

Section 2. Promotion of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

In the new National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG), making proactive efforts on its own initiative to help improve the international security environment is stated as a major role of defense. Therefore, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF proactively promote security dialogue and defense exchanges, including bilateral and multilateral training, while also taking part in international peace cooperation activities.

This section will describe the security dialogue and defense exchanges in which the Ministry of Defense and the SDF have currently been engaging.

1. Significance of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

Since the end of the Cold War, awareness has grown regarding the importance of preventing meaningless arms races, and contingencies and the escalation of such events through means such as increasing the transparency of military capabilities and defense policies, and enhancing mutual trust through dialogue and exchanges between defense officials and through various joint exercises between military units. Today, in an age when mutual cooperation and dependence between nations continues to grow in the international community, it is widely recognized that the international community must work together in responding to new threats and diverse contingencies.

In recent years in particular, defense exchanges have deepened in terms of quality and have expanded in terms of quantity with the aim of the proactive promotion of exchanges to improve the security environment. Specifically, this includes: 1) the increasing significance of establishing and strengthening cooperative relations with the international community as well as confidence-building; 2) a global expansion of exchanges that extends over Japan's neighboring countries; and 3) the increasing importance of promoting not only goodwill exchanges but also practical exchanges, and action-oriented exchanges in addition to dialogue.

For this reason, the Ministry of Defense formulated the "Basic Policy for Defense Exchanges"²² in April 2007 in order for the ministry to implement defense exchanges in a harmonized and strategic manner. The "Basic Policy" emphasizes defense exchanges²³ aimed at contributing directly to the enhancement of international cooperation in addition to the promotion of traditional defense exchanges. The "Basic Policy" also aims to build relations of trust and cooperation with other countries by utilizing various of defense exchange measures²⁴ that are effectively not limited to bilateral dialogue and consultation. (See Fig. III-3-2-1)

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF actively conduct bilateral exchanges with related countries, host various international conferences, and participate in multilateral security dialogues, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and multilateral joint exercises. (See Fig. III-3-2-1)

2. Bilateral Defense Exchanges

Bilateral defense exchanges are those between defense officials from various countries and with the objective of promoting relations of trust and cooperation. Characteristically, these exchanges allow a tailor made response in light of particular relations with an individual nation, and it is possible that the bilateral relationships of trust and cooperation constructed via these exchanges can lay the foundation for effectively promoting other initiatives such as multilateral security dialogue. (See Reference 51)

1. Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Exchanges

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is an important country for Japan's security from a geopolitical perspective. It is also a friend of Japan as both countries share the fundamental values of freedom and democracy. The ROK has formed an alliance with the United States and, just as Japan does, allow the United States to station its

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

Classification	Type	Significance	Outline
Bilateral	Exchange of 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 of important common interests to every countries, and that subsequently enhance defense exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue and mutual visits between Japan's Defense Minister and defense ministers from other country • Dialogues and mutual visits between Japan's Senior Vice-Minister of Defense, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense, Vice-Minister of Defense, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF Chiefs, and their counterparts in foreign countries
	Regular consultation between defense officials	Paving the way for high-level dialogues and exchanges through continuous and direct exchanges of views between policy-makers of national defense , and contributing to the improvement and enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation between related countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation 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 joint exercises and events for exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel exchanges • Mutual visits of MSDF Training Squadrons, aircraft, and joint exercises for search and rescue operations
	Exchange of students	Deepening the understanding of other countries' defense policy and the situation of their defense units, and building mutual trust through promotion of personnel exchanges through relatively long stay in other countries as well as educational purposes, and establishing human networks between related countries	<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
Multi-lateral	Security dialogue	Deepening mutual understanding on the recognition of situations and on security perceptions among related countries, and discussing multilateral issues efficiently and effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARF dialogue • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by the Defense Ministry • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by the Japanese Government • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by Japan's private sector
	Joint exercises and seminars	Improving defense abilities and contributing to improvement and enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation through joint exercises and seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel exchanges • Joint exercises, and seminars related to disaster relief, minesweeping and submarine rescue operations

forces in the country from a security perspective. Therefore, it is extremely important for Japan and the ROK to proactively utilize defense exchanges to promote mutual understanding and relations of trust, establish a basis for cooperation, and to effectively coordinate and cooperate in policy-making for the peace and stability of the entire East Asia region.

(1) High Level Exchanges Including Ministerial Meetings

Almost every year since 1994, the defense ministers of Japan and the ROK have made reciprocal visits and held discussions.

In April 2009, ROK Defense Minister Lee Sang Hee visited Japan and exchanged opinions with Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada about North Korean issues and Japan-ROK exchanges. After the meeting, both ministers signed the first Memorandum of Intent regarding defense exchanges between the Ministry of Defense, Japan and the Ministry of National Defense, the Republic of Korea.

Furthermore, views were openly exchanged on various occasions including in January 2008 when (then) ROK Chief of Army Staff Park Honyoru visited Japan



ROK Minister of National Defense Lee and Minister of Defense Hamada

to meet with (then) Japanese GSDF Chief of Staff Ryoichi Oriki, in April 2008 when (then) ROK Chief of Air Force Staff Kim Ung-Ki visited Japan to meet with (then) Japanese ASDF Chief of Staff Toshio Tamogami, and in April 2008 when ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Kim Tae-Young visited Japan to meet with (then) Japanese Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Saito. In October 2008, Japanese MSDF Chief of Staff Keiji Akahoshi visited Korea to take part in the International Fleet Review and the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In addition to holding military-to-military consultations (bilateral consultations at the Director-General/Councilor-level) every year since 1994, Japan and the ROK have held security dialogue since 1998 that has included diplomatic authorities from both countries.

In July 2008, Japan and the ROK held the 16th military-to-military consultation whereupon views were exchanged on Japan and the ROK's defense policies and Japan-ROK defense exchanges. In addition, in December 2008, the second Japan-ROK military-to-military working group was held between Director-level officials.

Furthermore, in October 2008, Japan and the ROK held the eighth bilateral security dialogue where views were exchanged on matters including the security environment surrounding the two countries and their respective security policies.

Active dialogue has also been held between Japan's Joint Staff and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff as well as between Japan's GSDF, MSDF and the ASDF, and the ROK's Army, Navy and Air Force respectively. In addition, Japan and the ROK have been promoting mutual exchange of students and research exchanges.

(3) Exchanges between Units

Japan GSDF and the ROK Army have held defense exchanges, including mutual visits by unit commanders of the GSDF's Western Army and the ROK's Second Army²⁵ since 2001. In June 2007, the Commander of the ROK Second Army visited Japan, and in October 2007, the Commanding General of the Japanese GSDF Western Army visited the ROK.

Exchanges between Japan's MSDF and the ROK Navy, including mutual visits by naval vessels since 1994, have been carried out. In September 2008, ROK Navy vessels visited Japan, and in October 2008, MSDF vessels participated in the International Fleet Review held in the ROK. In December 2008, ROK's commander of the First Fleet visited Japan and the Commandant of the Maizuru District visited ROK in May 2009.

Japan ASDF and the ROK Air Force have continued exchanges through mutual visits by aircraft since 2000. Mutual visits by unit commanders have also taken place, with the ROK Southern Air Force Combat Commander visiting Japan in May 2008, and the commander of the Japanese ASDF Western Air Defense Force visiting the ROK in May 2009.

(4) Trilateral (Japan, U.S., and ROK) Cooperation

On the occasion of the 8th Asian Security Summit²⁶ hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) of the United Kingdom in May 2009, Defense Minister Hamada held the first trilateral defense ministers' meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and ROK Minister of National Defense Lee Sang Hee, in which views were exchanged on the response to the North Korea's nuclear test and the significance of close trilateral cooperation. In November 2008, defense officials of Japan-U.S.-ROK held Defense Trilateral Talks to exchange views on security-related issues.

2. Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges

Russia has great influence on the security of Europe, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region and is a neighboring country of Japan. It is therefore very important for Japan to deepen defense exchanges with Russia and promote relations of trust and cooperation.

As Japan-Russia relations has continuously been developing in wider areas following the 1997 summit in Krasnoyarsk, the Ministry of Defense has been steadily promoting defense exchanges with Russia at various levels in accordance with the memorandum on Japan-Russia defense exchanges signed in 1999.



Minister of Defense Hamada, U.S. Secretary of Defense Gates and ROK Minister of National Defense Lee

(1) High Level Exchanges Including Ministerial Meetings

High-level exchanges have advanced between Japan and Russia since 1996, when the then Minister of State for Defense, Hideo Usui, visited Russia, becoming the first Japanese defense minister to visit Russia since the Soviet era.

When the then Minister of State for Defense, Fukushima Nukaga, visited Russia in January 2006, Japan and Russia revised the 1999 memorandum on defense exchanges. The then Russian Defense Minister, Sergey Ivanov, told that the Japan-Russia Action Plan was a strong foundation for deepening cooperation between their respective defense officials. Minister Ivanov also said that defense exchanges had significantly deepened between the MSDF and Russia's Navy. He added that he also wished to promote exchanges between the GSDF and Russia's Ground Force and between the ASDF and Russia's Air Force. Minister Nukaga and Minister Ivanov shared the view that observers would be mutually dispatched to exercises conducted by the GSDF and Russia's Ground Force. They also shared the view that representatives and aircraft of the ASDF and Russia's Air Force would make mutual visits. Furthermore, the then Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Force, Aleksei Maslov, visited Japan in March 2008 and exchanged views with the then Japanese GSDF Chief of Staff, Ryoichi Oriki. In April 2008, the then Chief of Joint Staff, Saito, visited Russia to exchange views with the then Chief of General Staff, Yuri Baluyevsky.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

The Ministry of Defense has continued to hold discussion with Russia, such as Japan-Russia Bilateral Working Group meetings and annual meetings based on the Japan-Russia Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents on and over the High Seas, to discuss how to promote overall defense exchanges as well as holding regular discussion between Director-General-level and Councilor-level defense officials.

Japan's Joint Staff and the General Staff Office of the Russian Armed Forces actively held dialogues as well as the GSDF, ASDF and their respective counterparts. In addition, Japan-Russia defense research and instructor exchanges are continually held between the National Institute for Defense Studies and a research institute affiliated with the Russian Defense Ministry.

(3) Exchanges between Units

The GSDF and the Russian Ground Force have promoted mutual exchanges since 2003, including a mutual visit between the Russian Commander of Far Eastern Military District and the Commanding General of the GSDF's Northern Army. In November 2008, the Commanding General of the Far Eastern Military District visited Japan,

and in March 2009, the Commanding General of the GSDF's Northern Army visited Russia. In September 2008, three observers were sent from GSDF for the first time to the exercises of the Russian Ground Forces. The MSDF and the Russian Navy have conducted mutual visits by vessels every year since the MSDF's first port visit to Vladivostok in 1996. Both have also conducted bilateral joint search and rescue exercises since 1998. The 10th SAREX was held during September and October 2008, taking as an opportunity the visit of two Russian Navy vessels to the Maizuru port.



Shimakaze (right) alongside a Russian vessel during the 10th SAREX

The ASDF and the Russian Air Forces have conducted inter-unit exchanges between the ASDF's Northern Air Defense Force and the 11th Air Force and Air Defense

Army of the Russian Air Force since 2007, including a mutual visit of unit commanders. In November 2008, the commander of the ASDF's Northern Air Defense Force visited Russia for the first time.

As has been shown, previously infrequent exchanges of the Ground and Air Forces are now making steady progress.

3. Japan-China Defense Exchanges

China's outstanding economic development and the modernization of its military capabilities in recent years have drawn much attention from other countries around the world. Deepening mutual understanding on the defense front and promoting relations of trust with China is beneficial not only for the security of the two countries, but also for ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In December 2007, the then Prime Minister, Yasuo Fukuda, officially visited China. Both sides shared the view on the status of the "promotion of exchanges and mutual trust" as one of the three pillars of a materialization of the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests"²⁷. The two sides also shared the view on enhancing exchanges in the security sector, including dispatching an MSDF vessel and reciprocal visits by company-officer-level officers of the SDF and People's Liberation Army.

In addition, upon the May 2008 visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao, agreement was concluded on such matters as enhancing high-level exchanges between officials including defense ministers, implementing visit by an MSDF vessel to China, and promptly establishing a communication mechanism between defense authorities. In the Joint Statement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Comprehensive Promotion of a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests," it was also noted that reciprocal visits by high-level officials in the security sector would be enhanced and that various dialogues and exchanges would be promoted, thereby further strengthening mutual understanding and trust.

Minister-level exchanges play an important role in the promotion of defense exchanges, which are an important element of a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests."

(1) High Level Exchanges Including Ministerial Meetings

In August 2007, the then Chinese Minister of National Defense, Cao Gangchuan, visited Japan and held a discussion with the then Minister of Defense, Masahiko Koumura, regarding international and regional situations, defense policy of Japan and China, and Japan-China defense exchanges. During the meeting, both sides shared the view on the importance of the further development of Japan-China defense exchanges, including the

promotion of high-level exchanges between officials such as defense ministers and chiefs of staff, reciprocal port calls by naval vessels, and expanding exchanges in various military branches and sectors. Both sides released the Japan-China Defense Authorities Joint Press Release between Japan-China Defense Authorities the first joint document released between Japanese and Chinese defense authorities. In March 2009, Defense Minister Hamada visited China and held a discussion with Minister of National Defense Liang Guanglie on the defense policies of Japan and China, Japan-China defense exchanges and the regional situations. Both ministers concurred that Japan and China should promote exchange at every level and in every field as well as dialogue and cooperation with regard to PKO, disaster relief and anti-piracy measures. They also issued a joint press release²⁸ which included ten concurred points concerning major future defense exchanges. In addition, the then Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Saito, visited China in February 2008 and held dialogue with Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Chen Bingde. Vice-Defense Minister Kohei Masuda visited China in March 2008 and held a discussion with Deputy Chief of General Staff Ma Xiaotian and made proposals regarding the intention of the increase of China's military spending. He also paid a courtesy call to Minister of National Defense Liang Guanglie. They shared the view that visits by high-level officials should also be continued in the future. In September 2008, Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force Commander General Xu Qiliang visited Japan and exchanged frank views with the then ASDF Chief of Staff, Toshio Tamogami. They agreed to endeavor to further strengthen defense exchanges. In October 2008, Chinese PLA Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli visited Japan and held talks with MSDF Chief of Staff Keiji Akahoshi and concurred on the importance of defense exchanges between Japan MSDF and the Chinese Navy. In February 2009, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the PLA General Ge Zhengfeng visited Japan and exchanged frank views with the then GSDF Chief of Staff, Ryoichi Oriki, and agreed to actively promote defense exchanges.



Minister of Defense Hamada and Wu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In March 2009, Japan and China held bilateral security dialogue between diplomats and defense officials. The two countries have also promoted research and educational exchanges, mainly by accepting Chinese defense officials in regular courses at the National Institute for Defense Studies in Tokyo, and by sending Japanese students to the PLA National Defense University, in addition to continued mutual visits by defense officials from the National Institute for Defense Studies, the JSDF Joint Staff College, and China's PLA National Defense University.

(3) Exchanges between Units

In a meeting held in August 2007 between the then Minister of Defense, Masahiko Koumura, and the then Minister of National Defense, Cao Gangchuan, the two ministers shared the view on conducting reciprocal port calls by naval vessels in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations. Thus, the Chinese destroyer *Shenzhen* of South China Sea Fleet ported in Tokyo for the first time from November to December 2007. Following this visit, and based on an agreement between Japanese and Chinese leaders, the MSDF destroyer *Sazanami* visited Zhanjiang in China's Guangdong Province as an MSDF vessel for the first time in June 2008. Japan sent blankets and emergency food and sanitary supplies as a token of sympathy

for those affected by the Great Sichuan Earthquake. Furthermore, exchanges are also being promoted, including GSDF personnel being dispatched for the first time as observers in September 2007 to Chinese military exercise “Warrior 2007” upon invitation from China and visit to Japan by the delegation of leaders of the Chinese PLA Air Force.

Pursuant to the agreement between Japanese and Chinese leaders, a group of young company-grade PLA officers made their first visit to Japan in September 2008. In March 2009, a group of junior company-grade SDF officers visited China. On both occasions, the officers paid courtesy calls and participated in unit and cultural training.

4. Japan-Australia Defense Exchanges

Australia is an important partner for Japan in the Asia-Pacific region: Japan and Australia are allies of the United States and have many interests in common in the area of defense. From this perspective, it is important for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region to promote defense exchanges with Australia to establish a foundation for a cooperative relationship, and to promote collaboration and cooperation more effectively. Moreover, cooperation between Japan and Australia in the trilateral framework with the United States and in the multilateral frameworks is important.

In recent years, in particular, defense exchanges between Japan and Australia have deepened and expanded and bilateral cooperation²⁹ in the field of security has been advancing steadily, including cooperation in Iraq and humanitarian support in case of disaster.

Based on these circumstances, the then Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, and the then Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, released the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation³⁰ in March 2007 in Japan in order for the two countries to further strengthen bilateral security cooperation under a comprehensive framework.

Based on this joint declaration, the then Japanese Minister of Defense, Fumio Kyuma, and the then Australian Minister for Defence, Brendan Nelson, held a meeting in June 2007. Following the meeting, Japan and Australia held Joint Defence and Foreign Ministerial Consultations (“two-plus-two”) for the first time. In September 2007, at the Japan-Australia Summit meeting, which took place between the then Prime Minister, Abe, and the then Prime Minister, Howard, in Australia, an action plan to implement the Australia-Japan Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation was drawn up that, with regard to the areas of security and defense, included such matters as a direction for updating the Memorandum on Japan-Australia Defence Exchange.

Minister of Defense Yasukazu Hamada held a defense ministerial meeting with the then Australian Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, in Japan in December 2008. The ministers signed the updated Memorandum on Japan-Australia Defence Exchange, (Memorandum on Defence Cooperation)³¹. The three pillars of the updated Memorandum are: (1) promoting cooperation in international peace cooperation activities, (2) strengthening usual cooperation and coordination, such as through strategic policy discussions and expanded and enhanced exercises, (3) strengthening Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral and multilateral cooperation. At the subsequent 2nd Japan-Australia two-plus-two meeting, the ministers agreed to further promote bilateral security cooperation. The joint statement³² issued after the meeting noted that it welcomed the updating of the Memorandum on Japan-Australia Defence Exchange. It was also confirmed that Australia would host the next Japan-Australia two-plus-two meeting in 2009.

In light of these developments, Japan and Australia are currently holding discussion in order to promote security cooperation.

(1) High Level Exchanges Including Ministerial Meetings

In June 2008, the then Minister of Defense, Shigeru Ishiba, exchanged views on future Japan-Australia

cooperation with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Japan. In December 2008, Minister Hamada held a meeting with the then Australian Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, and both signed the Memorandum on Japan-Australia Defence Cooperation. Furthermore, in May 2009, at the 8th IISS Asia Security Summit, Minister Hamada had a meeting with Minister Fitzgibbon. Both ministers agreed to deal with the issue of the nuclear test conducted by North Korea together to accelerate studies on logistics cooperation, to expand and enhance joint exercises and to strengthen Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral cooperation, and exchanged views on the Defence White Paper of Australia.



MSDF Chief of Staff Akahoshi and Shalders, then Chief of the Royal Australian Navy

In April 2008, the then Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, Russ Shalders, visited Japan and exchanged views with MSDF Chief of Staff Akahoshi, and the then ASDF Chief of Staff, Toshio Tamogami, exchanged views with the then Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force, Geoff Shepherd, on his visit to Australia in May 2008.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and Australia have held military-to-military consultations at the Director-General or Councilor level as well as security dialogue including diplomatic officials almost every year since 1996. The Joint Staff, the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective counterparts in the Australian Defense Force on a regular basis. Both countries also exchange students of their defense-related educational institutions and hold research exchanges.

In recent years, in response to developments in bilateral cooperation, each consultation has been held on a more frequent basis. The last military-to-military consultation was held in September 2008.

(3) Exchanges between Units

GSDF units dispatched to international peace cooperation activities in areas such as Timor Leste and Iraq conducted exchanges with units of the Australian Army there. Also, the MSDF and the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force conduct mutual goodwill visits by ships and aircraft. In July and August 2008, MSDF units participated for the first time in a Multilateral Joint Naval Exercise (KAKADU 08) in Australia and sent one escort ship. The MSDF also sent a patrol aircraft (P-3C) in September 2008.

In October 2007, the ASDF dispatched a multi-purpose assistance aircraft (U-4) to Australia for the first time.

[COLUMN]

VOICE

Voice of SDF Personnel Serving as Defense Attaché

Captain Kazushige Nagai
11th Defense Attaché to Australia

This year, the movie titled “Australia” was released and—just like a scene from the movie—the country is rich in nature with oceans and mountains. On the other hand, people have to be constantly conscious of mountain bush fires in the dry season. This is a reality in Australia. I work at the Japanese Embassy in Canberra, the capital city. It is also surrounded with desert and one can see wild kangaroos up close.

As Japan and Australia were enemies during the Second World War, it was necessary for us to start rebuilding our relationship after the end of the war. Today, as well as being allies of the United States, we have become important “mutually-friendly countries” in the Asia-Pacific region that share democratic values. Apart from the United States, Australia is now the only country with which we regularly hold Joint Defence and Foreign Ministerial Consultations, known as “2+2.”

My work as the Defense Attaché to Australia, representing the Ministry of Defense and the SDF includes a wide variety of responsibilities. Recognizing that defense exchange is of great importance in further fostering a friendly relationship between two countries, I work proactively for coordination on mutual visits by Ministers of Defense, Chiefs of Staff and units, bilateral exercises, and training for the SDF personnel. I also exchange views on the security environment of both countries with a large number of Australian counterparts.

In addition, I also take part in activities such as ceremonies of independence days and military memorial days of those countries with the approximately 45 military attachés in Australia who represent the military forces of approximately 25 different countries. Through such events and regular meetings to exchange views and opinions, I am making efforts to deepen mutual understanding with them. Due to differences, such as culture and background, there are large differences in opinions and knowledge among us, but we all share a common recognition of the importance of establishing a more stable international security environment, and we have built relationships that overcome language barriers.

As the relationship between Japan and Australia deepens, I believe that it will lead to more defense exchanges. I also believe that it will become a foundation for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Through my own efforts, with the support of my family, I hope that I will be able to do something to make the foundation a little more solid.



Captain Nagai (right) and his wife with Italian Defense Attaché and his wife at an SDF anniversary reception



Captain Nagai (right) and his wife with Italian Defense Attaché and his wife at an SDF anniversary reception

(4) Cooperation among Japan, the United States and Australia

In June 2007, upon attending the 6th IISS Asia Security Summit, the then Minister of Defense, Fumio Kyuma, held the first Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the then Australian Minister for Defence, Brendan Nelson. In April 2008, following the meeting held in April 2007, a Director-General-level meeting was held between Japan, the United States and Australia, discussing matters including trilateral defense cooperation.

Furthermore, in May 2007 and February 2008, defense officials from Japan, the United States and Australia held the Pacific Global Air Mobility Seminar. At the seminar, views were exchanged on future trilateral air lift cooperation. At the seminar in February 2008, the loading exercise of a GSDF CH-47J onto a U.S. Air Force's C-17 was conducted. Moreover, in October 2007, trilateral exercise using patrol aircraft (P-3C) was conducted for the first time among the MSDF, U.S. Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force.

5. Japan-India Defense Exchanges

India has traditionally maintained friendly relations with Japan, and share the same recognition on democracy, and free-market-oriented economy. Moreover, India has a vast territory with a population of more than one billion, and possesses great influence on the security in the South Asian region. This region is important for the safety of sea lanes that connect Japan to the Middle East as well as for activities that Japan conducts in the Indian Ocean and in other areas. Against this background, it is very meaningful both for Japan and India to hold consultations to exchange views over matters including defense policy and regional situations, to deepen mutual understanding, and to promote relations of mutual trust and cooperation.

In December 2006, the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, visited Japan and signed a joint statement between Japan and India, after meeting with the then Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. In the joint statement, the two countries shared the view on upgrading Japan-India relations to “Strategic and Global Partnership”³³ and specified measures to be taken in political and security sectors toward building such a partnership. In addition, in August 2007, the then Prime Minister, Abe, visited India where he and the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, signed the Joint Statement on the Roadmap for New Dimensions to the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India. They agreed to study the future course of cooperation in the security field between the two countries and also enhance defense exchanges. In October 2008, the Indian Prime Minister, Singh, visited Japan and talked with Prime Minister Aso. They signed the Joint Statement Towards Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership³⁴, which includes the creation of a comprehensive framework for the enhancement of security cooperation between the two countries, the development of an action plan with specific measures, and the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India (Joint Declaration)³⁵. The Joint Declaration specifies that cooperation will be conducted between the two Defense Authorities by way of, for example, meetings between the Defense Ministers, meetings between the Vice-Minister of Defense of Japan and the Defense Secretary of India including Defense Policy Dialogue, Military-to-Military Talks at Director General/ Joint Secretary Level, and Service-to-Service exchanges including bilateral and multilateral exercises.

(1) High Level Exchanges Including Ministerial Meetings

In August 2007, the then Minister of Defense, Yuriko Koike, and the then Senior Vice-Minister of Defense, Takahide Kimura, visited India and held dialogue with Indian Minister of Defense A.K. Antony and Minister of State for Defense Pallam Raju. During the defense ministerial meeting, views were exchanged on such matters as countering terrorism, regional situations, and Japan-India relations. Views were shared to develop defense exchanges further.

In April 2007, the then Indian Defense Secretary, Shekhar Dutt, visited Japan and held Japan-India Defense Policy Dialogue with the then Japanese Vice-Minister of Defense, Takemasa Moriya, which was expanded from

the Vice Defense Minister-level meeting. They exchanged views on how to deepen defense exchanges between the two countries and the regional situations in the future.

Moreover, in January 2007, the then Indian Air Force Chief of Staff, S. P. Tyagi, visited Japan and exchanged views with the then ASDF Chief of Staff, Yoshida. In April 2007, the then Indian Army Chief of Staff, J. J. Singh, visited Japan and exchanged views with the GSDF Chief of Staff, Ryoichi Oriki. In August 2008, the Indian Naval Chief of Staff, A. S. Mehta, visited Japan and exchanged views with MSDF Chief of Staff Akahoshi.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

The 5th session of talks between defense officials was held in February 2009 to exchange views on defense policies of Japan and India and on Japan-India defense exchanges. In November 2008, the first staff talks were conducted between the SDF and the Indian Navy to exchange views on mutual cooperation.

Furthermore, Japan and India actively promote research exchanges, including sending and accepting students such as through a program launched in FY 2008, which involves sending students to the Indian National Defense University, as well as mutually dispatching defense researchers.

(3) Exchanges between Units

The MSDF and the Indian Navy have frequently made reciprocal visits in the past. Unit exchanges are active as, during these reciprocal visits, MSDF Training Squadron and Indian Navy units conduct activities such as goodwill exercises. In April 2007, three Indian Naval vessels paid a port call in Japan, marking the 15th visit to Japan by Indian Navy vessels. During the Indian vessels' visit, Japan, the United States, and India conducted their first trilateral joint maritime exercise. Furthermore, in September 2007, the MSDF participated in a multilateral joint marine exercise ("Malabar 07-2")³⁶ in the waters near the Bay of Bengal for the first time, and in April 2009 participated in a multilateral joint marine exercise ("Malabar 09")³⁷ in the waters near Okinawa.



Suzunami (right) alongside an Indian vessel during Japan-India goodwill exercises

6. Japan-U.K. Defense Exchanges

Being a major power that influences the European region as well as the rest of the world, the United Kingdom has maintained close relations with Japan. On the security front, Japan has shared the same strategic interests with the United Kingdom, as both countries are important allies of the United States. Given this relationship, it is important for both Japan and the United Kingdom to promote defense exchanges, build a basis of cooperation, and promote more effective cooperation and coordination by exchanging information relating to the regional situation as well as to global issues such as countermeasures against terrorism and piracy.

In January 2004, the former Japanese Minister of Defense, Shigeru Ishiba, and the then U.K. Secretary of State for Defence, Geoffrey Hoon, signed a memorandum on bilateral defense cooperation in order to develop bilateral defense exchanges in various sectors, thereby confirming the two countries' resolve to promote defense exchanges at all levels and in various fields.

(1) High Level Exchanges Including Ministerial Meetings

In January 2006, the then Japanese Minister of State for Defense, Fukushima Nukaga, visited the United Kingdom

Voice of SDF Student Overseas

Captain Tateki Tawara

Student at the Indian National Defence College Exchange

Following the December 2007 “Joint Statement on the Advancement of the Strategic and Global Partnership”, recently, events such as the signing of the “Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation” in October of last year have been actively carried out for Japan-India defense exchanges. In this context, I have been dispatched to the NDC as a foreign student.

The NDC is located in the capital city of India, New Delhi, and provides education, over a 47 week period from January to early December, on a wide range of subjects including Security, National Strategy, Military Affairs, Science and Technology, Economics, International Relations and Domestic Matters. The students at the NDC consist of high-ranking officers from the army, navy and air forces, as well as individuals in equivalent roles.

For this year, the college accepted 100 foreign students, consisting of 40 army, 6 navy, 12 air force officers and 19 from high-ranking government officials, as well as 23 foreign students from 22 different countries including England, America and Australia. Studying with students from around the world is a great chance for me to gain deeper understanding of not only India but also many other countries. In addition to the lectures by experts in each field and group studies, the curriculum offers study tours to various locations around the country in order to deepen our understanding on India’s domestic situation. Such tours have allowed me to experience things one would not be able to see by studying at a desk or on a private tour: a natural environment that differs completely from my country, the huge magnitude of the land, and a wide variety of ethnic groups and religions.

At present there are approximately 3,000 Japanese residents in India. In comparison with the approximately 130,000 Japanese residents in China, 40,000 in Thailand and 30,000 in Singapore, the number is very limited. I believe that this means that there is still a lot of room for developing cooperative relationships between Japan and India in various fields. In the field of Security, India is very important for our country in consideration of present SDF activities including replenishment support activities in the Indian Ocean and anti-piracy measures, as well as in ensuring the safety of the sea lanes.

Through utilizing the experience and relationships I have gained, I hope that I will be able to continue to contribute to defense cooperation between Japan and India.



Captain Tawara (3rd from right) inside an Indian Air Force airplane during practical training in India



Captain Tawara (far right) with exchange students from the Egyptian Air Force and the Qatar Navy

and met with the then U.K. Secretary of State for Defence, John Reid. During their meeting, Minister Nukaga and Secretary Reid confirmed that high-level and working-level defense exchanges advanced between Japan and the United Kingdom. They also exchanged views on the progress on development of Iraqi Security Forces and the process of transferring security authorities to Iraq.

At the 45th Munich Security Conference, Minister of Defense Hamada met with U.K. Secretary of State for Defence John Hutton and agreed to cooperate in anti-piracy measures. At the 8th IISS Security Dialogue held in May 2009, Minister for International Defence and Security Baroness Ann Taylor met with Minister Hamada and they confirmed shared views on piracy issues and responses to North Korea. In March 2008, the year marking the 150th anniversary of the Anglo-Japanese Friendship and Trade Treaty, U.K. Chief of Air Staff Torpy visited Japan and exchanged views with the then ASDF Chief of Staff, Tamogami. In May 2009, MSDF Chief of Staff Akahoshi visited the United Kingdom and exchanged views on security matters including anti-piracy measures with First Sea Lord Sir Jonathon Band.



Stirrup, Chief of the Defense Staff of the U.K. and Oriki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and the United Kingdom frequently hold dialogue between Director-General-level and Councilor-level officials. In June 2007, Japan and the United Kingdom held DG-level meetings of Foreign Affairs and Defense authorities as well as between defense authorities, and exchanged views on matters such as defense policy and Iraqi issues. Moreover, from June 2007 to January 2008, the chiefs of Japan's Joint Staff, the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective U.K. Ministry of Defense counterparts. Also, the 5th session of talks between defense officials and 10th Staff Talks (conference between the Joint Staff and the British Defence Ministry) were held in October 2008 to conduct a frank exchange of views on defense policies of the two countries, the regional situation and defense exchanges. In March 2009, the Ground Staff Office held Staff Talks and exchanged frank view about international peace cooperation activities and defense exchanges.

Peace Support Operation (PSO) Seminars have been conducted since 2005 to provide a forum for exchanging and sharing knowledge based on each country's experiences with regard to international peace cooperation activities.

(3) Exchanges between Units

After the deployment of U.K. Forces in Muthanna Province in Iraq, the GSDF 30 troops which had been deployed since January 2004 in the same area³⁸, held active exchanges with the U.K. forces in Samawah, Iraq.

7. Defense Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries

Southeast Asian countries are situated in areas deemed strategically important for maritime traffic that connects Japan with the Middle East and Europe, and they also have close economic relations with Japan. Therefore, promoting dialogue between Japan and these countries on various security issues and deepening relations of mutual trust and cooperation are of great importance for both sides.

Following the 45th Munich Security Council in February 2009, Minister of Defense Yasukazu Hamada held a meeting with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean in May 2009 on the

occasion of the 8th IISS Asia Security Summit. Both sides agreed to start to draft a memorandum on defense exchanges and cooperation on maritime security. Minister Hamada also held a meeting with General Phung Quang Thanh, Minister of National Defense of Vietnam, and agreed to start drafting a memorandum on defense exchanges and to strengthen exchanges, such as mutual visits and education. In February 2009, Timor Leste's Secretary of State for Defense, Julion Tomas Pinto, who was visiting Japan at the invitation of the Ministry of Defense, paid a courtesy call to Minister Hamada. In March 2009, Minister Hamada held a meeting with Prime Minister and Minister for



Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Kishi and Vietnamese Minister of Defense Gen. Phung Quang Thanh

Defense and Security Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão of Timor Leste in Japan. They exchanged views on receiving students from Timor Leste to study at the National Defense Academy of Japan from JFY 2010 and on the promotion of bilateral defense exchange through multilateral meetings, such as the Tokyo Defense Forum. In May 2009, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Kishi visited the Philippines and Vietnam. He visited ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response and exchanged views on the importance of developing defense exchanges

Fig. III-3-2-2
High-level Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries (since last year)

Visits

Date	Visitors	Visited Countries
Jan. 2008	Vice-Minister of Defense Masuda	Malaysia
May 2008	Then Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Terada	Thailand
	Then ASDF Chief of Staff Tamogami	The Philippines
	Then Defense Minister Ishiba, Then Chief of Staff Staito, Joint Staff	Singapore
May 2009	Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Kishi	The Philippines Viet Nam
	Defense Minister Hamada, Chief of staff Oriki, Joint staff	Singapore

Visits to Japan

Date	Visitors
Feb. 2008	Chief of Staff of Indonesian Navy
Mar. 2008	Cambodian Vice-Minister/Defense Minister
Apr. 2008	Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore
Jun. 2008	Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces
Dec. 2008	Commanding General, the Philippine Air Force
Feb. 2009	Secretary of State for Defense of Timor Leste
Mar. 2009	Prime Minister, and Minister for Defense and Security of Timor Leste
	Secretary of State for National Defense, Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia
	Secretary General, Department of Defence of Indonesia
	Permanent secretary, Ministry of National Defense of Laos

with Undersecretary for Defense Affairs Antonio Santos. He also exchanged opinions on the direction of Japan-Vietnam defense exchanges and other defense matters with General Phung Quang Thanh, Minister of National Defense, and Vice-Minister of National Defense of Vietnam Vinh.

The recent major high-level exchanges between Japan and Southeast Asian countries are shown in Fig. III-3-2-2, indicating how defense relations between Japan and these countries have steadily progressed.

In addition to exchanges between high-level officials, Japanese defense officials have held consultations at the working-level on a regular basis to promote mutual understanding and relationships of confidence through exchange of views in the security and defense field. Japan and Southeast Asian countries have also steadily conducted staff talks of each service, exchanges of researchers and students as well as unit-to-unit exchanges including port calls. Through these defense relations, Japan and Southeast Asian countries lay the foundation for building a multilateral defense network, which could play an important role for establishing peace and stability in the region.

8. Defense Exchanges with Other Countries

In addition to neighboring countries previously described, Japan has promoted defense exchanges with many other countries. The Ministry of Defense has held high-level exchanges, working-level consultations and student exchanges with many other countries around the world. Among them are Pakistan, which has played an important role in the global fight against terrorism; Canada, with which Japan had undertaken the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Golan Heights; Mongolia, an Asia-Pacific country; countries related to the SDF's mission in Iraq such as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE); European countries such as Germany and France, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Fig. III-3-2-3
High-level Exchanges with Other Countries (since last year)

Visits

Date	Visitors	Visited Countries
May 2008	Then Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Eto	Poland
Feb. 2009	Defense Minister Hamada	Germany
May 2009	MSDF Chief of Staff Akahoshi	France

Visits to Japan

Date	Visitors
Jan. 2008	Chairman of the NATO Military Committee
Mar. 2008	Chief of Defence Force, New Zealand
Apr. 2008	Chief, Brazilian Air Force
May 2008	Minister of Defence, New Zealand
Jun. 2008	Chief of Staff, French Air Force
Jul. 2008	French Secretary General of National Defense
Sep. 2008	Vice-Minister of Defence of Norway
Oct. 2008	Commander of Navy, New Zealand
Mar. 2009	Chief of Staff, German Army

Regarding unit-to-unit exchanges, mutual visits by vessels have been frequent along with mutual exchanges with countries where international peace cooperation activities are underway.

The recent high-level exchanges are as shown in Fig. III-3-2-3.

In August 2007, the then Minister of Defense, Koike, visited Pakistan for the first time as Defense Minister, and exchanged views on the fight against terrorism with the then President, Musharraf, and the then Defense Minister, Iqbal, and officials during their meetings. Defense Minister of Luxembourg Schiltz visited Japan for the first time and met with former Minister of Defense Ishiba in October 2007. Like this, the Ministry of Defense intends to establish a close and cooperative relationship with many countries. Also, in March 2009, then Minister of Defense Ishiba met with New Zealand Defense Minister Goff during his visit to Japan and exchanged opinions on cooperation with regard to PSI. Minister of Defense Hamada visited Germany on the occasion of the 45th Munich Security Conference in February 2009, and exchanged opinions with Defense Minister Jung about anti-piracy measures and defense exchanges. In March 2009, German Chief of Staff Army General Budde visited Japan and exchanged opinions with General Oriki, then Ground SDF Chief of Staff. In July 2008, French Secretary General for National Defense Delon visited Japan to give a briefing on France's White Paper on Defense and exchanged views with Vice Minister Masuda and others. In June 2008, Chief of Staff French Air Force General Abrial came to Japan. In May 2009, Chief of MSDF Admiral Akahoshi visited France and exchanged views with Chief of French Navy Admiral Forissier. Defense authority meetings for the two countries were held in April 2008 and mutual visits of navy vessels have also been conducted. In relation to NATO, policy dialogues and cooperation have progressed as Japan and NATO are partners in endeavors for the stability and prosperity of the international community. In January 2007, the then Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, participated in the North Atlantic Council for the first time as the Japanese Prime Minister and delivered a speech. Mutual visits between the Minister of Defense and the Secretary General of NATO have been carried out in recent years to exchange opinions on the fight against terrorism and the regional situation. The two sides have agreed to deepen their cooperation as partners sharing common values and to enhance Japan-NATO relations in terms of both political and practical cooperation. At the working level, the Japan NATO High Level Consultations have been regularly held. Defense Minister Hamada met with Mongolian Defense Minister Bold in May 2009 on the occasion of the 8th IISS Asian Security Summit and exchanged views on the North Korean situation and defense exchanges between the two countries. Furthermore, in May 2008, the then Senior Vice-Minister of Defense, Eto, visited Poland for the first time as a high-level official of the Ministry of Defense and exchanged opinions with senior officials from the Polish Defense Ministry. In September 2008, the Norwegian Vice Minister of Defense visited Japan and exchanged views on defense policies, international peace cooperation activities and the regional situation.

In this way, through defense exchanges, Japan is playing an important role for the peace and stability of Asia and the world. (See Fig. III-3-2-4)



Saito, then Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, and Chief of General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces General Gagor

Fig. III-3-2-4 Japan's Defense Exchanges (last five years)

Defense Minister-Level Exchanges of Ministers and High-Level Defense Officials

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
International conferences and others				
Visits		Japan U.S. Australia		
Acceptance of visits		The Philippines		
		New Zealand		
		India		
		ROK		
Singapore		Singapore		
ROK		NATO		
Mongolia		Belgium		
The Philippines	The Philippines	Italy		
Australia	New Zealand	Thailand		
U.K.	Mongolia	Pakistan		Singapore
Australia	Indonesia	India		U.K.
Singapore	Australia	Australia*	Canada	Germany
Malaysia	Singapore	Germany	ROK	Vietnam
Indonesia	Mongolia	France	France	Australia
The Philippines	Indonesia	ROK	Singapore	Mongolia
ROK	Russia	Malaysia	U.K.	Japan U.S. ROK
Singapore	U.K.	China	Australia	Singapore
New Zealand	India	Luxembourg	New Zealand	China
Switzerland	Canada	Singapore	Cambodia	Timor Leste
NATO	New Zealand	NATO	Australia*	ROK

Notes: In addition to the defense ministerial meeting, "2+2" meeting were held between the Defense and Foreign Ministers of Japan and Australia.

Exchanges of Working-Level Officials

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ROK	●	●	○○●	○○●	
China	▲	▲○		▲	○
Russia	●	●	●	○○●	
Australia	●	○○●●	●	○○●	
New Zealand	●	●	●	●	
Singapore	●		●	●	
Thailand		○○●	○○●		
Vietnam	○○●		○○●	○○●	
The Philippines	○○●	○○●	○○●		
Indonesia			●		
Malaysia	●				
India	○○●	○○●	△	○○●	○○●
Pakistan		○○●	●		○○●
U.K.		○○●	○○●	●	
France	○○●	○○●	○○●	○○●	
Germany	○○●	○○●		○○●	
Canada	○○●	●		○	●
NATO		○	○	○	●

○ Working-level officials' meetings authorities of foreign affairs and defense

● Working-level officials' meetings between defense authorities

▲ Vice-Minister-level meetings between Japan and China

△ Defense policy dialogue between vice defense ministers of Japan and India

3. Multilateral Security Dialogue

1. Significance of Multilateral Security Dialogue

Multilateral security dialogue is extremely significant because participating countries can increase their mutual understanding and relations of mutual trust by exchanging views on security issues of mutual concern. Such security dialogue can also effectively contribute to bringing about regional peace and stability through cooperation and coordination among countries concerned on regional issues affecting several countries. (See Reference 52)

2. ASEAN Regional Forum

At the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting and ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in 1993, the foreign ministers from 17 countries and from the European Community (EC), now the European Union (EU), agreed to create the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as a political and security forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its first ministerial meeting in 1994, the ARF has held its regular ministerial meeting annually. The number of ARF members has gradually increased annually to currently 26 countries and one organization³⁹.

At present, the ARF is not a security organization typically seen in Europe, such as NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), but the ARF is of significance because it provides opportunities for both foreign and defense officials to attend various inter-governmental meetings.

The Ministry of Defense believes that it is necessary for defense officials among ARF member countries to enhance mutual confidence along with the evolution of the ARF process so that the ARF can become a forum to generate a sense of community among Asia-Pacific countries, and thereby stabilize the region's security environment. To this end, the Ministry has been continuing its efforts to deepen mutual understanding within the ARF through continuous participation in the ARF, by encouraging ARF members to increase the transparency of their defense policies while explaining Japan's policies and efforts, and by promoting frank discussion among defense officials.

In recent years, ARF member countries have been actively exchanging their views on common regional security issues including international disaster relief activities, maritime security, peacekeeping activities, counter-terrorism, and climate change. The Ministry of Defense has been actively participating in such discussions at the ARF.

Furthermore, in the aforementioned fields, the ARF has begun to look for more practical cooperation. For example, in the area of international disaster relief, following the drafting of a "general guideline" that should be considered for international cooperation, the drafting of the document which describes more concrete cooperation procedures is underway. Furthermore, in May 2008, a desktop exercise took place in Indonesia. In May 2009, the ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response, the first field exercises on disaster relief, was conducted in the Philippines, in which the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF conducted training in medical care, epidemic control, water supply and evacuation assistance for disaster affected people.

Every year, ARF holds such meetings as the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), the Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (CBM/PD) and the ARF Security Policy Conference in addition to the Foreign Ministerial Meeting. Apart from the so-called plenary meeting, which is composed of foreign and defense ministry officials, defense officials have convened their own Defense Officials Dialogue prior to the plenary meeting since the 2002 Ministerial Meeting. The Ministry of Defense has steadily increased its involvement in the ARF, by actively participating in these meetings, and frankly exchanging views with defense officials from other ARF member countries.

Moreover, Japan co-hosted the 1st Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISMMS) with Indonesia and New Zealand.

3. Multilateral Security Dialogue Sponsored or Participated in by the Japan Defense Ministry and the SDF

The Ministry of Defense believes that it is important for Japan to take the initiative in multilateral security dialogue in order to promote relations of mutual confidence and cooperation among defense officials of Japan and other countries through exchanges of information and opinions. The Ministry of Defense also believes that by doing so, Japan can contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Based on this recognition, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF have taken the initiative for multilateral security dialogue by sponsoring various international seminars while it has also actively participated in such forums sponsored by other countries and other organizations. (See Reference 53-54)

The first meeting of senior defense officials on common security challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region was held in Tokyo in March 2009, hosted by the Ministry of Defense. The purpose of this meeting was to build close personal relationships between defense officials from Japan and ASEAN member countries through frank discussions on regional security challenges. Other than Japan, participating countries comprised Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The meeting was chaired by Vice-Minister of Defense Masuda and participants frankly and constructively discussed common regional security challenges such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, peace keeping and peace building. After the meeting, Vice-Minister of Defense Masuda had individual meetings with the Secretary of State for National Defense of Cambodia, the Secretary General of Defense of Indonesia and the Permanent Secretary for National Defense of Laos.

Furthermore, the first Tokyo Seminar on Common Security Challenges was held on the following day with the participation of experts and defense officials from Japan and Southeast Asian countries to discuss (1) shared regional security concerns, (2) measures to explore regional cooperation for common challenges, and (3) roles and responses of defense official in regional cooperation.

The Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum) has been sponsored by the Ministry of Defense every year since 1996. The Forum is designed to contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region by deepening mutual understanding among participating countries on each other's defense policy and increasing the transparency of their defense policies. In the forum, defense officials of participating countries have exchanged views on defense policies of each country, and confidence-building measures in the field of defense.

At the 13th forum in October 2008, opinions were exchanged on "Efforts for International Cooperation in Disaster Relief" and "National Defense Policies" with the participation of 25 countries, the EU, OCHA, ASEAN Secretariat, and the ICRC. In February 2008, the 7th Sub-committee meeting was held with the participation of 25 countries, the EU, OCHA, ASEAN Secretariat, and the ICRC which debated "Regional Cooperation and its Impact on Surrounding States," while deliberating on the content of the "Best Practice Reference Paper for Peace-Building"⁴⁰ including capacity building and elements to be noted for promoting international cooperation with respect to peacebuilding.



Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Kitamura making a speech at the 13th Tokyo Defense Forum

The IISS Asia Security Conference, an international conference held annually in Singapore under the sponsorship of a private institute, is the only conference where a large number of defense ministers in the Asia-Pacific region participate. Minister of Defense Hamada participated at the 8th conference in May 2009, and delivered a speech on important security issues of the same region, under the theme, "The Major Powers and

Asian Security: Cooperation or Conflict?” During the conference, Minister of Defense Hamada met individually with the Defense Ministers of Vietnam, Australia, U.S., Mongolia and Singapore, while holding the first Japan-U.S.-ROK Defense Ministerial Meeting paid a courtesy call on Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Singapore’s Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

The Munich Security Conference (founded in 1962) is one of the most prestigious international conferences on security in the western world. Defense Minister Hamada attended the 45th Conference in February 2009, becoming the first Japanese defense minister to do so. The minister made remarks and participated in panel discussion on “Managing Instability: Global Challenges and the Crisis of Global Governance.” Taking this Conference as an opportunity, Minister Hamada had talks with his counterpart ministers from Singapore, the United Kingdom and Germany. He also met with Professor Joseph Nye, a scholar in international politics.

In addition, the Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) was organized for the first time in Japan in September 2007 and co-hosted with the U.S. Army Pacific Headquarters, with 91 participants from 28 countries and 2 organizations. In August 2009, the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC) and Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS) are scheduled to be held in Japan jointly with the U.S. Army and the U.S. Pacific Army.

4. Multilateral Exercises

1. Significance of Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Defense Ministry and the SDF consider participating in and hosting multilateral exercises will contribute not only to improving their maneuvering skills but also to helping establish the foundation for building cooperative relationship among participating countries through the coordination process and exchange of views.

Since 2000, multilateral exercises involving various elements such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and non-combatant evacuation operations, have been conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to conventional combat exercises.

Specific exercises thus far conducted on a multilateral basis include refugee rescue training held as part of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise ; the Cobra Gold Exercise conducted by the United States, Thailand and other countries focusing on U.N. PKO activities and disaster relief operations; the exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific, which was hosted by Singapore in 2000, Japan in 2002, the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 2004 and Australia in 2007; and the Maritime Multilateral Exercise Malabar 07-2 hosted by the United States and India.

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF will continue to participate in these multilateral exercises proactively and on their own initiative.

2. Efforts on Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

(1) Hosting Multilateral Exercises

The MSDF hosted “Pacific Reach 2002” in April 2002, a multilateral exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific⁴¹. This was the first time Japan hosted a multilateral exercise. In October 2002, the MSDF hosted the Multilateral Search and Rescue Exercise⁴².

The SDF has sent its officers to the annual Cobra Gold exercise since 2005. In February 2009 at Cobra Gold 2009, they participated for the first time in a PKO field training exercise, in addition to U.N. PKO



MSDF US-2 landing on the water in Manila harbor during an ARF field disaster rescue exercise

command post exercise and training for medical divisions of humanitarian and civic assistance activities non-combatant evacuation operations and transportation of Japanese nationals overseas.

Furthermore, in March 2009, the SDF participated in Exercise AMAN 2009, a multilateral naval exercise hosted by Pakistan for the first time, and in May 2009, took part in the first field exercise on disaster relief held in the Philippines for the first time under the AFR framework⁴³.

Multilateral exercises in which the SDF has recently participated are as shown in Fig. III-3-2-5.

Fig. III-3-2-5
Participation in Multilateral Exercises (Since Last Year)

Date	Exercises	Hosts	Participating Nations	Participation by Defense Ministry and SDF
May / 2008	Cobra Gold 2008	U.S. and Thai militaries	Thailand, U.S., Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, etc.	69 personnel participated
Jul. - Aug. / 2008	Exercise Kakadu 2008	Australian Navy	Australia, France, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, Japan	One destroyer ship and about 160 crewmembers of the ship participated
Feb. / 2009	Cobra Gold 2009	U.S. and Thai militaries	Thailand, U.S., Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, etc.	78 personnel participated
Mar. / 2009	Exercise Aman 2009	Pakistani Navy	Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh, France, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nigeria, China, Turkey, U.K., U.S., Japan	Two P-3C patrol aircraft and about 40 personnel participated
May / 2009	ARF disaster relief field exercises	The Philippines and the United States	Philippines, U.S., Australia, EU, Indonesia, ROK, Japan, etc.	One US-2 search and rescue amphibian, two C-130 transport airplanes and 25 personnel participated

(2) Inviting Observers to Multilateral Exercises

The SDF invited observers from eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan in September 2001 to the 4th Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercise. Since then, the SDF has been making efforts to invite observers from foreign countries to multilateral exercises being sponsored by the SDF.

The GSDF has invited working-level officers from countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan to participate in the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia-Pacific (MCAP), which it has hosted annually since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperation. (See Fig. III-3-2-6)

Fig. III-3-2-6

Dispatch of Observers to Multilateral Joint Exercises (since 2008)

Date	Exercise	Overview
Aug. 2008	Seventh Multilateral Cooperation program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP 2008)	Hosted by the Ground Self-Defense Force, working-level officers from 16 countries, mostly in Asia Pacific region, were invited. Seminars were offered and views were exchanged on the theme of "various forms of corporation in peace operations." The aims were to promote mutual understanding and foster trusting relationships between participating countries through discussions on common issues within military sectors and between military and civil sectors, with regard to international cooperation.