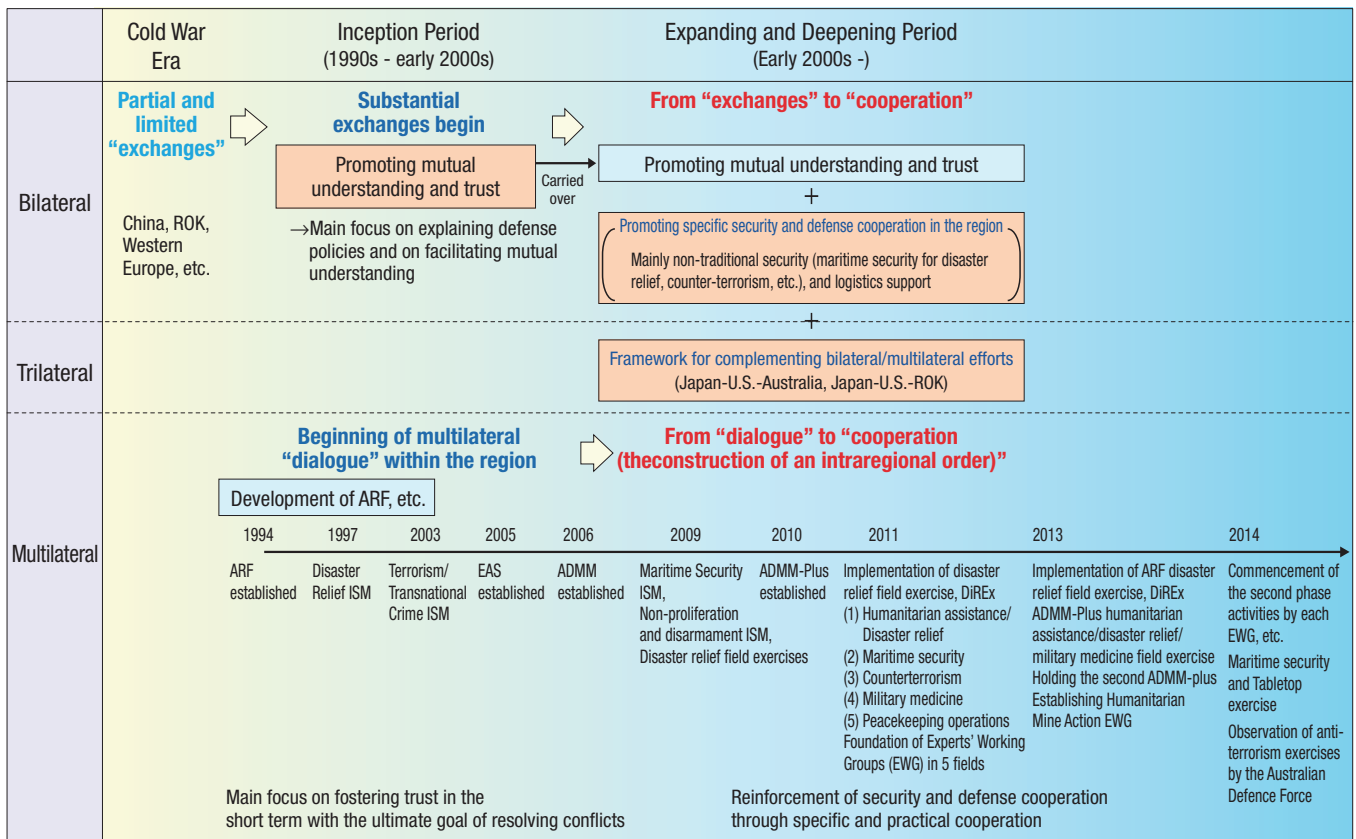
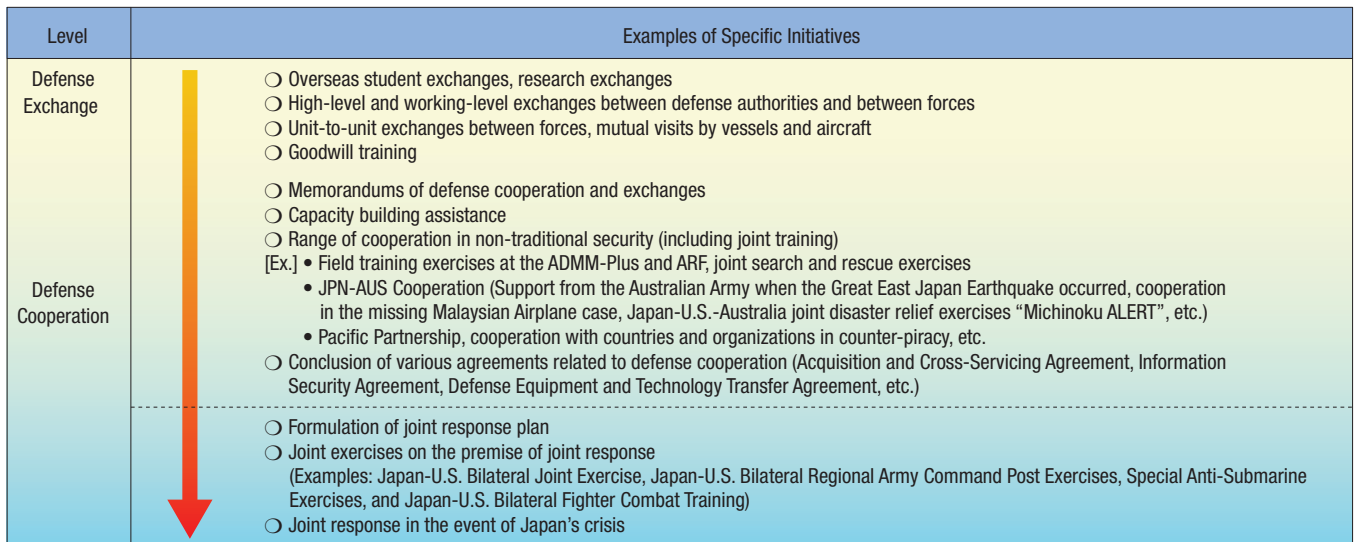


Fig. III-3-1-4 Image of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges



in order to avoid unintended collisions and the escalation of situations when warships and government vessels approach and encounter each other at sea.

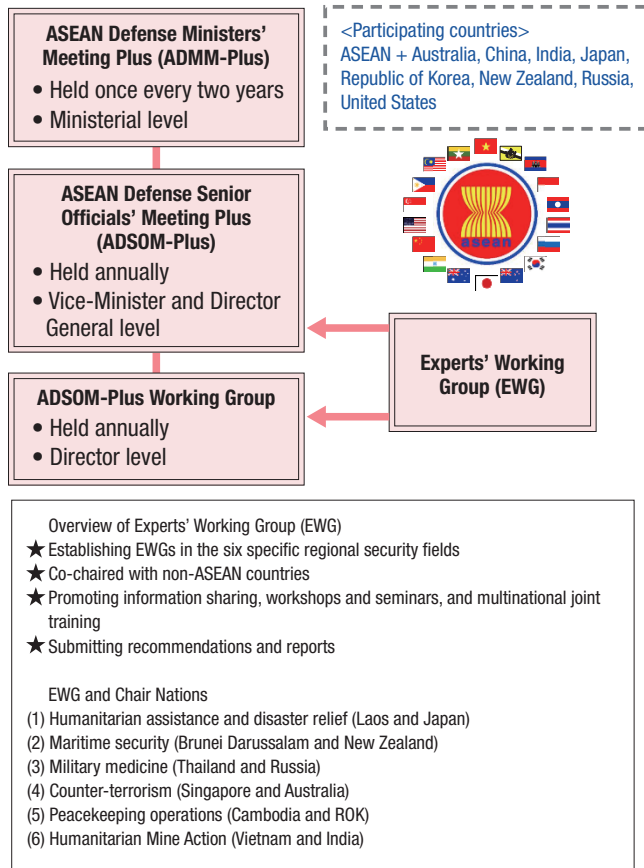
In June 2013, Japan participated in the first ADMM-Plus field training exercise held in Brunei Darussalam organized by the EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and the EWG on Military Medicine. In September 2013, Japan also participated in the tabletop exercise held in Indonesia, organized by the EWG on Counter Terrorism, as well as the field training exercise held

in Australia, organized by the EWG on Maritime Security. Since April 2014 Japan has been serving as a co-chair with Laos of the EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief of the ADMM-Plus. In Tokyo and Laos in July and December of the same year, respectively, EWG meetings for experts from ADMM-Plus member states were held. They discussed issues to be tackled as well as plans for the next three years.

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

Fig. III-3-1-5

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



MSDF personnel conducting medical activity training for a simulated patient during the ARF-DiREX

3 Multilateral Security Dialogue Hosted by the MOD and the SDF

(1) Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Roundtable Meeting

Based on the proposal by Prime Minister Abe at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013, the Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Roundtable Meeting took place in Myanmar in November 2014. This roundtable, in which opinion exchanges were conducted regarding cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and maritime security, was a breakthrough opportunity, bringing together defense ministers from the relevant countries for the first time in the 40 years of friendship and cooperation between Japan and ASEAN, this marked an important first step towards strengthening defense cooperation in future.



Then Minister of Defense Eto (sixth from right) at the first Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministerial Roundtable Session

2 ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

In recent years, specific initiatives³ in non-traditional security areas such as disaster relief, maritime security, and peacekeeping and peace building have been actively implemented by the ARF. For example, in the maritime security field, an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) has been held since 2009⁴. At the ISM-MS, Japan compiled a collection of best practices concerning support for capacity building in the field of maritime security was formulated on the basis of a summary compiled by Japan. In the field of disaster relief, the MOD and the SDF have dispatched SDF personnel and aircraft to participate in ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF-DiREx) since 2009. In May 2015, ARF-DiREx 2015, the fourth such exercise, was held in Malaysia, with Japan sending around 10 personnel to participate.

3 In addition to Foreign Ministers' meetings 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 Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2002, ARF Defense Officials' Dialogues (DOD) is held ahead of the main meeting.

4 In 2011, Japan co-hosted the 3rd Inter-Sessional Meeting in Tokyo, with Indonesia and New Zealand.

(2) Tokyo Defense Forum etc.

As Japan's own initiatives regarding security in the Asia-Pacific region, the MOD has held since 1996 the Asia-Pacific Defense Forum (Tokyo Defense Forum) with the participation of officers in charge of defense policy (Directors General of defense ministries and General-class officers) from the countries in the region. At the forum, defense policies of the participating countries and confidence-building measures in the region are discussed.

24 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Union (EU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) took part in the 19th forum in March 2015. At this forum, discussions took place on the topics of (1) Enhancing Maritime Security; and (2) Synergy among the Frameworks for Multilateral Cooperation.

Since 2001, the MOD has invited key figures who are primarily involved in security policy to Japan from countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with the objective of promoting understanding of Japan's security and defense policy as well as the current status of the SDF.

(3) Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum

Since 2009, the MOD has annually held the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum, with the purpose of creating a foundation for strengthening multilateral and bilateral relationships through establishing human networks between Japanese and ASEAN vice-ministerial-level officials. On the sidelines of the forum, the Ministry holds bilateral talks at the vice-ministerial level. The 6th meeting was held in Yokohama in October 2014, attended by the vice-ministerial level officials from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat. They exchanged opinions on the topics of (1) Promoting Maritime Defense Cooperation; and (2) Possible Maritime Cooperation – From the Perspective of Equipment and Technology Cooperation and



Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs Hideshi Tokuchi (in the center of the photo) serving as a Chair at the Sixth Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum (Yokohama)

Capacity Building. At the forum, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense conducted bilateral talks at the vice-ministerial level with participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and other countries.

4 Other

(1) International Conferences Held by Private Organizations

In the field of security, various international conferences are also held by private organizations, and such conferences provide a forum for sharing and exchanging opinions on medium-to long-term security issues. The leading international conferences are the IISS Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue)⁵ and the IISS Regional Security Conference (Manama Dialogue), both hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

At the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue held in May 2015, Minister of Defense Nakatani delivered a speech at the second plenary session entitled “New Forms of Security Collaboration in Asia,” and also held bilateral and trilateral talks with the participating countries to explain the security policies of Japan, as well as exchange opinions on regional situations and defense cooperation. The Manama Dialogue is an international conference held in Manama, Bahrain at which foreign and defense officials in the Middle East exchange opinions on security. As the stability of the Middle East is extremely important for Japan, from the perspective of energy security, as well as the safety and security of sea lanes, the MOD has participated in every conference since the 2nd conference in 2005.

(2) Inter-Service Branch Initiatives

a. Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD)

The CHOD is a meeting of the chiefs of defense, mostly from the Asia-Pacific region, aimed at nurturing trust among countries in the region and enhancing security relations through free exchanges of opinions on regional security and bilateral dialogues, among other activities. Japan has participated in each conference since the first one held in 1998. In 2004, Japan hosted the 7th conference together with the United States Pacific Command. More recently, in November 2014, the 17th Conference was held in Brunei Darussalam, and was attended by the Joint Chief of Staff.

b. Chief of Army's Exercise (CA EX)

CA EX is a forum held once every two years by the Australian Army where army chiefs, experts and other relevant officials in the Asia-Pacific region participate in and widely exchange opinions on issues regarding ground forces in the region. The GSDF participated in CA EX for the first time in 2012, while the Chief of the Staff of the GSDF attended and delivered a speech at CA EX 2014, which was held in September 2014.

⁵ This is a multilateral conference initiated by IISS, a private British think tank, in which defense ministers from various countries participate with the objective of discussing defense-related issues and regional defense cooperation. Since the 1st conference in 2002, it has been held in Singapore each year and is known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, from the name of the hotel at which it takes place.

c. The Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)

The WPNS has been held since 1988. It is attended by the chiefs of staff of the navy of countries in the Western Pacific region, and holds discussions on various maritime security issues. The MSDF has been participating since the second symposium in 1990, and the Chief of Maritime Staff attended the last meeting held in Qingdao, hosted by China in April 2014.

d. The Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium (PACS), etc.

The PACS, hosted by the United States, is held every two years. It aims to promote mutual understanding and

enhance security relationships between the countries in the region through exchanges of views among the chiefs of staff of the air forces, etc. from those countries. The ASDF has been participating in PACS since the first symposium in 1989, except the 13th in 2013, and the Chief of Staff of the ASDF attended the last meeting held in Washington, D.C., in March 2014.

In October 2014, the ASDF also hosted the Air Chief's Dialogue in Japan (ACDJ), an event inviting air chiefs and others, as part of celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the ASDF⁶.

Commentary**60th Anniversary of the Air Self-Defense Force, Air Chiefs' Dialogue in Japan (ACDJ)**

In October 2014, the ASDF invited a total of eight Air Chiefs and Commanders from seven different countries as part of its 60th Anniversary, and held a five-day event named the Air Chiefs' Dialogue in Japan (ADCJ), which included a symposium, a courtesy call on the Prime Minister, and participation in the Air Review.

The Chief of Staff of the ASDF held bilateral talks with Air Chiefs and Commanders who visited Japan, and agreed to strengthen their mutual relationships and to further promote dialogues at various levels.

The symposium, which was the main event of the ADCJ, was held on the theme of "The Future of Air Power" Following the opening speeches by the State-Minister of Defense and the Chief of Staff of the ASDF, representatives of each participating country delivered a speech on subjects including the relationship between scientific technologies and the air force, and the role of the air force in the future. In particular, the delegates came to share the recognition about the importance of respecting international law in order to maintain order in airspace.

Next, the delegates paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his official residence. Prime Minister Abe stated, "As the role of air power grows increasingly important, the fact that I am able to meet with you who play a major role in maintaining the peace and stability of the region makes this a significant occasion." General Robinson, the first female Commander of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the delegation. Furthermore, the delegates viewed the ASDF aircraft flying in a well-organized formation at the Air Review commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the MOD and the SDF.

For Japan, to host such an event, in which Air Chiefs from different countries were able to interact with one another, is extremely beneficial in terms of promoting defense cooperation and exchanges. It is important that Japan will continue to implement defense cooperation and exchanges to promote the understanding of the SDF and to further enhance relationships with other countries through all available opportunities.



The Air Chiefs and Commanders with Prime Minister Abe at the Prime Minister's Office.

⁶ Air Chiefs from Australia, India, Indonesia, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam, as well as the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces and the Commander of the 5th Air Force of the United States, attended the meeting.

3 Promoting Capacity Building Assistance and Other Practical Multilateral Security Cooperation

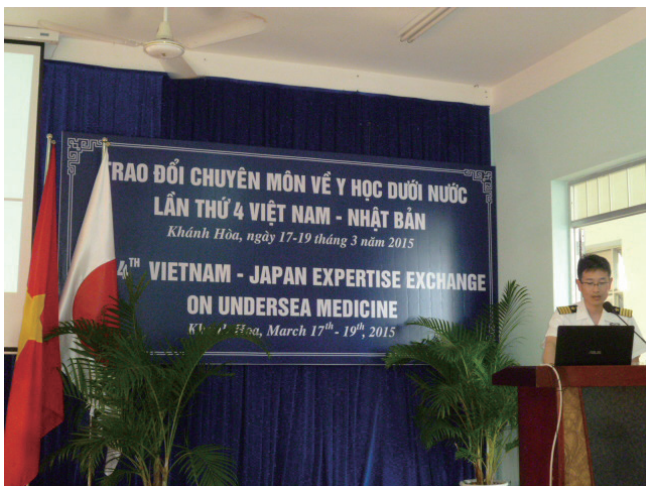
1 Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building Assistance

(1) Significance of the Implementation of Capacity Building Assistance

In recent years, the importance of capacity building assistance has received increasing recognition. Capacity building assistance is an initiative based on the concept of seeking to actively create stability within the region and improve the global security environment by enhancing the ability of countries eligible for support through continuous human resource development and technical support in security and defense fields in peacetime⁷. Providing support for capacity building has the following significance: (1) enabling the countries receiving such support to contribute to improving the global security environment; (2) strengthening bilateral relationships with the countries receiving such support; (3) the strengthening of relationships with other supporting countries; and (4) promoting an awareness among the



GSDF personnel lecturing on the use of measurement equipment in Mongolia (Long-term dispatch program)



MSDF personnel lecturing on underwater medicine in Vietnam (Short-term dispatch project)

Japanese people and the countries receiving such support of Japan's stance of working proactively and independently to realize regional peace and stability, thereby increasing trust in the MOD and the SDF, as well as Japan as a whole.

In addition, these initiatives also facilitate improving the capabilities of the SDF itself.

(2) Specific Activities

The long-term dispatch program involves dispatching a team composed of defense officials, SDF personnel, and staff from knowledgeable private sector groups such as NGOs for a comparatively long period in order to conduct large-scale, systematic human resource development, such as lectures and practical training. This program has so far been conducted in Timor-Leste, Cambodia, and Mongolia.

The short-term dispatch program involves activities such as giving lectures at seminars, so knowledgeable SDF personnel are dispatched for short periods of time. To date, the MOD and the SDF have dispatched SDF personnel etc., to Mongolia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Myanmar.

The invitation program involves inviting practitioners from the counterpart country to Japan, in order to provide opportunities for them to view facilities and undergo training. To date, the MOD and the SDF have invited military officials from Vietnam, Mongolia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

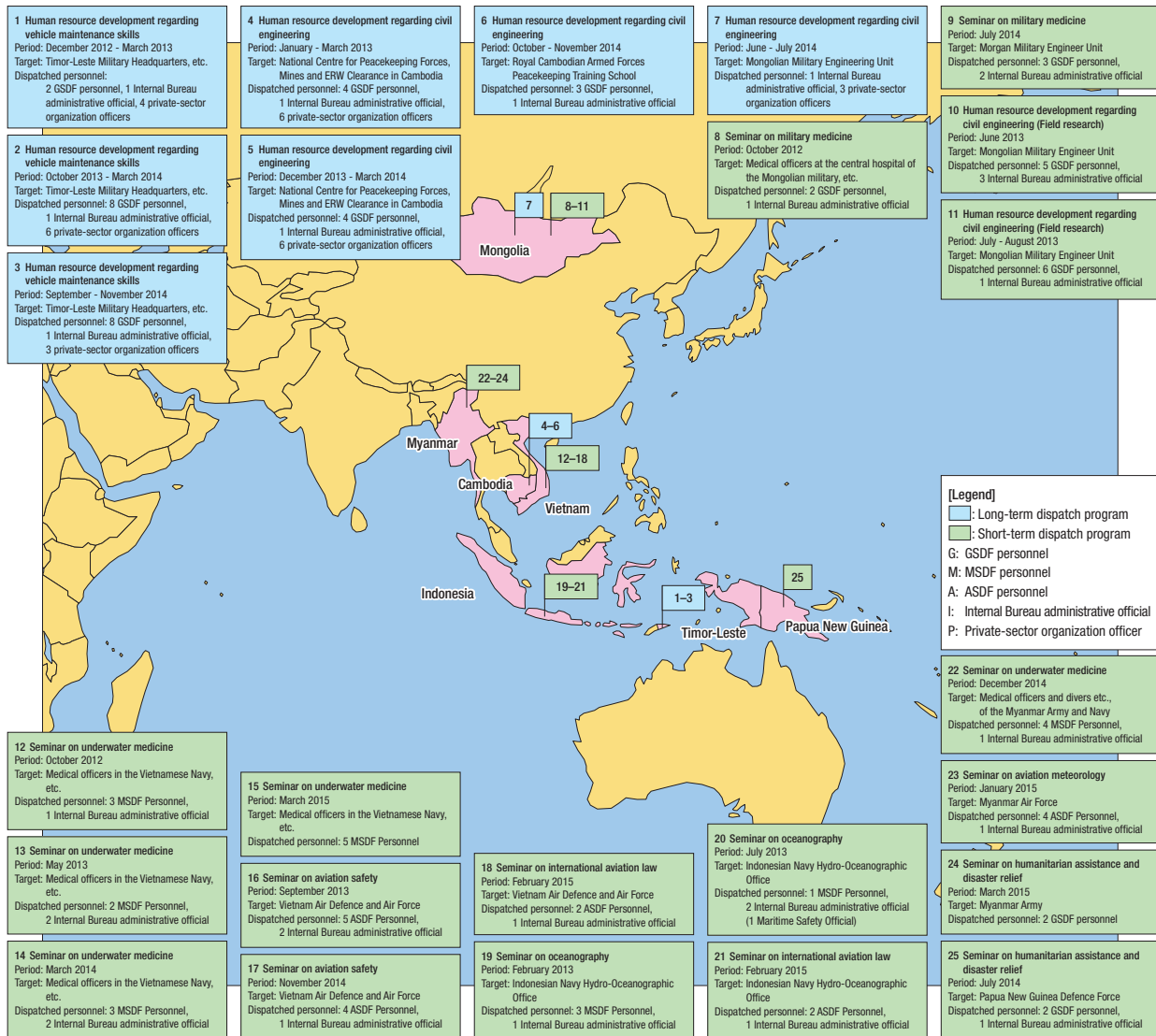
See Reference 58 (Status of Invitation Program)



ASDF personnel explaining to the invited participants the proper fastening technique for supply drops (Philippine Air Force)

⁷ This includes humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, disposal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, military medicine, maritime security, UN peacekeeping operations, and other activities.

Fig. III-3-1-6 Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program



2 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 region to provide medical care, to conduct civil engineering business, and to engage in cultural exchange, as well as to seek to strengthen collaboration with the participating countries and facilitate international disaster relief activities, through cooperation with the government, military, international organizations, and NGOs in each of those countries. Since 2007, Japan has dispatched SDF medical personnel and units, amongst others, as part of this initiative.

In 2015, SDF medical personnel, engineering personnel from the GSDF, and an MSDF vessel have been dispatched to Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines since May, and are scheduled to complete their activities in August.

3 Multilateral Joint Training

(1) Significance of Multilateral Joint Training in the Asia-Pacific Region

Since 2000, in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to conventional training conducted in preparation for combat situations, steps have also been taken to undertake multinational training in non-traditional security fields, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as non-combatant evacuation operation.

It is important to participate in and host such multinational training exercises so as not only to raise the skill level of the SDF, but to create a cooperative platform through various forms of coordination and exchanges of opinions with the countries involved. The MOD and the SDF continue to actively engage in such training.

See Reference 59 (Participation in Multilateral Training (Last Three Years))

(2) Initiatives toward Multilateral Training

a. Participation in, and Hosting of, Multilateral Joint Training and Exercises

In April 2002, the MSDF hosted the second Western Pacific submarine rescue exercise, its first time hosting the exercise. In October 2002, the MSDF also hosted multilateral search and rescue exercises. In March 2011, Japan and Indonesia co-hosted ARF-DiREx2011, the second time the exercise was held, within the framework of the ARF. Furthermore, in September 2013, the MSDF hosted the Sixth Western Pacific submarine rescue exercises.

Moreover, since 2005, the SDF has also been involved in the annual Cobra Gold exercise, a multinational joint training exercise co-hosted by the United States and Thailand. In Cobra Gold 15 held in February 2015, the SDF participated in the command post exercises, conducted training in transporting Japanese nationals overseas, and also participated in the public health section of humanitarian and civic assistance activities. Since 2010, the SDF has participated in the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) Capstone Exercise, a multinational exercise for U.N. peacekeeping operations launched by the United States. In August 2014, the SDF participated in staff exercises, field training, and a leaders' seminar as part of the Garuda Shanti Dharma exercise held in Indonesia.

The GSDF participated in the multilateral exercise, KHAAN QUEST 14, co-hosted by the United States and

Mongolia in June 2014. The MSDF participated in the multilateral exercise (TGEX KOA KAI EAST) in October 2014, and at the same time, it also participated in the U.S.-hosted International Minesweeper Training conducted in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula between October and November of the same year. The ASDF participated in the exercise "Corp North Guam 15," which was hosted jointly by Japan, the United States and Australia and was held in Guam in February 2015. The ASDF also participated in the HA/DR exercises, which was a multilateral exercise.

b. Multinational Tabletop Exercises, etc.

Initiatives have also been made to invite observers from other foreign countries since September 2001, when observers from eight Asia-Pacific countries participated in the fourth Japan-Russia Search and Rescue training hosted by Japan.

In addition, the GSDF has hosted the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP) every year since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperative initiatives, inviting officers from the respective countries involved. In November 2014, 26 countries and organizations including administrative agencies, the largest number in the past, participated in the event, and conducted a group discussion on the theme of the "Approaches to multilateral joint operations in on-site humanitarian assistance/disaster relief activities" and observed the disaster relief exercise "Michinoku ALERT 2014."



A scene from the training in Cobra Gold 15 for transporting Japanese nationals overseas



The Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP) hosted by the GSDF



Japanese, U.S. and Australian aircraft participating in the Cope North Guam 15 exercise (flying over Guam)

4 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: Both Japan and Australia are allies of the United States and share not only universal values⁸ but also strategic stakes and interests in the security field. In particular, in recent years, 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 Japan-Australia Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)⁹ and its Procedural Arrangement were signed at the third Japan-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”), and they 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 international peace cooperation and other activities. Moreover, due to the Japan-Australia Information Security Agreement that entered into force in March 2013 and the foundations for sharing information that have been developed between the two countries, it is expected that bilateral cooperation will be further strengthened.

Furthermore, at the fourth Japan-Australia “2+2” in September 2012, both countries 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, based on the agreement made at the Japan-Australia Defense Ministers Meeting in September 2012, personnel in charge from the Australian Department of Defence were seconded to the Ministry of Defense in Japan from February 2015, while personnel in charge from the latter have been dispatched to the former since June 2015, as part of human resources exchanges in the capacity building support area¹⁰. 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.

At the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in July 2014, Prime Minister Abe described the relationship between the two countries as a “Special Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century” and signed the Agreement on the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology between Japan and Australia as well as approved the proposal for Japan-Australia defense cooperation that was agreed upon at the fifth Japan-Australia “2+2” held in June 2014. This proposal deepened the bilateral security and defense relationship through the expansion and enhancement of training and exercises, extension of human exchanges, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, peacekeeping and capacity building as well as Japan-Australia-U.S. trilateral cooperation. At the same time, it also determined the commencement of negotiation towards the development of an agreement to mutually improve administrative, policy and legal procedures in order to facilitate joint operation and training.

At the Japan-Australia Ministers Meeting in October 2014, the two ministers agreed to move ahead with the proposed matters for the enhancement of Japan-Australia defense cooperation, which were approved by the abovementioned joint declaration, as well as carrying out a review to enhance Japan-Australia and Japan-U.S.-Australia joint exercises going forward.

In May 2015, at the Defense Ministerial Talks held at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, Minister of Defense Nakatani informed the Australian side of Japan’s decision to commence consultations with the Government of Australia in order to examine in detail how specifically Japan could cooperate with Australia with regard to the Australian Future Submarine Program. In response to this, Minister for Defence Kevin Andrews expressed his

⁸ Universal value: The National Security Strategy (approved by the National Security Council and the Cabinet on December 17, 2013) stipulates, “freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law” as universal values.

⁹ 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 ADF of Australia.

¹⁰ The period of secondment of personnel from the Australian Department of Defence to the MOD is planned to be for approximately 18 months. The previous secondment took place from July 2013 for a period of approximately three months. The period of secondment of the MOD personnel to the Australian Department of Defence will be approximately three months.

gratitude. The two ministers agreed on the necessity of further strengthening Japan-Australia defense cooperation through joint exercises and other initiatives. Furthermore, at the Defense Ministerial Talks held in Tokyo in June 2015, the two ministers confirmed the progress of defense policies and defense cooperation between Japan and Australia, and exchanged opinions regarding the future defense cooperation between the two countries. The ministers agreed that the two countries would continue to hold close consultations regarding their bilateral cooperation concerning the submarine program, strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the South China Sea, share grave concerns over China's attempts to reclaim land, and resolve the situation in accordance with international law.

As for service-to-service exchanges, exchanges took place between the Chief of Joint Staff and the Commander of the Australian Defence Force in August 2014, the GSDF Chief of Staff and the Australian Chief of Army in September 2014, the MSDF Chief of Staff and the Australian Chief of Navy in November of the same year, and the ASDF Chief of Staff and the Australian Chief of Air Force in February 2015, thereby promoting the enhancement of mutual understanding, trust, and friendly relations between the two countries.

As for the operational side, in 2012, the defense authorities of Japan and Australia agreed to enhance cooperation between SDF personnel and ADF personnel in peacekeeping activities. Following this, two ADF personnel have been working at a Coordination Unit (the former Coordination Center) of the SDF since August of the same year, providing liaison assistance for the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). 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 U.N. peacekeeping operations.

As for the field of training and exercises, MSDF naval vessels and aircraft participated in the Kakadu 14 multinational naval exercise organized by the Royal Australian Navy in August 2014. In addition, in October 2014, the MSDF destroyer Kirisame participated in the Albany Convoy Commemorative Event to celebrate its centenary¹¹.

Moreover, further reviews will be conducted on multi-faceted equipment and technology cooperation such as

discussions on the possibility of Japanese cooperation for the Australian Future Submarine Program.

See Part III, Chapter 2, Section 4-2 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

See Reference 60 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Australia (Past Three Years))

(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 trilateral cooperation with the United States, whose presence is indispensable for regional peace and stability.

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

In May 2015, the Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Talks were held at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue. The three Ministers exchanged opinions regarding the regional security situations, joint exercises, and defense cooperation through capacity building assistance etc., and expressed their strong opposition against any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. The Ministers also expressed serious concern over China's attempts to reclaim land in the South China Sea.

In terms of training and exercises, the MSDF, the U.S. Navy, and the Royal Australian Navy held joint exercises in the sea and airspace around Guam in August 2014 and around Hawaii in September 2014. In February 2015,



The Air Force Chiefs of Staff of Japan, the United States and Australia at the symposium for Air Force Chiefs of Staff hosted by the Australian Air Force (Left: Australian Chief of Air Force Brown; Middle: U.S. Pacific Air Force Commander Robinson; Right: ASDF Chief of Staff Saito)

¹¹ The event commemorates the centenary of the departure of the first convoy of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) to the First World War, which was escorted by the Imperial Japanese Navy's cruiser Ibuki.

the ASDF, the U.S. Air Force, and the Royal Australian Air Force conducted joint exercises called “Cope North Guam 15”; and in May 2015, the GSDF, the U.S. Army, and the Australian Army held the joint exercise “Southern Jackaroo.” Furthermore, in November 2014, ADF personnel, in addition to the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines, participated in the GSDF’s earthquake response exercise called “Michinoku ALERT2014,” and the first Japan-U.S.-Australia joint exercises in Japan was conducted.

2 Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchange with the Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is the most important neighboring country of Japan, and is extremely vital to Japan in geopolitical terms. In addition, 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, antipiracy measures, maritime security and so on. In order for the two countries to deal effectively



GSDF personnel coordinating with the Australian Army in small unit training during Exercise Southern Jackaroo



MSDF personnel marching in the city at the Albany Convoy Commemorative Event

VOICE

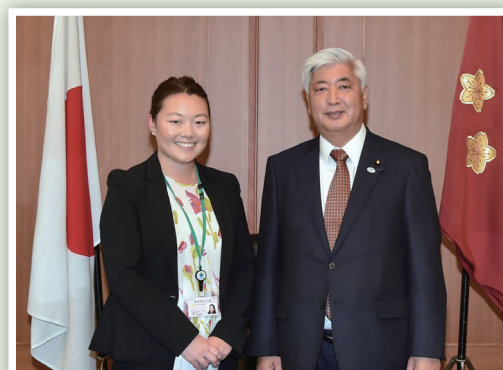
Aspirations of Ministry of Defense Personnel

Tara Boyd, International Policy Division, Bureau of Defense Policy

My name is Tara Boyd from the Australian Department of Defence. In February 2015, I entered the Japanese Ministry of Defense's International Policy Division as a Civilian Policy exchange officer and will work for 18 months in the capacity building office.

I aim to contribute to expanding Australia-Japan people-to-people links and exchanges, through building enduring and productive working relationships within the Japanese Ministry of Defense and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. I hope to gain a broader understanding of the Japanese Ministry of Defense and Japanese policy processes, and assist in progressing mutually agreed defence cooperation. Working in the Capacity Building Office, I hope to improve exchanges of information between Australia and Japan's defence cooperation programs in South East Asia and the Pacific and look for opportunities where we can coordinate our efforts.

My experience in the MOD has been very enjoyable. I have been fortunate enough to meet a number of seniors throughout the Department, including Defence Minister Nakatani. All of the staff in the International Policy Bureau have welcomed me and are happy to answer all of my questions. The all Japanese-speaking environment is challenging for me at times, but every day I strive to do my best. I look forward to working on Japan's capacity building projects in the region.



Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani and the author

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 an information security agreement.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchange

The Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs visited the ROK in October 2014 to attend the international conference “Seoul Defense Dialogue” organized by the Ministry of National Defense of the ROK, and held a Japan-ROK defense vice-ministerial meeting with Vice-Defense Minister Baek Seung-joo. During the meeting, the two officials discussed Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchanges, and the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs introduced Japan’s initiatives for national security such as the development of security legislation and a review of the Japan-U.S. guidelines. In April 2015, the Japan-ROK Security Dialogue at the foreign and defense working-level was held in Seoul for the first time in nearly five years where the security policies and defense policies of the two countries were discussed. Furthermore, in May 2015, Defense Minister Nakatani held the first Japan-ROK Ministerial Dialogue in four years with Defense Minister Han Min-koo at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue. The two ministers shared a common recognition regarding the security environment surrounding the two countries and exchanged opinions concerning the defense policies of Japan and the ROK. They also consulted each other regarding specific defense cooperation and exchange such as the participation of ROK naval vessels in the SDF naval review and the implementation of the Japan-ROK joint search and rescue bilateral exercise within this year, to which the ROK side responded positively.

Regarding training and exercises, 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 61 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with the ROK (Past Three Years))

(3) Cooperative Relationship between Japan, the U.S., and the ROK

As both Japan and the ROK have alliances with the United States, which are indispensable for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, trilateral cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the ROK is continuously developing.

In July 2014, the Chief of Joint Staff of 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.

Furthermore, in December of the same year, the defense authorities of Japan, the United States, and the ROK signed the “Japan-U.S.-ROK Information Sharing Agreement among the Defense Authorities”¹². This agreement has enabled the defense authorities from the three countries to share security secrets regarding the threat of the North Korea’s nuclear weapon and missiles.

Moreover, in May 2015, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Defense Ministerial Talks were held at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, and a joint statement was issued following discussion on the regional situations including North Korea and cooperation between Japan, the United States and the ROK. During the meeting, the three countries once again emphasized their unchanged stance of not condoning North Korea’s continued possession and development of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. At the same time, the three ministers also decided to hold continuous dialogues regarding trilateral security issues, and agreed to proceed with trilateral cooperation on the basis of the common interests in terms of democracy and security.

With regard to training and exercises, the MSDF conducted Japan-U.S.-ROK search and rescue trilateral exercises in the waters west of Kyushu in July 2014 to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among the three countries. In addition, the GSDF has been promoting initiatives to enhance relationships, starting with personnel at the junior officer level who will become future leaders, for example, through exchanges between junior officers held in December 2014 and April 2015. 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.

¹² Official name: Trilateral Information Sharing Agreement Concerning the Nuclear and Missile Threats Posed by North Korea Among the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Defense of Japan, and the Department of Defense of the United States of America.

3 Japan-India Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

(1) Significance of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India

India, which is becoming increasingly influential against a backdrop of what is projected to become the world's largest population as well as its high economic growth and latent economic power, is located in the center of sea lanes that connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa, making it an extremely important country geopolitically for Japan. Furthermore, Japan and India, which share universal values¹³ as well as have a common interest in the peace, stability, and prosperity of Asia and the world, have established the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership". In this context, Japan and India have also been strengthening their 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 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, and educational and academic exchanges.

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

At the Japan-India Summit 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. At the same time, 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 amphibian rescue aircraft.

In September 2014, Prime Minister Modi visited Japan and a Japan-India Summit Meeting was held. During the Summit Meeting, both prime ministers agreed on the following approaches in order to upgrade the

relationship between the two countries to a special strategic global partnership: (1) Reviewing possible measures for strengthening the Foreign and Defense Vice-ministerial level "2+2"; (2) Welcoming the signing of a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges; (3) Regularizing the joint maritime exercises between Japan and India; (4) Continuous participation of Japan in the Indo-U.S. Naval Exercises (Malabar); (5) Commencing a meeting between working-level officials of the two countries with the purpose of promoting defense equipment and technology cooperation; and (6) Giving instructions to accelerate the discussion at the JWG regarding the US-2 amphibian rescue aircraft. Furthermore, in September, implementation of the following initiatives was agreed upon in the memorandum of defense cooperation and exchanges signed during the visit by Prime Minister Modi: high level exchanges including regular ministerial meetings with the ministers from the two countries, such as bilateral maritime training consultation between the chiefs of staff of the MSDF and the Indian Navy; cooperation in non-traditional security areas; educational and scholarly exchanges; defense equipment and technology cooperation, etc. Furthermore, during the Japan-India Ministerial Meeting held in March 2015, both ministers confirmed that the two countries would make efforts to realize early progress regarding defense equipment cooperation, such as holding discussions towards cooperation concerning the US-2 amphibian rescue aircraft, and the regular continuation of not only bilateral maritime training but also cooperation involving the ground and air forces.

With regard to exercises and training, the MSDF participated in the third Japan-U.S.-India trilateral naval drill conducted in waters south of Shikoku and east of Okinawa in July 2014, which included anti-submarine and on-site inspection exercises, as well as strengthening the cooperative relationship with the U.S. Navy and the Indian Navy.

See Part III, Chapter 2, Section 4-2 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

See Reference G2 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with India (Past Three Years))



Navy vessels of the MSDF, the U.S. Navy, and the Indian Navy conducting the Japan-U.S.-India trilateral exercises

¹³ See Footnote 8

4 Japan-China Defense Exchanges and Cooperation

(1) Significance of Defense Exchange and Cooperation with China

Stable relations between Japan and China are an essential factor for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. From a broad and a medium- to long-term perspective, Japan it is necessary for both countries to strive to construct and enhance a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests with China” in all areas, including security. In particular, Japan will continue to encourage China to play a responsible and constructive role for the sake of regional peace, stability and prosperity, to adhere to international norms of behavior, as well as to improve openness and transparency with regard to its advancing military capabilities in the context of its rapidly increasing military budget.

As part of such efforts, through continuing and promoting defense exchange, Japan will urge China to demonstrate greater transparency in its military and security policies, and promote measures such as establishing a framework to avert or prevent unexpected situations.

(2) Recent Major Achievements in Defense Exchange

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 will be the basis of 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, as 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 JWG meeting held in Beijing in June 2012, it was agreed that the maritime communication mechanism would be constructed, consisting of (1) annual meetings and expert 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.

Since September 2012, however, defense exchange, including this process, was stagnated and during this time a number of incidents occurred. For example, a Chinese naval vessel directed its fire-control radar at a JMSDF destroyer in January 2013; China announced the establishment of the “East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone” based on its own unilateral assertion in November 2013; and Chinese fighter jets flew excessively close to JSDF aircraft in May

and June 2014.

Taking into account the situation, in which the maritime communication mechanism is becoming increasingly necessary to avoid and prevent unforeseen consequences, Japan has been encouraging the Chinese side to hold discussions aimed at realizing the commencement of its early operation. In response to this, China and Japan, at the second meeting of the High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs held in September 2014, agreed in principle to resume discussions towards the early commencement of the operation of the maritime communication mechanism between the defense authorities. Furthermore, at the Japan-China Summit Meeting held in November 2014, the two leaders agreed to continue communication at the working-level to realize the early commencement of the operation of the maritime communication mechanism between the defense authorities. In January 2015, the fourth Working-Level Talks between Japanese and Chinese defense authorities were held and both parties agreed to further coordinate to make its title “Maritime and Air Communication Mechanism.” They also discussed matters relevant to this mechanism and technical issues, and reached a certain level of shared understanding. In addition, following necessary arrangements based on this meeting, both sides agreed to strive to realize the early commencement of the operation of said mechanism. Moreover, a Japan-China Security Dialogue at the foreign and defense working-level was held in Tokyo in March 2015, for the first time in approximately four years. In this dialogue, opinions were exchanged regarding security and defense policies as well as defense exchanges between the two countries, while the two countries once again confirmed that they would make efforts to achieve the early commencement of the operation of the “Maritime and Air Communication Mechanism”

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 WPNS.

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 counter-piracy measures.

See Reference 63 (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 an important 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 Councillor 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.

Regarding Japan's relationship with Russia, the Government of Japan is taking an appropriate response whilst emphasizing the solidarity of the G7 (Group of Seven)¹⁴, taking the Ukrainian situation and other factors into account. In light of this, the MOD has also taken this into account in its exchanges with Russia. Simultaneously, it is important to maintain constant contact at the working level in order not to cause any unforeseen circumstances and unnecessary conflicts with Russia, a neighboring country. The MOD will consider these points in a comprehensive manner and advance exchanges with Russia accordingly.

(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 a meeting between foreign and defense authorities at the ministerial level (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 addition, Japan-Russia bilateral talks were held at the Vice-Ministerial level at the timing of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, which took place in May 2015, and defense exchange between two countries was discussed.

In October 2014, the MSDF carried out the 15th bilateral Japan-Russia search and rescue exercises. Also, in December of the same year, the ASDF Commander of the Northern Air Defense Force visited Khabarovsk as part of commander exchange activities.

See Reference 64 (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 for Japanese sea lanes, and have been traditional partners for Japan for over 40 years, having close economic relations with Japan. Promoting trust and cooperative relations for issues in various security challenges 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 important to build relationships of trust and cooperation with each country, with a view to cooperation in multilateral frameworks.

As 2013 marked the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Prime Minister Abe announced the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy¹⁵ and visited all of the ten ASEAN countries. In addition, Japan and ASEAN have been discussing defense equipment and technology cooperation in non-traditional security areas as a new field for cooperation.

See Part III, Chapter 2, Section 4-2 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

(1) Indonesia

At the Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting in March 2015, President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia and Prime Minister Abe agreed to strengthen the Strategic Partnership underpinned by sea and democracy. Both leaders welcomed the signing of the memorandum on Cooperation and Exchanges in the fields of defense field, including capacity building, PKO activities, disaster relief, defense equipment and technology, and high-level exchanges. The two leaders also re-affirmed their intention to hold the "Japan-Indonesia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation." Similarly, at the working-level, the sharing of knowledge and experiences has been accumulated through consultations between foreign and defense authorities, consultations between defense authorities, various educational and academic exchanges and initiatives.

In November 2014, personnel from the Joint Staff etc.,

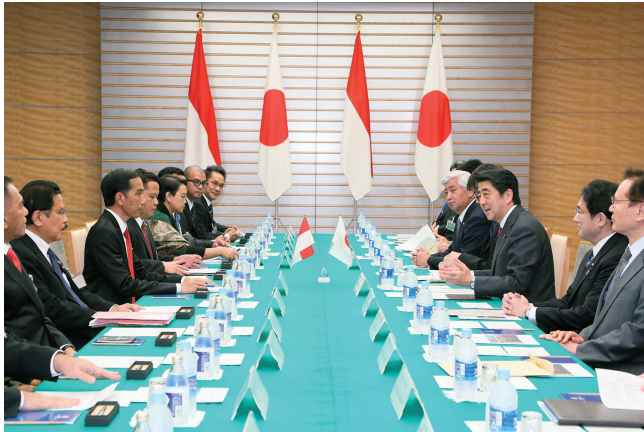
¹⁴ In addition to Japan, the G7 consists of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada.

¹⁵ (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 global public commons, are governed by the rule of law, and not by force, and 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 the 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.

participated in the “Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar,” co-hosted by Indonesia and the U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), with Japan serving as a chair country for one session. These initiatives also contribute to ensuring effective multinational coordination functions in cases such as disaster relief for typhoons.

Furthermore, Japan and Indonesia have been working on strengthening cooperation through capacity building assistance.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)



Prime Minister Abe and Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting (Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(2) Vietnam

During the Japan-Vietnam Summit Meeting held in March 2014, President Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam and Prime Minister Abe agreed to elevate cooperative relations from “Strategic Partnership” to an “Extensive Strategic Partnership.”

In October 2011, at the Japan-Vietnam Defense Ministerial Meeting, the two ministers signed a memorandum concerning Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation and exchange, 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. During the Japan-Vietnam Ministerial Meeting in September 2013, the two countries agreed to proactively promote Japan-Vietnam defense cooperation and exchanges, including cooperation towards Vietnam’s dispatch for U.N. peacekeeping operations. The Minister of Defense of Japan also visited Cam Ranh Bay, a military port located at a key strategic location in the South China Sea.

As for vice-ministerial consultation, the first consultation was held in November 2012, the second in August 2013, and the third in January 2015. During these consultations, the two vice-ministers exchanged opinions regarding regional situations, as well as discussing cooperation in the field of capacity building assistance. In February 2015, the Vietnamese Naval Commander visited Japan and exchanged opinions with the Chief of Staff of the MSDF regarding Japan-Vietnam naval service-to-service exchanges and agreed to strengthen their exchanges. In May 2015, the Chief of Staff of the ASDF visited Vietnam

and exchanged views on regional affairs as well as future defense cooperation and exchanges with Vietnamese Air Force Commander and others. Furthermore, Japan and Vietnam are also working to strengthen cooperation through capacity building.

It is vital to strengthen relationships in order to achieve more concrete, practical cooperation, based on the memorandum on defense cooperation and exchange as the cornerstone of our cooperation and exchanges.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

(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 14th round of talks being held in Singapore in December 2014.

The two countries have also actively conducted high-level exchanges. In July 2012 the Permanent Secretary of Singapore’s Ministry of Defence visited Japan and held discussions with the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defence, followed by a visit to Japan by the Minister for Defence and the holding of a Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting in October 2012. In December 2013, former Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Takeda visited Singapore and held talks with the Permanent Secretary of Singapore’s Ministry of Defence, and in April 2014, former Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Wakamiya also visited Singapore and held talks with Minister of State for Defence. As for service to service exchanges, in February 2014, the Chief of Staff of the ASDF attended the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and Singapore Airshow for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and building mutual trust.

Furthermore, at the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue held in May 2015, Minister of Defense Nakatani held a meeting with Singaporean Defense Minister Dr. Ng. Minister Nakatani expressed his gratitude to the Singaporean Defense Ministry for its effort to host the Dialogue, and exchanged opinions on regional situations.

(4) The Philippines

To date, as well as high-level exchange with the Philippines, there have been frequent exchanges at the working-level including visits by naval vessels and consultations between the two defense authorities and ship visits. At the defense ministerial meeting held in January 2015, the two defense ministers signed a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges. This memorandum shows intentions of the two countries to conduct cooperation in non-traditional security areas such as maritime security; in addition to high-level exchanges such as defense ministerial meetings

and vice-ministerial consultations; reciprocal visits between the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff, Chiefs of Staff of the SDFs, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Commanders of each services; and working-level exchanges such as regular consultations between the SDF and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as well as participation in trainings and exercises.

In service-to-service exchanges, in September 2014, the Chief of Staff of the GSDF visited the Philippines as the first ever Chief of Staff of the GSDF to do so and gained positive responses towards the enhancement and expansion of defense cooperation and exchanges between both services through the meeting with the Filipino Army Commander. In February 2015, the Chief of Staff of the MSDF visited the Philippines to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen the relationship of trust through the discussion with the Navy Commanders. Furthermore, in March 2015, the Commander of the Philippine Air Force visited Japan and held a meeting with the Chief of Staff of the ASDF, confirming their intention to work on the enhancement of relationships between their services.

With regard to training and exercises, in September and October 2014, four GSDF officers participated in the joint exercise PHIBLEX15 as observers, which was conducted by the United States and the Philippines aiming to enhance their interoperability in amphibious operations as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. In October 2014, the MSDF destroyer Sazanami, which was undergoing Japan-U.S. joint overseas cruise training, participated in the first trilateral goodwill exercises in waters west of Manila.



The Chief of Staff of the MSDF Takeki having a meeting with the Philippine Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Naval Commander

(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 exercise 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, the Minister of Defense 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.

(6) Cambodia

Cambodia is the first country to which Japan dispatched the SDF for U.N. 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 “strategic partnership.” After the summit, the Minister of Defense signed the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of National Defence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, with the attendance of the prime ministers of Japan and Cambodia. In addition, a Vice-Minister-level meeting was held on the sidelines of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2015. During the meeting, the two vice-ministers exchanged views regarding Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, as well as Japan-Cambodia bilateral defense cooperation and exchange.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

(7) Other Southeast Asian Countries

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 participate in multilateral conferences hosted by Japan. 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 procedures for future defense exchanges between the two nations and agreed to further promote exchanges. Furthermore, in 2014, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff and the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister visited Myanmar in May and July, respectively. In addition, in September the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services visited Japan, thereby further advancing high-level exchange between the two countries. Moreover, then Minister of Defense Eto held a meeting with Minister for Defense Wai Lwin of Myanmar, the chair country, whilst attending the Japan-ASEAN Roundtable and confirmed their intention to promote defense exchanges.

Regarding Japan's relations with Laos, defense cooperation and exchanges have been gradually developing since 2011, when the Defense Attaché to Vietnam was also appointed as Defense Attaché to Laos. 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 the early realization of a security dialogue 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 Deputy-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 HA/DR.

Regarding Japan's relations with Malaysia, Japan-Malaysia Defense Ministerial Meeting was held at the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, and the ministers exchanged views regarding bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. In particular, the two ministers shared the recognition of the importance of Japan-ASEAN cooperation in the field of disaster relief and agreed to continue cooperation in this area between Japan and Malaysia. 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, promoting friendship and goodwill with Malaysian Navy.

Regarding Japan's relations with Brunei Darussalam, during the 2nd ADMM Plus meeting held in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013, the Minister of Defense 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 November 2014, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff held a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence and attended the 17th Asia-Pacific Chief of Defense Conference held in Brunei Darussalam.

See Reference 65 (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 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 through working together on global

issues such as international peace cooperation activities, anti-terrorism and anti-piracy operations, and through exchange of views on regional situations.

With regard to Japan's relationship with the United Kingdom, in April 2012, 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 for 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 Japan-UK Information Security Agreement entered into force in January 2014 leading to the development of a foundation for information-sharing between the two countries.

At the Japan-U.K. Summit in May 2014, the prime ministers agreed to hold the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting, to begin negotiations toward the conclusion of an Acquisition and Cross-Serving Agreement (ACSA), and to promote joint exercises between the SDF and the British Armed Forces in order to enhance their cooperation in security fields. Following this, the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting was held on January 21, 2015. At the meeting, the U.K. side demonstrated its stance of providing maximum cooperation in relation to the incidents involving the taking of Japanese hostages by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as expressed the United Kingdom's high regard for Japan's assistance and activities in non-military areas in the fight against terrorism. The four ministers also confirmed the promotion of defense equipment and technology cooperation between Japan and the United Kingdom, and discussed the enhancement of cooperation in global security issues such as cyber and maritime security areas, as well as exchanging of views for sharing strategic situational awareness. Furthermore, the U.K. side stated that it would welcome Japanese initiatives in the development of security legislation.

With regard to active engagement in high-level exchanges between the two countries, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Wakamiya visited the United Kingdom in July 2014 and State Minister of Defense Sato also visited in January 2015 to participate in the Japan-U.K. strategic dialogue. As for service-to-service exchanges, the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval staff of the British Navy visited Japan in December 2013, as well as the Chief of Staff of the Royal Army in March 2014 to exchange views with the Chief of Staff of the GSDF. In addition, in July 2014, the Chief of Staff of the ASDF participated in the Air Power Conference held in the United Kingdom, advancing the exchanges between the two countries.

As for the operational side, in February 2015, Japan accepted a Royal Navy officer as an MSDF liaison officer,

in an effort to further deepen Japan-U.K. cooperation through information exchanges regarding maritime security cooperation and the regional situation.

In addition, Japan is actively promoting defense equipment and technology cooperation with the U.K., the first country other than the United States with which Japan has promoted such cooperation, by launching joint research on defense equipment.

See Part III, Chapter 2, Section 4-2 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

See Reference 66 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with the United Kingdom (Past Three Years))



Four ministers at the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting (London)

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 visited Japan, and the two countries issued a joint statement regarding cooperation in three fields, namely politics and security, economy, and culture. In addition, at the first Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting held in Paris in January 2014, the two sides shared recognition of the importance of maintaining the freedom of the high seas and the freedom of flight in international airspace. In May 2014, Prime Minister Abe visited France and held talks with President Hollande. The two leaders agreed to launch dialogue on cyber security and strengthen bilateral cooperation in maritime security. In July of the same year, the French Minister of Defense visited Japan to hold the Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting, and the two ministers signed the statement of intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges. Furthermore, during the second



GSDF personnel participating in the commemoration of the First World War Centenary (a military parade to commemorate the Bastille Day)

Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo in March 2015, the four ministers discussed the threat of terrorism that both countries had faced from January to February of that year. It was confirmed that the two countries strengthen information exchange and cooperation in Africa and the Middle East to work on the fight against terrorism in cooperation with the international community, and that they would also strengthen cooperation in the fields of defense equipment and technology cooperation, maritime security, and other fields. Moreover, the four ministers signed the agreement regarding the transfer of defense equipment and technology between the Government of Japan and the Government of France.

In addition, in July 2014, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Wakamiya attended the First World War Centenary held in Paris, and four GSDF personnel participated in the parade for the Bastille Day. Japan and France are also developing defense equipment and technology cooperation by, for example, establishing a committee on defense equipment cooperation, etc.

See Part III, Chapter 2, Section 4-2 (Building New Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

9 Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with Other Countries

(1) European Countries

Europe shares universal 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. In this regard, promoting defense cooperation and exchanges with European countries provides the foundations for Japan to become actively involved in dealing with challenges, and is important for both Japan and Europe.

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 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He had a meeting with NATO Secretary General Rasmussen at the NATO Headquarters and signed the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP). Prime Minister Abe made an address before the North Atlantic Council¹⁶, drawing appreciation and support from European countries for Japan's security policy, which is based on the concept of proactive contribution to peace. He also exchanged views with the permanent representatives of NATO's 28 member countries, developing a common recognition of the security environment between Japan and Europe. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe agreed on continued and expanded cooperation with NATO and the EU relating to counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, as well as cooperation in the field of defense equipment and technology with the United Kingdom and France. Following this, the MSDF has been conducting joint exercises with participating units of NATO's Operation Ocean Shield and the EU's Operation Atlanta since September 2014.

In October 2014, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Finland Carl Haglund visited Japan and the Japan-Finland Defense Ministerial Meeting was held. In November 2014, Minister of Defense of Spain Pedro Morenés visited Japan, and the Memorandum regarding Japan-Spain defense cooperation and exchanges was signed by the two ministers during the Japan-Spain Defense Ministerial Meeting. Regarding Japan's relations with NATO, based on the agreement between Prime Minister Abe and NATO Secretary General Rasmussen reached in May, female GSDF personnel were dispatched to NATO Headquarters for the first time in December 2014 as part of Japan-NATO cooperation in the field of women, peace and security. Furthermore, the Japan-Germany Defense Ministerial Meeting was held during the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue for the first time in six years, and opinions were exchanged mainly on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

Regarding information security agreements with European countries, Japan concluded an agreement with NATO in June 2010, and the negotiation towards concluding an agreement with Italy is under way.

(2) Other Countries

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 two countries exchanged opinions regarding defense cooperation and exchanges.

At the same time, the two countries have been working on the enhancement of cooperation through support for capacity building. In addition, in April 2014, Mongolian Minister of Defense Dashdemberel Bat-Erdene visited Japan, while in June 2014 the Chief of Staff of the GSDF visited Mongolia, conducting opinion exchanges with the Chief of Defense and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defense in Mongolia regarding defense cooperation in areas such as support for capacity building. In this way, high-level exchanges between the two countries have been steadily moving ahead. Furthermore, at the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue held in May 2015, the Japan-Mongolia Defense Ministerial Meeting was held and opinions were exchanged regarding bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, including capacity building assistance and the participation of the SDF in the Kahn Quest multinational joint exercises.

See Fig. III-3-1-6 (Status of Capacity Building Assistance Program)

The Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense conducted talks with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Defence Ümit Dündar in July 2012, where he signed a Statement of Intent to promote defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and Turkey. In March 2013, Minister of National Defence Yılmaz visited Japan and held a defense ministerial meeting. At this meeting, 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.

The Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense visited Kazakhstan for the first time in July 2012, and 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.

With New Zealand, a memorandum of Japan-New Zealand defense cooperation and exchange was signed in August 2013. During the Summit Meeting in July 2014, the two countries agreed to conduct studies on an ACSA.

With regard to Japan's relationship with Canada, high-level exchanges, talks between defense authorities, and other exchanges have been conducted. In August 2011, the first Japan-Canada Vice-Ministerial "2+2" was held and both sides agreed to commence the negotiation to conclude an ACSA.

In March 2015, the first Defense Ministerial Meeting with Minister of Defense Mr. Pinzón of the Republic of Colombia was held during his visit to Japan. The two

¹⁶ The NAC is the decision-making body comprised of the representatives of NATO's 28 member countries. (Chairperson: NATO Secretary General)

ministers agreed to move forward with coordinations aimed at signing a memorandum on defense cooperation exchange, and also to continue opinion exchanges concerning areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and cyber issues.

Regarding Japan's relationship with Middle Eastern countries, Japan-Saudi Arabia Summit Meetings were held in April 2013 and February 2014. During the meetings, the two leaders reconfirmed their intention to promote dialogue and exchange in the security field, and continue engaging in consultation and cooperation at various levels including the commencement of a dialogue between the National Security Councils (NSC) of the two countries in order to enhance the comprehensive partnership between the two countries.

Prime Minister Abe visited the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar in succession in May and August 2013, and shared a recognition of the necessity of promoting cooperation in the security and defense

field. In February 2015, a Japan-Qatar defense exchange memorandum was signed. With Oman, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with His Majesty Qaboos bin Said, the Sultan of Oman, in January 2014, and both leaders 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 2015, the Chief of Staff of the MSDF visited Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

With the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, a ministerial meeting with the Minister of Defence Mr. Cristovão was held when he visited Japan in March 2015, during which both ministers agreed to continue exchanges between their defense authorities through educational exchanges and support for capacity building.

See Reference 67 (Recent Defense Cooperation and Exchanges with European Nations and Others (Past Three Years))

Section 2 Initiatives concerning Issues in the International Community

1 Ensuring Maritime Security

For Japan, a major maritime state, strengthening order on the seas based on such fundamental principles as the rule of law and the freedom of navigation, as well as ensuring safe maritime transport, is the foundation for its peace and prosperity. In cooperation with the relevant countries, Japan will support anti-piracy operations, as well as promoting various initiatives including assistance for capacity building in this field for coastal states, and making the most of various opportunities to enhance joint training and exercises in waters other than those in the immediate vicinity of Japan.

See Part III, Chapter 1, Section 1-4 (Initiatives towards Ensuring Maritime Security)

1 Counter-Piracy Operations

Piracy is a grave threat to public safety and order on the seas. In particular, for Japan, which depends on maritime transportation to import most of the resources and food necessary for its survival and prosperity as a maritime nation, it is an important issue that cannot be ignored.

(1) Basic Approach

The Japan Coast Guard (JCG), one of the law enforcement agencies in Japan, is primarily responsible for coping with piracy. However, in cases where it is deemed extremely difficult or impossible for the JCG to cope with piracy by

itself, the SDF is to take action as well.

(2) Circumstances Surrounding Incidents of Piracy and Initiatives by the International Community

Incidents involving pirates armed with machine guns and rocket launchers who seek to take hostages for ransom have continued to occur in waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

See Fig. III-3-2-1 (Piracy Incidents Off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden (Comparison with the number of incidents in Southeast Asia))

Successive United Nations Security Council resolutions¹, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1816, which was adopted in June 2008, have requested that various countries take actions, particularly the dispatch of warships and military aircraft, to deter piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

To date, approximately 30 countries, including the United States, have dispatched their warships to the waters off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. As part of counter-piracy initiatives, the European Union (EU) has also commenced Operation Atalanta since December 2009, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been conducting Operation Ocean Shield since August 2009, in addition to the counter-piracy operations conducted by the Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151)² that was established in January 2009. Each country continues to respond against piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of

¹ Other United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for cooperation in deterring piracy are: Resolutions 1838, 1846, and 1851 (adopted in 2008), Resolution 1897 (adopted in 2009), Resolutions 1918 and 1950 (adopted in 2010), Resolutions 1976 and 2020 (adopted in 2011), Resolution 2077 (adopted in 2012), Resolution 2125 (adopted in 2013), and Resolution 2184 (adopted in 2014)

² The Combined Maritime Force (CMF), the headquarters of which is located in Bahrain, announced the establishment of the CTF in January 2009 as a multilateral combined task force for counter-piracy operations.