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Trilateral Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement Australia-Japan-United States (March 2006)

The Foreign Minister of Australia, Mr Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr Taro Aso and the Secretary of State of the United States, Dr Condoleezza Rice met in Sydney, Australia, on 18 March 2006 for the inaugural ministerial meeting of the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue between the three nations.

As longstanding democracies and developed economies, our three countries have a common cause in working to maintain stability and security globally with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific region. This meeting was a significant step in intensifying the strategic dialogue between our countries and reflects the importance we attach to greater trilateral cooperation in addressing contemporary security issues. This cooperation will complement the strong security relationships that each of our three countries has established.

Discussions during the dialogue covered a wide range of current security challenges, both regional and global, of shared interest to our three Governments. Supporting the emergence and consolidation of democracies and strengthening cooperative frameworks in the Asia-Pacific region was a particular focus of our attention.

We welcomed China's constructive engagement in the region and concurred on the value of enhanced cooperation with other parties such as ASEAN and the Republic of Korea. We recognised the importance of reinforcing our global partnership with India and noted that India's decision to place its civilian nuclear facilities and programs under international safeguards would be a positive step towards expansion of the reach of the international non-proliferation regime.

We discussed the current situation in North Korea and called on it to return immediately and unconditionally to the Six-Party Talks with a view to implementing the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks. We looked forward to the ASEAN visit to Burma/Myanmar and underscored the need for genuine progress in democratization there, including the release of all political prisoners. We have grave concerns about Iran's nuclear program,

and discussed the need for concerted action at the UN Security Council to convince Iran to promptly suspend all enrichment-related activities, fully cooperate with the IAEA, return to negotiations and take all steps called for by the IAEA board. We are also mindful of the challenges facing Pacific island countries and are determined to work together to support economic development and good governance.

To strengthen trilateral cooperation, we decided to enhance our exchange of information and strategic assessments on major international and regional security issues and developments, including to assist our efforts to counter terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We also reaffirmed the value of conducting regular trilateral consultations between our respective Ambassadors in charge of Counter-terrorism, with the intention of supplementing and reinforcing the network of partnerships each of our countries has created to fight the global terrorist threat.

Our agenda also encompassed pressing non-traditional security issues, such as the response to major pandemics, which is another area in which each of our three countries is committed to building on the already significant contribution we have made to regional security.

In recognition of the importance of strengthening international institutions that contribute to the maintenance of security, we reaffirmed the need to continue efforts to reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, and the support of our three Governments for Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The trilateral dialogue between the United States, Japan and Australia began at the level of senior officials, in 2002. Its elevation to the level of Foreign Ministers reflects our determination to work together to protect our shared strategic interests in promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. We expect that the dialogue will be held regularly at the Ministerial level, augmented by regular meetings of senior officials throughout the year.

Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation (March 2007)

The Prime Ministers of Japan and Australia,

Affirming that the strategic partnership between Japan and Australia is based on democratic values, a commitment to human rights, freedom and the rule of law, as well as shared security interests, mutual respect, trust and deep friendship;

Committing to the continuing development of their strategic partnership to reflect shared values and interests;

Recalling their on-going beneficial cooperation on regional and global security challenges, including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and human security concerns such as disaster relief and pandemics, as well as their contributions to regional peace and stability;

Recognising that the future security and prosperity of both Japan and Australia is linked to the secure future of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond;

Affirming their common purpose in working together, and with other countries through such fora as Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the East Asia Summit (EAS), to achieve the objective of a prosperous, open and secure Asia-Pacific region, and recognising that strengthened bilateral security cooperation will make a significant contribution in this context;

Committing to increasing practical cooperation between the defence forces and other security related agencies of Japan and Australia, including through strengthening the regular and constructive exchange of views and assessments of security developments in areas of common interest;

Committing to working together, and with others, to respond to new security challenges and threats, as they arise;

Affirming the common strategic interests and security benefits embodied in their respective alliance relationships with the United States, and committing to strengthening trilateral cooperation, including through practical collaboration among the foreign affairs, defence and other related agencies of all three

countries, as well as through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue and recognising that strengthened bilateral cooperation will be conducive to the enhancement of trilateral cooperation;

Desiring to create a comprehensive framework for the enhancement of security cooperation between Japan and Australia;

Have decided as follows:

Strengthening Cooperation

Japan and Australia will strengthen their cooperation and consultation on issues of common strategic interest in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. This includes cooperation for a peaceful resolution of issues related to North Korea, including its nuclear development, ballistic missile activities, and humanitarian issues including the abduction issue. Japan and Australia also recognise the threat to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond posed by terrorism and will further strengthen cooperation to address this threat.

Japan and Australia will also strengthen their cooperation through the United Nations and other international and regional organisations and fora through activities such as peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations. Japan and Australia will work towards the reform of the United Nations, including the realization of Japan's permanent membership of the Security Council.

The cooperation will be conducted in accordance with laws and regulations of each country.

Japan and Australia will deepen and expand their bilateral cooperation in the areas of security and defence cooperation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of their combined contribution to regional and international peace and security, as well as human security.

Areas of Cooperation

The scope of security cooperation between Japan and Australia will include, but not be limited to the following:

- (i) law enforcement on combating transnational crime, including trafficking in illegal narcotics and precursors, people smuggling and

- trafficking, counterfeiting currency and arms smuggling;
- (ii) border security;
- (iii) counter-terrorism;
- (iv) disarmament and counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- (v) peace operations;
- (vi) exchange of strategic assessments and related information;
- (vii) maritime and aviation security;
- (viii) humanitarian relief operations, including disaster relief;
- (ix) contingency planning, including for pandemics.

As part of the above-mentioned cooperation, Japan and Australia will, as appropriate, strengthen practical cooperation between their respective defence forces and other security related agencies, including through:

- (i) exchange of personnel;
- (ii) joint exercises and training to further increase effectiveness of cooperation, including in the area of humanitarian relief operations;
- (iii) coordinated activities including those in the areas of law enforcement, peace operations, and regional capacity building.

Implementation

Japan and Australia will develop an action plan with specific measures to advance security cooperation in the above areas.

Japan and Australia will further strengthen the strategic dialogue between their Foreign Ministers, on an annual basis.

Japan and Australia will build on their dialogue between Defence Ministers, on an annual basis.

Japan and Australia will enhance joint Foreign and Defence Ministry dialogue, including through the establishment of a regular Ministerial dialogue.

Signed at Tokyo this 13th day of March, 2007

SHINZO ABE
Prime Minister of Japan

JOHN HOWARD
Prime Minister of Australia

Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations Joint Statement 2007 (June 2007)

1. Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso, Japanese Minister of Defence Fumio Kyuma, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer and Australian Minister for Defence Brendan Nelson met in Tokyo on 6 June 2007 to discuss global and regional security and the state of relations between Japan and Australia. The meeting constituted the inaugural Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations based on the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed by Prime Ministers Abe and Howard in March 2007.
2. Ministers shared the view that the strategic partnership had grown significantly in recent years and the bilateral relationship had never been stronger. Ministers especially welcomed the historic Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation (JDSC) which reflected a desire by both countries for even closer security cooperation, and to enhance their joint contribution to regional peace and security. Ministers welcomed the progress to date in developing a forward-looking action plan of specific measures to implement the JDSC. Ministers recognised that strengthening bilateral cooperation on security combined with our dynamic economic relationship in this 50th anniversary year of the Commerce Agreement raised our comprehensive strategic partnership to new levels.
3. Both countries recognised each other as its indispensable partner in the region. Ministers noted that the bilateral relationship was underpinned by shared democratic values, common interests in peace and stability in the region, and respective alliance relationships with the United States. Ministers committed to deepening their trilateral engagement with the United States under the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD), as well as in the area of practical defence and security cooperation, and reaffirmed the importance of the continuing presence and engagement of the United States in the region. Japan and Australia will coordinate with the United States to hold the third round of the Ministerial Meeting of the TSD on the occasion of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting

in August.

Work on Common Strategic Issues

4. Ministers discussed the security environment within the region and beyond and recognised that there are tasks ahead that require joint contribution by Japan and Australia. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together on a wide range of global security issues to meet common challenges including cooperation in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in response to the North Korean nuclear and missile threats, and in helping secure long-term sustainable development in East Timor and the Pacific Island countries.
5. In particular, Ministers deplored the destabilising actions of North Korea and expressed deep concerns over North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs. They reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on measures to fully implement the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1695 and 1718. Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation on humanitarian issues including the expeditious resolution of the abduction issue.

Advancing Practical Cooperation

6. Ministers committed, in jointly working on security issues within the region and beyond, to advancing practical cooperation between Japan and Australia. In this context, Ministers decided to promote measures to facilitate the exchange of information of strategic importance. Welcoming the progress of the work to date, Ministers decided to accelerate the process of developing a forward-looking action plan to implement the JDSC, including the aspects of joint training and exercises.

Defence Cooperation

7. Ministers welcomed the transition of the Japan Defense Agency to the Ministry of Defense and the stipulation of International Peace Cooperation as a primary mission of the Japan Self-Defense Forces.
8. Ministers noted that since both countries' participation in UN Peace

Keeping Operations in Cambodia in 1992, Japan and Australia have deepened cooperation in various activities including UN Peace Keeping Operations in East Timor, Iraqi Reconstruction activities and International Disaster Relief activities for the earthquake and the subsequent tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean.

9. Ministers also committed to the expansion of bilateral defence cooperation including through unit-to-unit exchanges through aircraft visits, including P-3C and U-4, and ships, as well as enhancement of defence personnel exchanges. Japan welcomed Australia's invitation to observe the forthcoming Australia-United States Talisman Sabre exercise in June.
10. Ministers emphasised the contribution that bilateral defence cooperation could make to the development of trilateral cooperation between Japan, Australia and the United States, as reaffirmed in the first trilateral defence ministerial meeting on 2 June, and to broader multilateral exchanges and activities. They noted with satisfaction the successful Trilateral Pacific Global Air Mobility Seminar at Yokota Air Base in May. They looked forward to close cooperation between Japanese and Australian defence and other authorities in the Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief planned for 2008 under ARF auspices.
11. Ministers further welcomed the decision in the Defence Ministerial meeting on 5 June to commence updating the Memorandum on Defence Exchange, signed in 2003, as the JDSC action plan in the field of defence. The work on updating the memorandum will promote opportunities for expanding bilateral defence cooperation across a range of defence activities.

Cooperation on Disaster Relief

12. Japan and Australia decided to conduct joint training and exchanges in the field of humanitarian assistance between the two countries. In order to enhance the relief capability of both countries, an Australian Urban Search and Rescue team will participate in the Japan Disaster Relief Search and Rescue Joint Training in Japan this autumn. Ministers also decided to consider enhancing regional capacity in search and rescue.

Cooperation in Peacekeeping and Peace Building

13. Ministers decided to explore opportunities to develop and enhance regional capacity in peace keeping and peace building including through joint capacity building activities for third country nationals, and through promoting exchange of personnel in the region.

Cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Proliferation

14. Ministers renewed their commitment to wide-ranging cooperation to counter the threat posed by international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means. Welcoming the successful Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultations on 5 and 6 June in Sydney, and on-going cooperation in the context of global non-proliferation efforts such as the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), Ministers decided to enhance cooperation and information exchange, both in the bilateral and trilateral context.
15. Ministers noted the threat posed to international civil aviation by man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) in the hands of terrorists and other non-state groups. They stressed the importance of intensifying their efforts in the region to counter the illicit proliferation of MANPADS.

Cooperation on Stability of Pacific Island Countries

16. Consistent with their shared commitment to the security and prosperity of the Pacific region, Japan and Australia decided to commence an annual dialogue of their senior officials on the approach to that region, including in relation to development assistance.

Next Meeting

17. Australia will host the next Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations in 2008.
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Joint Statement by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd of Australia on “Comprehensive Strategic, Security and Economic Partnership” (June 2008) (Excerpt)

1. On 12 June 2008, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd of Australia met in Tokyo to reaffirm the particular importance of the relationship between Japan and Australia, and confirmed their commitment to strengthen further the comprehensive strategic, security and economic partnership between Japan and Australia.
2. The two Prime Ministers shared the view that the relationship was based on a long history of cooperation, trade and investment links of enduring significance to both countries, a growing strategic relationship reflecting shared strategic interests and democratic values, and close people-to-people links. They expressed their determination to strengthen these important pillars of the relationship and explore new areas of cooperation.
3. In this context, the two Prime Ministers called on the next Japan-Australia Conference to present forward-looking recommendations for future Japan-Australia relations.

Security Cooperation

4. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote bilateral security cooperation through the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and its Action Plan, including updating the Memorandum on Defence Exchange and holding the Customs Cooperation Meeting. This also covers continuing enhancement of defence exchanges including unit-to-unit exchanges through aircraft visits such as P-3Cs and ship visits. The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to work together to contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.
5. In this context, the two Prime Ministers welcomed steady implementation of the Action Plan, and reaffirmed the importance of reviewing the status of bilateral security cooperation and examining further ways to enhance

- cooperation with a view to reviewing the Action Plan.
6. The Japanese side welcomed Australia's proposal to host the next Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations ("two-plus-two") in Canberra in early November. The two Prime Ministers confirmed their commitment to hold the talks this year and to coordinate further to realise the proposal.
 7. Noting that Japan and Australia both maintained alliance relationships with the United States, the two Prime Ministers emphasised the strategic value of promoting bilateral security and defence cooperation between Japan and Australia.
 8. Underlining the importance of continuing presence and engagement of the United States in the region, the two Prime Ministers shared the view that strengthened bilateral cooperation would contribute to the enhancement of trilateral cooperation among Japan, Australia and the United States, such as through security and defence cooperation in the trilateral senior officials' meeting.
 9. The two Prime Ministers confirmed their commitment to enhance dialogue and cooperation on a trilateral basis with the United States. The two Prime Ministers shared the view that the third ministerial meeting of the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) to be held in late June would give greater momentum to furthering trilateral engagement in a practical manner including through disaster relief cooperation. In this context, the Japanese side welcomed Australia's offer to host a first meeting of TSD disaster relief experts.
 10. The two Prime Ministers renewed their commitment to tackle the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the fifth anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and expressed their determination to continue cooperation in the effective implementation of the PSI and its outreach activities.
 11. The two Prime Ministers stressed the need to enhance regional capacities to provide disaster relief, including through the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP), and welcomed the World Food

Program's plan to establish a regional disaster simulation facility. In this context, the Australian side noted Japan's intention to consider creating a network among disaster relief organisations already existing in Asia which would complement the work of other regional mechanisms. The Japanese side took note of Australia's intention to conduct a feasibility study on improving regional disaster relief mechanisms and to consult Japan closely on this.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

40. In order to realise long-term stability and prosperity in East Asia, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the development of the East Asia Summit (EAS) by promoting specific cooperation in such areas as energy security, finance, the environment, disaster management, climate change, education and youth exchange, based upon the principle of openness and universally shared values.

Regional Economic Integration

41. The two Prime Ministers also welcomed initiatives for regional economic integration including the Track Two study on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA), the establishment of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), initiatives on regional financial cooperation and the APEC initiatives for strengthening regional economic integration including the examination of the options and prospects for a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) as a long-term prospect.

APEC

42. Noting that Japan and Australia had been formative in the development of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the two Prime Ministers affirmed their shared commitment to strengthening APEC as one of the primary regional institutions and noted the contribution APEC could make to regional economic integration.

Future of Asia Pacific Region

43. The two Prime Ministers underlined the importance of continuing regional discussions on the future of the Asia Pacific region to explore ways to better respond to common challenges in the region, referring to Prime Minister Fukuda's Initiative for the future of the Asia Pacific as well as Prime Minister Rudd's proposal to exchange views on a future vision of the region including regional architecture.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

46. The two Prime Ministers renewed their determination to strengthen the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that they would continue to closely cooperate with each other with a view to achieving a successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference including through launching a bilateral initiative for high-level expert dialogue on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, the Japanese side welcomed the idea of establishing an international commission on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament proposed by Prime Minister Rudd on 9 June in Kyoto.
47. The two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of cooperating in the field of denuclearization of the Russian Federation, including the dismantlement of decommissioned nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East.

Memorandum on Defence Cooperation between Ministry of Defense, Japan and Department of Defence, Australia (December 2008)

This Memorandum is between the Ministry of Defense, Japan (MOD) and the Department of Defence, Australia (ADOD) (hereinafter referred to as both defence authorities).

Both defence authorities,
recognise that the strategic partnership between Japan and Australia, based on shared security interests; friendship founded in trust and mutual respect; and a strong commitment to democracy and freedom, will continue as the basis of the excellent bilateral defence relations;
acknowledge the mutual benefits inherent in continuing their cooperation and exchange in the field of defence;
recognise that the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation of 13 March 2007 and the Memorandum on Defence Exchange between Japan Defense Agency and Department of Defence Australia, which was signed on 29 September 2003, facilitate the conduct of defence cooperation activities;
seek to deepen bilateral cooperation in international peace cooperation activities, following the stipulation of international peace cooperation activities as a primary mission of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the past achievements of defence cooperation;
desire to strengthen their longstanding mutual commitment to bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation between Japan and Australia so as to promote peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region and beyond,
hereby express the following:

1. Both defence authorities share the intention to conduct the following joint defence activities.
 - (a) High Level Exchange
 - (i) Hold annual bilateral Defence Ministerial meeting.
 - (ii) Hold regular visits between the Vice-Minister of Defense of the MOD and the Secretary of the ADOD; between the Chief of Staff, Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Chief of the Defence Force of the Australian Defence Force (ADF); and between the Chiefs of Staff of the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces and their respective ADF counterparts.
 - (b) Working Level Exchange
 - (i) Hold regular military-to-military consultations on security and defence matters at the director-general or deputy director-general

level.

- (ii) Hold regular strategic policy discussions.
 - (iii) Hold regular staff talks between the Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the ADF's Headquarters Australian Joint Operations Command.
 - (iv) Hold regular staff talks between the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) and the Australian Army (AA).
 - (v) Hold regular staff talks between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
 - (vi) Hold regular staff talks between the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
 - (vii) Hold staff talks on relevant subject matters between any combination of the GSDF, MSDF, ASDF and the AA, RAN and RAAF as required.
 - (viii) Hold working level international peace cooperation activities dialogue on the occasion of the above exchanges for practical defence cooperation in such areas.
- (c) Unit-to-Unit Exchange
- (i) Participate, including as observers, in bilateral and multilateral exercises.
 - (ii) Implement unit-to-unit exchanges between the GSDF and the AA.
 - (iii) Expand and enhance regular mutual maritime patrol aircraft exchanges between the MSDF and the RAN, RAAF including exercises and exchange programs.
 - (iv) Expand and enhance exercises and exchange programs whenever occasion permits such as during regular mutual aircraft visits by the ASDF and the RAAF.
 - (v) Expand and enhance exercises and exchange programs whenever occasion permits such as during regular mutual ship visits, including but not limited to training ships, by the MSDF and the RAN.
 - (vi) Implement unit-to-unit exchanges between any combinations of the GSDF, MSDF, ASDF and the AA, RAN and RAAF.
- (d) Education and Research Exchange
- (i) Exchanges of students between educational institutions of both

defence authorities.

- (ii) Exchanges of representatives between educational and research institutions of both defence authorities.
- (e) Information Exchange
 - (i) Exchange strategic assessments and related information in areas of mutual interest.
- (f) Technical Exchange
 - (i) Seek cooperation and collaboration in the area of defence science and technology, which may include the sharing of information and expertise in areas of mutual interest.
- (g) Cooperation in international peace cooperation activities
 - (i) Promote cooperation in international peace cooperation activities. International peace cooperation activities will be defined by each country's regulations and include, but not be limited to, the following areas:
 - International peace cooperation operations such as United Nations peacekeeping operations.
 - International disaster relief activities.
 - The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).
 - Activities to respond to international terrorism.
 - (ii) Conduct the following to promote cooperation in international peace cooperation activities:
 - Share inventories of regional disaster relief assets and capabilities of each defence authority's armed forces.
 - Participate in exercises conducted within multilateral frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum.
 - (iii) Undertake studies on measures to promote smooth cooperation in the area of logistics cooperation.
- (h) Multilateral Cooperation
 - (i) Strengthen defence cooperation within the trilateral framework among Japan, Australia and the United States.
 - (ii) Strengthen cooperation in multilateral frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and participate in multilateral consultations

and seminars held by both defence authorities (including the Tokyo Defense Forum organised by the MOD and the International Peace Operations Seminar organised by the ADOD).

(i) Other Activities

- (i) Active participation in training courses and seminars offered by both defence authorities.
 - (ii) Short-term exchanges of MOD and ADOD personnel to promote greater mutual understanding and friendship.
 - (iii) Visit by the MSDF Icebreaker “Shirase” to Australian ports.
2. Both defence authorities will work to coordinate and link the exchanges mentioned in 1. in order to harmonise efforts and create more effective and efficient exchanges leading to greater opportunities for defence cooperation.
 3. Both defence authorities will develop an annual calendar of defence exchanges to assist with planning for practical initiatives, and will monitor the progress of practical cooperation listed in the annual calendar through the working level exchanges listed in 1. (b) of this Memorandum including through regular military-to-military consultations.
 4. Cooperation measures between both defence authorities are not limited to those listed above. Both defence authorities may consider and perform such other areas of defence cooperation as they mutually determine in the future.
 5. International Policy Divisions will act as the Points of Contact for their defence authorities under this Memorandum, to ensure the steady progress of the above mentioned activities and coordinate matters of policy associated with the Memorandum.
 6. Both defence authorities express their intention to ensure that any information which includes any knowledge and medium in which it is contained, acquired in the processes of their defence cooperation is administered appropriately, in line with their respective laws and fully taking into account the requests from the other side. The information, when designated, will not be released to any person, body or government other than the Governments of both defence authorities without the prior

written consent of the providing defence authority.

7. Both defence authorities recognise that this Memorandum does not give rise to legally binding rights or obligations and the above mentioned activities are conducted within the legal and budgetary constraints of each country.
8. Both defence authorities may review this Memorandum at any time and amend it by mutual consent in writing.
9. This Memorandum supersedes the 2003 Memorandum on the date it is signed by both Defence Ministers.

Signed at Tokyo on 18 December 2008 in duplicate in the English and Japanese languages, both texts having equal validity.

Yasukazu Hamada
Minister of Defense
Japan

Joel Fitzgibbon
Minister for Defence
The Commonwealth of Australia

Australia Defence White Paper 2009 (May 2009) (Excerpt)

4.21 Japan is, and will remain, a significant military power. Within its alliance with the US, Japan is likely to expand slowly its strategic engagement, including by way of contributions to UN operations and multinational coalitions. Japan's alliance with the United States has been a key stabilising feature of the postwar regional security environment and will continue to play a vitally important role. Were Japan unable to rely on that alliance, its strategic outlook would be dramatically different, and it would be compelled to re-

examine its strategic posture and capabilities.

11.13 Japan is a critical strategic partner in our region and more broadly, not least because of our shared interests as close US allies. Given its strong national capacity and defence capabilities, Japan can make a significant contribution to the security and reconstruction of fragile states and to the development of greater international capacity in areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and peacekeeping operations. We will continue to work to develop our practical defence cooperation with Japan, building on our operational cooperation in Iraq and improving the interoperability of our defence forces, bilaterally and with the United States through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue.

Major elements of the Action Plan to implement the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation (December 2009)

1. Strengthening cooperation on issues of common strategic interest
 - (1) Enhance policy coordination on security issues in the Asia Pacific region and beyond
 - (2) Exchange information and coordinate policy with respect to issues related to North Korea, such as the abduction, nuclear, and missile issues
 - (3) Enhance bilateral cooperation in the trilateral framework with the United States and in other multilateral frameworks including any existing and future regional security groupings
 - (4) Cooperate in APEC, the East Asia Summit, the ARF, and, on Australia taking up its membership, the Asia-Europe Meeting and continue regional discussions on the future of the region.
 - (5) Cooperate closely on Pacific Islands issues

2. United Nations reform
 - (1) Continue dialogue and cooperation on UN Reform, including actively pursuing early realisation of Japan's permanent membership of the UN Security Council
 - (2) Exchange views on UN Security Council priorities and issues
3. Security and defence cooperation
 - (1) Work towards an agreement on mutual logistics support
 - (2) Conduct following activities in accordance with the current Memorandum on Defence Cooperation:
 - (a) annual Ministerial meetings
 - (b) high level exchange
 - (c) working level exchange
 - (d) unit-to-unit exchange
 - (e) technical exchange
 - (f) information exchange
 - (g) cooperation in international peace cooperation activities
 - (h) enhancement of bilateral defence cooperation in such frameworks as Japan-Australia-US trilateral framework and the ARF
 - (i) development of an annual calendar of cooperation and exchange activities
 - (j) others
 - (3) Conduct discussions on North Asian Security in the framework of the Australia-Japan 1.5 Track Dialogue
 - (4) Enhance bilateral strategic discussions and exchanges, including in the context of the Trilateral Security and Defence Cooperation Forum
 - (5) Enhance exchange of views on human security
4. Law enforcement
 - (1) Enhance the cooperative relationship between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Japan's National Police Agency (NPA)
 - (2) Exchange information relating to illicit drugs, including drug precursor chemicals
 - (3) Continue regular dialogue to coordinate regional aid strategies on trans-boundary threats in the region

- (4) Hold regular Customs Cooperation Meeting to consolidate cooperation
- (5) Enhance cooperation to combat money laundering
- (6) Cooperate to progress discussions on the Arms Trade Treaty initiative
5. Border Security
 - (1) Explore possibilities for bilateral cooperation in the area of border security
 - (2) Implement the Airline Liaison Officer initiative
6. Counter-terrorism
 - (1) Strengthen bilateral cooperation among counter-terrorism officials
 - (2) Participate in the next trilateral counter-terrorism talks
 - (3) Jointly contribute to building up the capacity of developing countries in the area of port security and border control
 - (4) Share research, best practice, open source materials and technological solutions on counter-radicalisation activities
 - (5) Make Joint Efforts to strengthen CBRN terrorism prevention measures in developing countries
 - (6) Cooperate to enhance the capacity of developing countries to identify and interdict cash couriers and bulk cash smugglers
7. Disarmament and counter-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destructions and their means of delivery
 - (1) Hold annually the Australia-Japan Bilateral Disarmament and Non-proliferation Talks
 - (2) Cooperate to promote the PSI in the region
 - (3) Cooperate on counter-proliferation outreach efforts, including considering holding Chemical Weapons Convention implementation workshops
 - (4) Promote the exchange of information relating to imports and exports of concern
 - (5) Cooperate in the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty review process
 - (6) Promote international discussion taking into account the findings of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the lead-up to the NPT Review Conference
8. Peace Operations

- (1) NPA to attend AFP's International Deployment Group pre-deployment training
 - (2) Explore further opportunities for Cooperation with Japan's Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding
 - (3) Co-host a symposium on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Reconciliation to develop proposals for cooperation
 - (4) Cooperate in support of the work of RAMSI
 - (5) Encourage linkages between Australian and Japanese organisations for the study of peacekeeping, including the new Asia-Pacific Civil Military Centre of Excellence
9. Exchange of strategic assessments and related information
- (1) Continue negotiations on a bilateral agreement on classified information sharing and security
 - (2) Enhance the exchange of strategic assessments and related information through regular meetings between relevant agencies
10. Maritime and aviation security
- (1) Hold a bilateral dialogue on transport security
 - (2) Australia Customs and Japan Coast Guard to meet to discuss joint exercises, personnel exchange, and training opportunities
 - (3) Explore ways jointly to assist East Timor in strengthening its maritime security
 - (4) Explore ways to cooperate in regional and global anti-piracy efforts
11. Humanitarian relief operations, including disaster relief
- (1) Consult closely on regional disaster response issues and identify areas for cooperation, particularly in disaster response and risk reduction
 - (2) Jointly strengthen the capacity of the UN to support regional disaster response and disaster management
12. Forthcoming dialogues
- (1) Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations
 - (2) Foreign Ministers meeting
 - (3) Defence Ministers meeting
 - (4) Official's pol-mil dialogue
 - (5) Official's Defence Policy Talks

- (6) Official's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Talks
- (7) Customs Cooperation Meeting
- (8) Senior Officials Talks on East Asia

Operation Pacific Assist **(<http://www.defence.gov.au/op/pacificassist/>)**

Operation Pacific Assist was the Australian Defence Force (ADF) component of a joint effort between the ADF and Emergency Management Australia (EMA). Their mission was to provide an Emergency Services Task Force in the wake of the earthquake in Japan and the subsequent devastating tsunami. NSW Police, Fire and Ambulance services; ACT fire fighters; and, search and rescue dog handlers from Queensland came together to create the Task Force. The ADF provided strategic air lift of the Task Force to Yokota Airbase, Japan by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C17A Globemaster. The Task Force arrived in the early hours of Monday 14 March.

The C-17A Globemaster remained in Japan for two weeks and undertook 23 sorties providing intra-country airlift of vital stores and equipment assisting in the humanitarian effort, including food and bottled water.

During its deployment, the C-17A and its crew moved more than a million pounds (450 tonnes) of cargo, including 41 vehicles, as well as 135 passengers. Two additional C-17A Globemasters undertook a mission from Australia to Japan carrying a remotely operated water cannon system to assist with containment operations at the Fukushima Number One nuclear power plant.

The C-17A aircrew from the RAAF's No. 36 Squadron based in Queensland are well-trained to operate in a whole range of environments, but the conditions they experienced in Japan were challenging. They faced snow and ice - something that they don't see every day in their normal duties - and they had to deal with limited infrastructure and limited services such as air traffic

control.

The Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, congratulated the RAAF ground and flight crews and other ADF personnel who were involved in Operation Pacific Assist. He said their efforts have been noticed by our Japanese and US partners, and Australians should be justifiably proud that the contribution has helped relieve the suffering of a large number of people.

The ADF's operation ceased on 25 March 2011.

Japan-Australia-United States Defense Leaders' Joint Statement (June 2012, Singapore)

Australia-Japan-United States trilateral defense cooperation has supported and enhanced the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, and the three countries' defense leaders are committed to ensuring this continues. Throughout the remainder of this decade, we will work to refine and consolidate the trilateral defense relationship to support the network of existing alliances, forums, and dialogues to meet a variety of common security challenges.

The Asia-Pacific faces a constantly evolving strategic landscape and increasingly diverse security challenges—including terrorism, piracy, large scale natural disasters, trafficking in arms, narcotics, and people, cyber threats, a congested and contested space domain, and proliferation of missile technology and weapons of mass destruction, and ensuring maritime security and freedom of navigation. Together, we seek positive and proactive trilateral defense relations based on a common set of democratic values, established habits of cooperation, similar strategic perspectives and a common goal of promoting security and stability in a rules-based international order.

Defense Ministers of Australia and Japan and the United States Secretary of Defense will develop and implement an action plan that promotes a strong, dynamic and flexible trilateral defense relationship over the remainder of this

decade to enhance the security and prosperity of the region.

The trilateral Security and Defense Cooperation Forum, which provides a regular forum for our defense and foreign affairs communities to engage in strategic dialogue, will work with colleagues in other government offices to recommend ways to enhance interoperability, build cooperative capacity and related skills within our defense forces, and foster practical and efficient multilateral cooperation and capacity building with other nations and with regional forums.

4th Australia-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations “Australia and Japan: Cooperating for peace and stability” (September 2012)

Common Vision and Objectives

1. The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Bob Carr, the Australian Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E Mr Koichiro Gamba, and the Minister of Defense of Japan, H.E Mr Satoshi Morimoto, met in Sydney on 14 September to discuss regional and global security issues and ways to advance security and defence cooperation between Australia and Japan.
2. Australia and Japan are natural strategic partners sharing common values and interests, including a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, protection of human rights and open markets.
3. Australia and Japan share a common strategic objective of ensuring long-term peace, stability and prosperity in the changing strategic and security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.
4. To help achieve that objective, Australia and Japan are committed to working even more closely on security and defence matters in the following ways:

Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific

5. Deepening exchanges and working together to strengthen regional cooperation on issues that have the potential to undermine the stability of the region.
6. Ensuring mutual support for our respective alliances with the United States, which continue to help underwrite peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific, and working together as active partners to maintain and strengthen comprehensive US engagement in the region.
7. Enhancing trilateral policy coordination and practical cooperation among Australia, Japan and the United States on a range of regional and global issues through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue.
8. Continuing to build positive, comprehensive relationships with China, in support of China's responsible and constructive participation in the international rules-based order and role in promoting regional prosperity and stability while encouraging improved openness and transparency with respect to China's military modernization and activities.
9. Strengthening mutually beneficial relationships and cooperation on security issues with other countries in the region, including India, the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries.
10. Working with parties concerned to achieve long-term peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, including through strongly urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to fully comply with the relevant UNSC Resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement, and to resolve humanitarian concerns in the DPRK, such as the abductions issue.
11. Strengthening regional architecture, particularly the East Asia Summit, to promote cooperation on political, security, economic and other challenges facing the region.
12. Welcoming the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and supporting cooperation and practical activities in the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus.
13. Promoting regional adherence to norms of maritime security and safety,

- including freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce, and the rules-based peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea and beyond in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea(UNCLOS).
14. Advancing cooperation on development issues, including by assisting developing countries in the region to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and by supporting the establishment of the UN's post 2015 development agenda.
 15. Strengthening joint efforts in support of sustainable development in the Pacific, including through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM), and in accordance with the PIF Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific and other internationally recognized principles on aid effectiveness, by:
 - (a) encouraging and supporting democracy, economic reform and good governance;
 - (b) improving health, education and infrastructure;
 - (c) promoting environmental and resource sustainability, including in fisheries;
 - (d) enhancing maritime surveillance; and
 - (e) adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
 16. Deepening exchanges and cooperation on the impacts of climate change and food, water and energy security.

Cooperation on international security issues

17. Deepening cooperation in global and regional fora, including the United Nations, to address international security concerns.
18. Pursuing regional and global action to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, including through cooperation in the Proliferation Security Initiative and supporting Japan's role as chair of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation in 2013-2014; and to uphold the international legal frameworks of non-proliferation and disarmament.
19. Working to achieve the resolution of legitimate international concerns

- about Iran's nuclear activities. Working to enhance regional and global focus on the control of and trade in WMD-related goods based on the relevant international norms and obligations.
20. Working with partners in the Australia-Japan established Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative to give practical effect to consensus outcomes agreed within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) framework.
 21. Preparing regionally for the 2015 NPT Review Conference through Australia, Japan and the Philippines' 2012-2014 co-chairing term of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-proliferation and Disarmament.
 22. Continuing cooperation bilaterally and amongst the Co-author's Group on international efforts to agree, as soon as possible, an Arms Trade Treaty to regulate international trade in conventional arms.
 23. Strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation on disaster management, including through improved coordination in the civil and military areas, and on disaster preparedness and response. Working proactively to realise tangible outcomes at the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which Japan has expressed its intention to host.
 24. Exploring opportunities for information exchange, sharing of expertise and joint exercising between Australian and Japanese agencies responsible for disaster preparedness and response.
 25. Working together to confront increasing threats in cyberspace by shaping international and regional dialogue on cyber issues, including on the development of international frameworks for cooperation.
 26. Strengthening cooperation on space-security issues, bilaterally, trilaterally with the United States and with other parties, particularly on the development of international norms and confidence-building measures for space. Working together to take forward the proposed International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. Engaging the region more on space issues, including in the ASEAN Regional Forum.
 27. Enhancing cooperation on counter-terrorism through strengthened collaboration in the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and regional fora, and with other partners, including the United States

through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue.

28. Enhancing cooperation towards the early realisation of United Nations Security Council reform, including Japan's permanent membership.
29. Cooperating to support stability and sustainable development in Afghanistan.

Bilateral defence cooperation

30. Strengthening practical bilateral defence cooperation to enable the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and both defence ministries to work closely, effectively and at short notice in order to address regional and broader international security and defence requirements.
31. Strengthening interoperability between the two countries' defence organisations, to enable Australia and Japan to conduct operations together in the fields of maritime security, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and evacuation operations.
32. Maintaining an action plan that promotes an effective and flexible bilateral defence relationship with a forward five year focus.
33. Conducting regular air, land, and maritime exercises and engagement to boost interoperability and increase the skills and capabilities of both defence organisations.
34. Deepening bilateral information exchanges at the strategic, operational and tactical levels in support of interoperability.
35. Expanding people-to-people links and exchanges, including exchanges of strategy, policy and science personnel.
36. Deepening Australia-Japan science and technology cooperation in the field of defence, noting Japan's 2011 Guidelines for Overseas Transfer of Defense Equipment.
37. Initiating information exchanges in defence science and technology fields of mutual interest.
38. Deepening the relationship and linkages between the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) of Australia and the Technical Research and Development Institute (TRDI) of Japan.

39. Examining opportunities for defence capacity building cooperation in South East Asia and the Pacific.
40. Through early activation of the Australia-Japan Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement deepening Australia-Japan cooperation, including the conduct of exercises, operations and other practical exchanges.
41. Building on the cooperation between ADF and JSDF in the Republic of South Sudan, explore further opportunities to work jointly to contribute to international peace building efforts.
42. Reviewing existing bilateral cooperation frameworks to ensure they meet the needs of the expanding Australia-Japan relationship and developing additional arrangements if necessary.

Trilateral defence cooperation

43. Strengthening trilateral defence cooperation with the United States.
44. Strengthening interoperability amongst the defence organisations of all three countries.
45. Focusing on robust, regular and practical cooperation among Australia, Japan and the United States through the Trilateral Defence Ministers' Meeting, the Trilateral Security and Defence Cooperation Forum (SDCF) and trilateral service-specific talks.
46. Developing and implementing an action plan that promotes a strong, dynamic and flexible trilateral defence relationship over the remainder of the decade.
47. Conducting trilateral exercises with a focus on improving each country's ability to enhance maritime security through air, land and maritime cooperation.
48. Conducting observer exchanges to respective exercises with the United States.

Consultation and information exchange

49. Consolidating further the Australia-Japan foreign and defence ministers 2+2 meeting as the key bilateral mechanism with oversight of the security and defence relationship.

50. Establishing a 2+2 senior-officials mechanism, supported by a working-level consultation process, to enhance bilateral consultation and coordination and maintaining the existing regular political-military, military-military, and service-to-service talks.
51. Building on the signing of the Information Security Agreement between Australia and Japan, including by considering practical ways to facilitate sharing of information and strengthening cooperative endeavors in this area.

Australia Defence White Paper 2013 (May 2013) (Excerpt)

2.35 Japan, a US ally, will remain a major power in the Indo-Pacific. Since 2009, Japan's concern about China's military modernisation has increased, particularly following tensions over the status of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. Under its 2010 National Defense Program Guidelines, Japan outlined a concept of 'dynamic deterrence' under which it is enhancing its capacity to respond to incidents short of major conflict.

6.41 Japan has a strong history of technology and manufacturing expertise; the Government will continue to develop a defence science and technology relationship with Japan to identify cooperative areas of mutual benefit. Opportunities to enhance defence science and technology cooperation will be explored in both the research and operational testing fields, as will opportunities for industry cooperation.

Joint Trilateral Statement of Australia-Japan-United States Trilateral Senior Level Seminar (July 2013)

After taking command on 2 July 2013, General Vincent Brooks, Commanding General, US Army, Pacific; hosted an inaugural AUS-JPN-US Trilateral Senior Level Seminar (TSLS) on 15-16 July, 2013, at Honolulu, Hawaii. The Heads of Delegation (HOD) were: Lieutenant General David Morrison, Chief of Army, Australia; General Eiji Kimizuka, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF); Lieutenant General Terry Robling, Commanding General, US Marine Corps Forces, Pacific; and General Vincent Brooks, Commanding General, US Army, Pacific.

The Heads of Delegation acknowledged that the Australia-Japan-US trilateral defense ministerial talks occurred on 1 June 2013 at Singapore during the International Institute of Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue. The HODs openly shared strategic thoughts and visions regarding security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. They reaffirmed that the respective relationships are based on transparency, common values and mutual trust, providing the foundation for sound and effective relationships. Furthermore, the respective HODs explored a wide range of trilateral engagement opportunities to further build capacity to contribute to security and stability of the region.

The HODs agreed that activities in areas for future developments must adhere to national interests and authorities of all parties, including but not limited to: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; liaison/junior officer exchanges and education, exercising logistics cooperation under the respective Acquisition Cross Servicing Agreement provisions, sharing information on capacity building programs, sharing lessons learned, building upon existing bilateral exercises for trilateral cooperation, and pursuing amphibious training as a clear path forward for each nations.

The Heads of Delegation agreed to continue to enrich relations among Australia, Japan, and the U.S. By pursuing mutually beneficial military relations, the undersigned agree to continue to cooperate closely in planning and conducting cooperative engagements and activities of benefit to all.

LTGEN David Morrison
Chief of Army
Australia

GEN Eiji Kimizuka
Chief of Staff
Japan Ground Self Defense Force

LtGen Terry Robling
Commanding General
US Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

GEN Vincent Brooks
Commanding General
US Army, Pacific

Trilateral Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement (October 2013)

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Julie Bishop, the Foreign Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, and the Secretary of State of the United States, John Kerry, met in Bali, Indonesia on October 4, 2013 for the fifth ministerial meeting of the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) to discuss current and emerging regional and global issues.

The TSD Ministerial meeting was held on the margins of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) Ministerial meeting.

The three ministers affirmed their commitment to the TSD process as it allows for a timely exchange of views on the regional strategic environment.

The ministers discussed ways in which all three countries could collaborate and contribute to regional stability and sustained economic prosperity.

Ministers welcomed UN Security Council resolution 2118 and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Executive Council Decision [EC-M-33/DEC.1] on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons and called for the early convening of the Geneva II conference on political transition, as well as for improved humanitarian access and support as reflected in the 2 October UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Syria.

Ministers reiterated their concern regarding the Iranian nuclear program, welcomed the announcement of the next round of talks between the E3+3 and Iran in Geneva on October 15-16, and encouraged Iran to engage substantively with the E3+3 in the new round of talks, and adhere to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors.

Ministers expressed deep concern at North Korea's continued development of its nuclear and missile programs and proliferation activities. They called on North Korea to comply with UN Security Resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087, and 2094.

The ministers also called on North Korea to adhere to the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement by taking concrete and irreversible steps to abandon its nuclear weapons and all existing nuclear programs in a complete and verifiable manner. They also expressed deep concern at North Korea's deplorable human rights record, including the abductions issue.

Ministers opposed any coercive or unilateral actions that could change the status quo in the East China Sea. They underlined the importance of efforts to reduce tensions and to avoid miscalculations or accidents in the East China Sea, including by improving marine communications.

The ministers affirmed the importance of peace and stability, respect for international law, unimpeded trade and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. They called on claimants to refrain from actions that could increase tensions, to clarify and pursue claims in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and for ASEAN and China to agree on a meaningful Code of Conduct.

The ministers recognized that the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus, ASEAN Regional Forum and APEC are key fora to

strengthen regional security and economic integration.

The ministers recognized the value of the TSD mechanism and reaffirmed their shared commitment to address security challenges of mutual interest in the Indian Ocean Asia-Pacific region.

Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) Joint Communiqué (November 2013) (Excerpt)

The United States and Australia agree to deepen cooperation with Japan through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue, the Security and Defense Cooperation Forum, and other fora to advance shared objectives in relation to global and regional peace and security. They agree to support Japan's efforts to re-examine its security and defense policies to contribute to enhanced regional peace and security, and increase information sharing with Japan to bolster trilateral cooperative defense and diplomacy efforts. The two countries undertook to work with Japan to improve regional security and defense capacities in the region to help prepare for humanitarian and disaster relief contingencies as well as to promote freedom of navigation and regional maritime security.

The United States and Australia call on all claimants to refrain from coercion, intimidation, and other actions that could increase tensions, and to clarify and pursue territorial claims and accompanying maritime claims in the South China Sea peacefully and in accordance with international law, including as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. They reaffirmed their commitment to oppose any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea.

National Security Strategy (December 2013) (Provisional Translation) (Excerpt)

IV. Japan's Strategic Approaches to National Strategy

3. Strengthening Diplomacy and Security Cooperation with Japan's Partners for Peace and Stability in the International Community

Australia is an important regional partner that shares not only universal values but also strategic interests with Japan. In addition to strengthening the mutually complementary economic relations between the two countries, Japan will also strengthen its strategic partnership by steadily sharing strategic recognition and advancing security cooperation. Japan will also promote a wide range of cooperation with Australia in its efforts to shape a regional order in the Asia-Pacific and to maintain and reinforce peace and stability in the international community. In so doing, Japan will utilize the trilateral framework among Japan, the U.S. and Australia, as necessary.

National Defense Program Guidelines for FY 2014 and Beyond (December 2013) (Provisional Translation) (Excerpt)

III. Japan's Basic Defense Policy

4. Active Promotion of Security Cooperation

(1) Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region

- Japan will further deepen its relationship with Australia and will strengthen cooperation in fields such as international peacekeeping activities. Japan will also actively conduct joint trainings and other activities so as to improve interoperability with Australia.
- Efforts will be made to strengthen cooperative relationships under trilateral frameworks among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK and among Japan, the U.S. and Australia.