

## **Section 2. Promotion of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges**

The new National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) says making active and positive efforts to help improve an international security environment should be regarded as a major role to be played by defense forces. Based on the idea, the Defense Agency and the SDF have been promoting security dialogue and defense exchanges, including bilateral and multilateral training, in addition to stepping up international peace cooperation activities.

This section will describe efforts being made by the Defense Agency and the SDF to promote security dialogue and defense exchanges.

### **1. Significance of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges**

As a way to improve the security environments in the world after the end of the Cold War, it has become important for countries to curb meaningless arms races and prevent accidental military clashes and their escalation by increasing the transparency of their military capabilities and defense policies, and promoting dialogue and exchanges between defense officials from different countries, and bilateral defense exercises, for mutual confidence-building. This idea is now widely shared in the international society.

Imperative issues to be tackled by the international community at a time when interdependence between countries has deepened and become more global are the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the spread of ballistic missiles, new threats including activities of international terrorist organizations, and diverse contingencies deemed as being capable of affecting peace and security of the global society. Against this background, it is widely recognized that the international community should join hands in addressing these issues.

In areas surrounding Japan, the presence of U.S. forces based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and bilateral cooperation have played an important role in stabilizing the region. However, large-scale military capabilities, including nuclear arms, continue to exist while many countries are stepping up their efforts to modernize their military capabilities. In addition, unclear and uncertain factors exist in the areas, including issues related to the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Straits.

Under these security circumstances, the Government of Japan, in order to solidify peace and stability of the international community and the region, recognizes that it is necessary for countries in the world to build relations of mutual confidence and promote defense cooperation both on bilateral and multilateral bases. The Defense Agency and the SDF thus place an importance on bilateral exchanges as well as, multilateral security dialogue such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and joint multilateral defense exercises. The Defense Agency and the SDF will redouble their efforts to improve the security environment by deepening and widening these defense relations while watching developments in relevant countries.

### **2. Bilateral Defense Relations**

Bilateral defense exchanges, involving officials of two countries in charge of defense affairs, are intended to deepen mutual understanding, build relations of mutual confidence between their countries and establish the foundation for promoting cooperation between the countries. The characteristics of bilateral defense relations lies in the fact that they can be tailored to meet special needs in bilateral relations and that bilateral confidence established through such exchanges can become a basis on which to effectively promote multilateral security dialogue and others. (See Fig. 5-2-1.)

## Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

Classification	Pattern	Significance	Outline
Bilateral	High-level exchanges of defense officials	To spur subsequent exchanges while strengthening mutual relationship of collaboration and cooperation through straightforward exchange of views on regional information and national defense policies which are the major concerns of both the parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue and mutual visits between the Director General of Defense Agency and defense ministers from various countries</li> <li>• Dialogue and mutual visits between the Senior Vice Minister, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense, the Administrative Vice Minister, the Chief of the Joint Staff Organization, and the Chiefs of Staff of the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF and their counterparts in other countries</li> </ul>
	Regular consultations between defense authorities	To directly exchange views between both the planners of national defense policy on a continuous basis and make it the foundation for high-level dialogues and exchanges while contributing to the promotion of enhancement and strengthening of mutual relationship of collaboration and cooperation with the relevant country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations between officials at the level of Director-General and Deputy Director-General</li> <li>• Dialogue between the Joint Staff Office, the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF and their counterparts in other countries</li> </ul>
	Exchanges between units	To promote the enhancement and strengthening of mutual relationship of collaboration and cooperation through joint drills and exchange events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of officials</li> <li>• Implementation of visits to aircraft and ships including exercise fleet as well as joint drills concerning search and rescue</li> </ul>
	Exchanges of students	To establish a human network while contributing to the promotion of trusting relationship as well as understanding of the national defense policy and the status of the teams of the other country through human exchanges in a comparatively long stay in addition to the fundamental educational purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception of foreign students</li> <li>• Dispatch of students to overseas military-related organizations</li> </ul>
	Exchanges of research	To freely exchange views from the standpoint of researchers and contribute to the maintenance and deepening of defense exchange while deepening mutual understanding.	Research exchanges between the National Institute for Defense Studies and defense-related research bodies of other countries
Multilateral	Security dialogue	Deepening mutual understanding on perceptions of various situations and security perspectives between related countries and conferring efficiently and effectively on multilateral issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogues in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)</li> <li>• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the Defense Agency</li> <li>• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the Government</li> <li>• Multilateral dialogues sponsored by the private sector</li> </ul>
	Joint exercise	To promote the improvement of skills and the enhancement and strengthening of mutual relationship of collaboration and cooperation through joint drills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of officials</li> <li>• Implementation of joint drills concerning minesweeping and submarine rescue</li> </ul>

Fig. 5-2-1

### (1) Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Exchanges

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is an important country for Japan's security given its geopolitical location. It is also a friendly country for Japan as both countries respect fundamental values such as freedom and democracy. The ROK has formed an alliance with the United States and let it station its forces in the country from the viewpoint of maintaining security, as Japan has done. Therefore, it is extremely important for Japan and the ROK to establish a basis for cooperation and to coordinate and cooperate further effectively in policy-making for the peace and stability of the entire East Asian region.

In their summit meeting in 1998, then Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and then ROK President Kim Dae Jung pledged to work towards building a new partnership between the two countries, and announced a Joint Statement, entitled “A New Japan-ROK Partnership Towards the 21st Century.” The two leaders welcomed bilateral security dialogue and defense exchanges, and agreed to further promote them.

#### 1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

Almost every year since 1994 (except for 2001 and 2004), the defense ministers of Japan and the ROK have met alternately in each other's country.

Then Minister of State for Defense Yoshinori Ohno visited the ROK in January last year and met with ROK Defense Minister Yoon Kwang Ung. The two ministers also held another bilateral talks on the occasion of the IISS Asia Security Conference<sup>28</sup> in June last year. During their meetings, they exchanged views over the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, the North Korean situation and defense exchanges.

In January last year, Moon Jung Il, Chief of Staff of the ROK Navy, visited Japan and held frank talks

with MSDF Chief of Staff Takashi Saito. In February last year, Kim Jong Hwan, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of the ROK, visited Japan and held talks with Japan's Joint Staff Council Chairman (now JSO Chief of Staff) Hajime Massaki. In July last year, GSDF Chief of Staff Tsutomu Mori visited the ROK and held frank talks with Kim Jang Soo, Chief of Staff of the ROK Army.

## 2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In addition to holding military-to-military consultations (bilateral consultations at the Director-General level and the Councilor level) every year since 1994, Japan and the ROK have held bilateral security dialogue with participants that include diplomatic authorities of the two countries since 1998. In August last year, Japan and the ROK held the 13th military-to-military consultations in Seoul, and defense officials from the two countries exchanged views over the regional situation, defense policies of the two countries and Japan-ROK defense exchanges.

Dialogue has also been held between Japan's Joint Staff Council and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff and between Japan's GSDF, MSDF and the ASDF, and the ROK Army, Navy and the Air Force respectively. In addition, Japan and the ROK have been promoting relations between students and researchers.

## 3) Exchanges between Units

Japan's GSDF and the ROK's Army have promoted defense exchanges since 2001, including mutual visits by unit commanders between the GSDF's Western Army and the ROK's Second Army. In June last year, the Commanding General of the GSDF's Western Army visited the ROK and exchanged views with the Commander of the ROK Second Army.

Exchanges between the MSDF and the ROK Navy, including mutual visits by naval vessels, are carried out since 1994. In 1999, 2002 and 2003, the MSDF and the ROK Navy conducted their joint search and rescue exercises. In 2005, the MSDF and the ROK Navy held the fourth joint search and rescue exercise.

Exchanges between the ASDF and the ROK Air Force, have continued mutual visits by aircraft, have continued since 2000. In November 2000, the ROK Air Force's transport planes visited Japan for the first time while the ASDF's transport planes flew to the ROK in October 2002 for the first time. In October 2004, the ASDF's transport planes also visited the ROK. The ASDF's visits to the ROK were designed to transport members of the GSDF Central Band who were to participate in an international military band festival in the ROK, and their musical instruments and other equipment. This year, the military band of the ASDF plans to participate in an international military band festival in ROK's Wonju International Tatoo.



An ROK vessel making a port call at the Sasebo Base for the Japan-ROK SAREX (below) and MSDF unit members line up to greet the ROK vessels (above)

## (2) Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges

Russia, also being a neighboring country of Japan, has a great influence on the security of Europe, Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, making it extremely important for Japan to promote defense relations with this country and build a basis for cooperation.

With Japan-Russia relations continuing to develop in wider areas following the 1997 summit between their leaders in Krasnoyarsk, the Japan Defense Agency has been steadily promoting defense relations with Russia.

In 1999, Japan and Russia signed a memorandum to confirm the direction of their defense exchanges. In January 2003, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made an official visit to Russia and signed the Japan-Russia Action Plan<sup>29</sup> with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In this Action Plan, the leaders of Japan and Russia confirmed that the two countries would steadily promote their defense relations by continuing programs such as high-level dialogue, consultations between defense officials of both countries, bilateral exercises and goodwill exercises. Moreover, when Russian President Putin visited Japan in November last year and held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi, the two leaders confirmed that relations between Japan and Russia have advanced steadily in wider fields in line with the Japan-Russia Action Plan.

### 1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In 1996, then Minister of State for Defense Hideo Usui visited Russia, becoming the first Japanese defense chief to visit the country since the Soviet era.

When Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukuhiro Nukaga visited Russia in January this year, Japan and Russia renewed the 1999 memorandum on defense exchanges between the two countries. Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov told his counterpart Nukaga that the Japan-Russia Action Plan has helped pave the foundation for the two countries to deepen cooperation between their high-level defense officials. Minister Ivanov also said defense exchanges have deepened most between MSDF and Russia's Navy but added he wanted to promote exchanges between GSDF and the ASDF, and Russia's Army and the Air Force. Minister Nukaga and Minister Ivanov also agreed that GSDF and Russia's ground troops will mutually visit each other's country to attend defense exercises as observers. They also agreed that representatives and aircraft of the ASDF and Russia's Air Force will be sent to each other's country. During his trip to Russia, Minister Nukaga visited Military academy of General Staff of Armed Forces RF(Russian Federation) and delivered a speech on Japan's defense strategy and Japan- Russia relations.

In May this year, GSDF Chief of Staff Mori visited Russia and held frank talks with Aleksei Maslov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces.



Minister of State for Defense Nukaga (right) shaking hands with Russian Defense Minister Ivanov (left)



GSDF Chief of Staff Mori (left) and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces Maslov (right)

### 2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

The Defense Agency has continued to hold consultations with Russia, such as Japan-Russia Bilateral Working Group meetings, to discuss how to promote their defense relations in addition to holding regular consultations between Director-General level and Councilor-level defense officials of the two countries. It has also continued to hold an annual conference to review the implementation of the Japan-Russia

Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents on and over the High Seas.

Besides, the GSDF and ASDF have actively held dialogue with their respective Russian counterparts, the Russian Ground and Air Forces, including Staff Talks between Japan's Joint Staff Office and the General Staff Office of the Russian Armed Forces.

In addition, the National Institute for Defense Studies, an affiliate of the Defense Agency, has continued to conduct joint studies with research institutes<sup>30</sup> affiliated with the Russian Defense Ministry.

### **3) Exchanges between Units**

The GSDF and the Russian Ground Forces have promoted their mutual exchanges since 2003, including a mutual visit to each other's country between the Russian Commander of the Far Eastern Military District and the Commanding General of the GSDF's Northern Army. In June last year, the Russian Commander of the Far Eastern Military District visited Japan and exchanged views with the Commanding General of the GSDF's Northern Army.

The MSDF and the Russian Navy have conducted mutual visits by vessels every year since the MSDF's first port visit on Vladivostok in 1996. Both parties have conducted bilateral exercises for search and rescue operations since 1998. In June last year, the MSDF and the Russian Navy conducted their seventh joint exercise for search and rescue operations when MSDF vessels visited Russia. In the same month, the Commander of the Self-Defense Fleet visited Russia for the first time and exchanged views with the Commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok.

### **(3) Japan-China Defense Exchanges**

China has great influence on the Asia-Pacific region and its outstanding economic development and the modernization of its military capabilities in recent years have drawn much attention from other countries in the world. Japan's deepening mutual understanding with China on the defense front and building a basis for establishing cooperative relationship will be meaningful not only for increasing the security of the two countries but also for ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his visit to China in 1998, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fumio Kyuma and his Chinese counterpart reached an agreement on the ways to promote defense relations between Japan and China, including continued dialogue between their chiefs of defense.

In their summit meeting in 1998, then Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and then Chinese President Jiang Zemin released the Japan-China Joint Declaration on Building a Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation for Peace and Development. The two leaders confirmed that defense relations between Japan and China had played an important role in increasing mutual understanding, and agreed to promote defense and security exchanges in a gradual manner.

The Defense Agency, through meeting with Chinese defense authorities, strove to deepen their understanding of Japan's defense policy while asking Beijing to increase the transparency of its defense capability and defense policy.

### **1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials**

In September 2003, then Minister of State for Defense Shigeru Ishiba visited China and met with Chinese Minister of National Defense Cao Gangchuan. At their meeting, Minister Ishiba and Minister Cao agreed that Japan and China would promote defense exchanges, including those between high-level defense officials. At present, the Defense Agency has requested the Chinese National Defense Minister visit Japan, which, if realized, would mark the first time for a Chinese National Defense Minister to come to Japan since 1998.

On vice ministerial talks, Xiong Guangkai, then Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Lib-

eration Army, visited Japan in October 2004. In March last year, Japanese Administrative Vice Minister for Defense Takemasa Moriya visited China. The two officials agreed on the importance of Japan and China advancing further exchanges between defense authorities of their countries from a viewpoint of deepening their mutual understanding and confidence-building.

## **2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials**

Japan and China have held security dialogue between their diplomatic and defense officials nine times so far. The two countries also have promoted research and educational exchanges, which mainly involve researchers from Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies. They also have exchanged visits of defense officials for mutual goodwill and friendship. Specifically, the National Institute for Defense Studies has accepted the enrollment of Chinese defense officials in its regular course.

## **3) Exchange between Units**

In October 2000, then Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and visiting then Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji agreed to realize mutual port visits at an early date. Based on the agreement, a Chinese naval ship planned to visit Japan in May 2002, but the plan was postponed at the request of the Chinese side. Now, the two countries are coordinating in order to realize an early implementation of the plan.

Although Chinese military band was planning to participate in a music festival sponsored by Japan's SDF in November last year, the Chinese side announced that its military band would not take part in the festival in October last year.

## **(4) Defense Exchanges with Australia**

Australia, sharing with Japan fundamental values such as respect for freedom, human rights, and democracy, is an important partner for Japan in the Asia-Pacific region. On the security issue, both countries, being allies of the United States, share the same strategic interest, and there are many issues of mutual concern in the area of defense. In this context, it is important for Japan to promote defense relations with Australia, establish a basis for cooperative relationship, and step up policy cooperation and coordination, in order to secure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In May 2002, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Australia and met with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. The leaders of the two countries agreed that Japan and Australia would strive to build a relationship of “creative partnership” while promoting cooperation in a wide range of fields including security. In April last year, Australian Prime Minister Howard visited Japan and confirmed with Prime Minister Koizumi that relations between Japan and Australia on the political and security fronts have developed into globally and strategically important relations. Prime Minister Koizumi and Prime Minister Howard confirmed that linkage and cooperation between the two countries have advanced in various fields, including cooperation between Japan's SDF and Australian forces operating in Iraq.

## **1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials**

Then Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill visited Japan in September 2003 and met with then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Shigeru Ishiba to discuss the regional situation, defense policies and defense relations. During the meeting, they signed a memorandum on defense exchanges between the two countries. Based on this memorandum, Japan and Australia have continuously promoted exchanges between high-level defense officials, including the defense chiefs of their countries.

In May last year, then Minister of State for Defense Yoshinori Ohno visited Australia and met with then Australian Defense Minister Hill. During their meeting, Minister Ohno and Minister Hill agreed on the need

for Japan, Australia and the U.K. to keep close cooperation in their troops' operations in the Iraqi Province of Muthanna and also agreed that Japan and Australia would promote exchanges of their defense officials. The defense ministers of the two countries also exchanged views over what their countries can do in order to promote cooperation in the fields of maritime security and disaster-relief operations as well as Japan-U.S. and U.S.-Australian relations. At the IISS Asia Security Conference in June last year, bilateral talks were also held between Minister Ohno and Minister Hill, and the two ministers exchanged views over the Iraqi situation, maritime security and disaster-relief operations.

In May last year, Chris Ritchie, the Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, visited Japan and held frank discussion with the MSDF Chief of Staff Takeshi Saito. In November last year, ASDF Chief of Staff Tadashi Yoshida visited Australia and held frank talks with Geoff Shepherd, Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force.

## 2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and Australia have held military-to-military talks at the Director-General level and Councilor level as well as security dialogue which include diplomatic officials every year since 1996. The Joint Staff Office, the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective counterparts in the Australian military on a regular basis. Both countries have accepted each other's defense officials in their defense-related educational institutions and promoted research exchanges.

## 3) Exchanges between Units

Japan and Australia have promoted defense exchanges, including mutual goodwill visits by vessels and aircraft between the MSDF and the Royal Australian Navy. Most recently, the MSDF's P-3C patrol airplanes made a goodwill visit to Australia for the first time and conducted an exercise in May and June this year.

In addition, Japan and Australia have promoted their defense exchanges in the field of international peace cooperation. The GSDF units dispatched to East Timor, for example, had exchanges with units of the Australian Royal Army sent there in the Maliana district in East Timor. In Muthanna Province in Iraq, GSDF units also had exchanges with Australian Royal Army units dispatched there.



An MSDF P-3C unit makes a goodwill visit to the first time to Australia from May to June this year

## (5) Defense Exchanges with U.K.

Being a major power having influence on the world as well as the European area, the U.K. has maintained close relations with Japan. On the security front, Japan has shared the same strategic interest with the U.K. because both countries are important allies of the United States. Given this relations, it is important for both Japan and the U.K. to promote defense exchanges and keep cooperation and coordination in policy-making.



Stirrup, Chief of Air Staff of the U.K. Royal Air Force (left) and ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida (right)

In January 2004, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Shigeru Ishiba and then U.K. Secretary of State for Defense Geoff Hoon signed a memorandum on bilateral defense exchanges, which confirmed the two countries' resolve to promote defense exchanges at all levels and in various fields.

### 1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In January this year, Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited the U.K. and met with then U.K. Secretary of State for Defense John Reid. During their meeting, Minister Nukaga and Secretary Reid confirmed that high-level and working-level defense exchanges have advanced between Japan and the U.K. They also discussed the progress of Iraqi Security Forces' training and the process of transferring security authorities to Iraq. In the meeting, UK side expressed gratitude to Japanese side for Japan's SDF operations in the Indian Ocean.

In September last year, Mike Jackson, Chief of the General Staff of the U.K. Army, visited Japan and held frank talks with Tsutomu Mori, GSDF Chief of Staff. In October last year, Jock Stirrup, Chief of Air Staff of the U.K. Royal Air Force visited Japan and exchanged views with Tadashi Yoshida, ASDF Chief of Staff.

### 2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and the U.K. frequently hold exchanges of their defense officials. Among such exchanges are Director-General level and councilor-level defense talks and security talks that also include diplomatic officials, including exchanges of views over defense policies of the two countries and Iraqi issues. Japan's Joint Staff Office, the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective U.K. counterparts on a regular basis. Both countries have accepted each other's defense officials in their defense-related educational institutions and promoted research exchanges.

### 3) Exchanges between Units

GSDF have been cooperating with those of the U.K. forces in Iraq. Exchanges of their units have become active in Samawah, particularly after U.K. troops took over Dutch troops in their task of maintaining security in the Muthanna Province in Iraq in March last year.

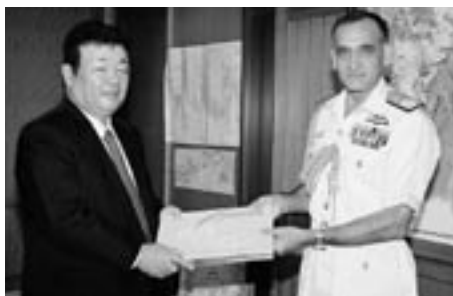
The MSDF dispatched three vessels - the Kashima, the Murasame and the Yugiri - to the U.K. in June last year to have them take part in an international fleet review which was held to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Takashi Saito, MSDF Chief of Staff, visited the U.K. at the invitation of the First Sea Lord of the U.K. Royal Navy and took part in the fleet review. In the U.K., Saito met with officials of navies participating in the fleet review, including the U.K. Royal Navy.

## (6) Japan-India Defense Exchanges

India, with its vast land and its population exceeding 1 billion, having achieved high economic growth, and the country has great influence on the security of the South Asian region. South Asia is an important region for the safety of sea lines of communication linking Japan and the Middle East, and is also important for operations being conducted by SDF in the Indian Ocean.

Traditionally, India has maintained friendly relations with Japan, with both respecting such fundamental values as democracy and market oriented economy. Given these relations, it is meaningful for Japan and India to hold consultations to exchange views over defense policies of the two countries and the regional situation, and deepen their mutual understanding as well as to pave the foundation of mutual cooperation.

In April last year, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited India and met with Indian Prime



Prakash, Chief of the Staff of the Indian Navy, (right) pays a courtesy call on Administrative Vice Minister for Defense Mori (left) and holds talks with him during the former's visit to Japan in October last year



Minister Manmohan Singh. During their meeting, the leaders of the two countries reconfirmed their desire to promote mutual exchanges in security and defense fields as a major topic to be addressed by the two countries in the future.

When Prime Minister Koizumi visited Malaysia in December last year to attend East Asia Summit and other meetings, he met with Indian Prime Minister Singh. They agreed that their countries promoted security and defense collaboration. The leaders of the two countries also recognized the need for both nations to strengthen their ties.

### 1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In October last year, Arun Prakash, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, visited Japan and held frank talks with the MSDF Chief of Staff Takashi Saito over the regional situation and other issues. In addition, then Senior Vice Minister for Defense Hiroshi Imazu visited India in May last year, Joint Staff Council Chairman (Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Office) Hajime Massaki in September last year, the MSDF Chief of Staff Takashi Saito in February this year, the GSDF Chief of Staff Tsutomu Mori in March this year and the ASDF Chief of Staff Tadashi Yoshida in April this year. The four chiefs of SDF promoted high-level exchanges with India by holding frank discussion with their respective counterparts in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. In addition, Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited Japan in May this year and met with Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga. The defense chiefs of the two countries exchanged views on their defense policies and the international situation, and signed a joint statement on promoting bilateral cooperation in the defense field.



Following the Chief of the Joint Staff Office, the GSDF Chief of Staff, the MSDF Chief of Staff and the ASDF Chief of Staff visit India and promote exchanges between Japan and India

### 2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In February this year, Japan and India held Director-General level and Councilor-level talks of defense officials and exchanged views with each other about defense exchanges between the two countries and the regional situation. Furthermore, Japan and India have promoted research exchanges, including acceptance of each other's defense officials as students and mutually dispatching their researchers on defense issues.

### 3) Exchange between Units

In October 2004, three vessels of the Indian Navy made a goodwill visit to Tokyo. It marked the 14th port call in Japan by the Indian Navy vessel. Meanwhile, the MSDF vessels which were on the overseas training cruise paid the port call in Mumbai in August last year. The port call marked the 10th visit by an MSDF ship to India. When the MSDF ships visited India, it conducted a bilateral goodwill exercise with units of the Indian Navy as part of efforts by Japan and India to promote their unit exchanges.

The music band of the Indian Army plans to participate in a SDF Marching Festival to be held in November this year.

## (7) Defense Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries

Southeast Asian countries are situated in areas deemed as strategically important for maritime traffic, and they also have close economic relations with Japan. Therefore, promoting dialogue between Japan and these countries on security issues and establishing a basis for cooperative relations are of great importance for both sides.

In November last year, Administrative Vice Minister for Defense Takemasa Moriya visited the Philippines and exchanged views with Secretary, Department of National Defense Avelino J. Cruz, Jr., Undersecretary Antonio C Santos, Jr., and Undersecretary Ernesto Gonzalo Carolina, over the regional situation, maritime security and cooperation against terrorism.

On the fringes of the IISS Asia Security Council held in Singapore in June this year, Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga held talks with Indonesian Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono and Philippine Secretary of National Defense Avelino J. Cruz.

The recent high-level exchanges between Japan and Southeast Asian countries are shown in Fig.5-2-2. This shows how defense relations between Japan and these countries have steadily progressed.

In addition to exchanges by high-level officials, Japanese defense officials have held consultations with working-level defense officials from Southeast Asian countries on a regular basis to promote discussions on security and defense issues involving both sides and build relations of mutual understanding and confidence. Japan and Southeast Asian countries have also steadily promoted staff talks between defense staff organizations, exchanges of researchers and students as well as units including port visits. Through these defense relations, Japan and Southeast Asian countries have been able to lay the foundation for building a multilateral defense network, which would play an important role for realizing peace and stability in the region.

### Exchanges with Southeast Asian Nations (Since 2005)

Visits to foreign countries

Date	Visitors	Visited Countries
Jan. 2005	Minister of State for Defense Ohno(then)	Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia
Jan.	Senior Vice Minister for Defense Imazu (then)	Indonesia, Thailand
Feb.	Joint Staff Council Chairman Massaki (Joint Chief of Staff (incumbent))	Indonesia, Thailand
Feb.	ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida	Thailand
May	Minister of State for Defense Ohno (then)	Philippines
November	Administrative Vice Minister for Defense Moriya	Philippines

Visits to Japan

Date	Visitors
Feb. 2005	Singaporean Defense Minister
July	Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Thailand
July	Commander in Chief of the Air Forces, Thailand
August	Chief of Navy, Singapore

Fig. 5-2-2

## (8) Defense Exchanges with Other Countries

In addition to defense exchanges with the neighboring countries described above, the Defense Agency has held high-level exchanges, regular consultations at a working-level and student exchanges with many other countries around the world. Among them are Pakistan, a country which has played an important role in global efforts to fight against terrorism, Canada, a country with which Japan had undertaken the UN peace keeping operations in the Golan Heights, Asia-Pacific countries like Mongolia, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam, countries related to the SDF's aid mission in Iraq like Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), European countries, and international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Furthermore, the Defense Agency has also held ad hoc consultations at a working-level with countries like the Netherlands and Belgium.

On unit-to-unit levels, mutual visits by vessels have been frequent along with mutual exchanges between SDF units and units of foreign militaries belonging to countries where Japan's international peace cooperation operations are underway.

The recent high-level defense exchanges between Japan and other countries are shown in Fig.5-2-3. This indicates Japan's endeavors to build close cooperative relations with many foreign countries in defense areas.

In January this year, Jiro Aichi, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense, visited Austria, Slovakia and Czech. In these countries, Secretary Aichi met with Austrian Defense Minister Guenther Platter, Martin Fedor, Deputy Defense Minister of Slovakia, Czech Defense Minister Karel Kuehnl and Czech Deputy Defense Minister for Defense Policy Martin Belcik. Aichi exchanged views with them over the regional situation and international activities, and confirmed the importance for Japan and these countries to promote defense exchanges.

In December last year, Japan and New Zealand held the first Director-General level and Councilor-level regular meetings of defense officials.

On unit-to-unit levels, the MSDF training squadron made a goodwill visit to 14 ports in 13 countries on a long practice voyage last year, marking the first voyage around the world by a MSDF training squadron in five years. The MSDF members deepened their friendship with troops they met on each port call. The visit to Russia, the first port call for the training squadron, promoted friendship between Japan and Russia with the MSDF members taking part in an event held in St. Petersburg to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Japan-Russia commerce and amity treaty.

Japan's defense exchanges with many other countries that share the same principles of freedom and democracy have played an important role for global peace and stability.



MSDF Chief of Staff Saito holding talks with German Naval Chief of Staff Lutz Feldt

### Exchange with Other Countries (since 2005)

#### Visits to foreign countries

Date	Visitors	Visited Countries
Jan. 2005	Administrative Vice Minister for Defense Moriya	Poland, Germany, Finland
Feb.	MSDF Chief of Staff Saito	Turkey
Mar.	GSDF Chief of Staff Mori	the Netherlands, UK
May	Joint Staff Council Chairman Massaki (Joint Chief of Staff (incumbent))	Belgium, NATO, EU & Russia
June	JMSDF Chief of Staff Saito	France, Sweden, Norway & UK
July	JASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida	France & Belgium
Aug.	JGSDF Chief of Staff Mori	Thailand
Sep.	Joint Staff Council Chairman Massaki (Joint Chief of Staff (incumbent))	India & Pakistan
Nov.	JASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida	Australia & New Zealand
Jan. 2006	Minister of State for Defense Nukaga	UK & Russia
Jan.	Parliamentary Secretary for Aichi	Austria, Slovakia & Czech Republic
Feb.	JMSDF Chief of Staff Saito	Middle East & India
Mar.	JGSDF Chief of Staff Mori	India & Pakistan
Apr.	JASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida	India & Pakistan

#### Visits to Japan

Date	Visitors
Jan. 2005	Chief of Staff of French Army
Apr.	Secretary General of NATO
Apr.	President and Defense Minister of the Swiss Confederation
May	Swedish State Secretary for Defense
Jun.	New Zealand Defense Minister
Jun.	Commander of Kuwait Air Force
July	Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, the Netherlands
Nov.	Commander in Chief of the Navy, Turkey
Dec.	Supreme Commander of the Navy, Germany
Mar. 2006	Chief of the Air Staff, Canada

Fig. 5-2-3