

Strengthening Diplomatic Capabilities

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefing material)

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Overview of Changes in the Security Environment

- Challenges to the free and open **international order** based on the rule of law are intensifying, and **the international order is becoming increasingly fluid**.
- As U.S. priorities toward global challenges evolve, its allies and like-minded countries are increasingly required to take more proactive roles.
- The security environment in the Indo-Pacific region is deteriorating and becoming more complex.
- Russia's aggression against Ukraine has been continuing for **more than four years**, highlighting the importance of adapting to "new ways of warfare" and ensuring sustained operational capability in prolonged conflict.
- As security challenges in peacetime are diversifying, such as **the growing importance of economic security**, responses to cyberattacks and cognitive warfare, and the rapid advancement of AI technologies, economic and technological strength determine diplomatic and defense capabilities. **It is necessary to organically integrate six elements in a coordinated manner: diplomacy, defense, economy, technology, intelligence, and human resources.**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine

Russian actions and statements that could be interpreted as "intimidation by nuclear weapons"

Deepening China–Russia Coordination and Russia–North Korea Cooperation

North Korea's continued development of nuclear, missile and conventional weapons

Changes in U.S. Approaches and Responses

There is also a growing danger that resorting to force to resolve disputes may become increasingly normalized.

Instability in the Middle East

Israeli military operations in Gaza

Exchange of attacks among the United States, Israel, and Iran

Expansion of China's influence

The Current International Situation and the Strategic Update of the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”

Diplomacy to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order

- As the international order becomes more fluid and the security environment changes, Japan will **take the initiative** and **play an active role** in maintaining and strengthening a **free and open international order**.
- Therefore, it is essential to strengthen **the Japan-U.S. alliance** – the cornerstone of our nation’s foreign policy and security – as well as to enhance cooperation with **like-minded countries, including those in Europe**, with whom we share common interests in maintaining the international order. Furthermore, it is particularly important to strengthen relations with countries in the **Indo-Pacific region**, which will hold the key to the future peace and stability of the international community.

Guiding Principles

- Japan will continue to fulfill its responsibilities in building an international order based on “freedom”, “openness”, “diversity”, “inclusiveness”, and “the rule of law” in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The world is undergoing rapid change, driven by accelerating **technological innovation**, including AI; emerging and growing **social challenges** arising from the rise and economic growth of the Global South; and intensifying **geopolitical competition**.
- In light of these changes, Japan **updates** the vision of the FOIP, while firmly upholding its core principles as set out in 2016.

Key Features of the Updated FOIP

- Amid an increasingly severe international environment, it is essential for countries in the Indo-Pacific, including Japan, to **enhance resilience** and **promote their freedom to decide for themselves** across economic, social, and security domains, so that they can determine their own future while recognizing the complexities of interdependence.
- Japan will advance these efforts on its own while also working closely with its ally, the United States, and other like-minded partners to provide cooperation tailored to the needs of countries in the region. Through these efforts, Japan aims to become more **resilient** and **prosperous together** with the region as a whole.
- To achieve this, Japan will **identify priority areas** that require particular attention at present and advance **concrete initiatives** that deliver benefits to both partner countries and Japan, making full use of all available tools.

Priority Areas

Area 1: Building economic infrastructure for the age of AI and data including by strengthening supply chain resilience for energy and critical materials

To achieve economic prosperity while addressing a wide range of risks, including supply disruptions and cyber threats, Japan will strengthen efforts to enhance the **resilience of supply chains for energy and critical materials**. Japan will also focus on **developing both hard and soft infrastructure necessary for the age of AI and data**. Japan will work together with partner countries to build **an innovation ecosystem** based on security, safety, trust and sharing. Through these efforts, Japan aims to establish new economic infrastructure suited to the changing era and to **enhance the region's resilience and promote their freedom to decide for themselves**.

Area 2: Co-creation of economic growth opportunities through public-private collaboration and rule sharing

By leveraging Japan's expertise and technology to address challenges in the Global South, Japan will advance concrete cooperative projects through **public-private collaboration**, thereby co-creating **new business opportunities and markets**. To elevate the Indo-Pacific economy to new heights and achieve shared prosperity, Japan will work to strengthen **connectivity**, support the **development and implementation of rules**, and promote **free trade** and investment, thereby opening new frontiers for economic growth.

Area 3: Enhancing cooperation in the field of security to ensure regional peace and stability

Japan will further advance the development of multilayered security cooperation frameworks. Japan will seamlessly utilize and coordinate the full range of policy tools at its disposal including ODA, OSA (Official Security Assistance), and defense equipment transfers and related cooperation. By doing so, Japan will work with like-minded partners to enhance the connectivity of operations, training, related industries and initiatives.

Through these efforts, Japan will **strengthen the security and law enforcement capabilities of countries in the region** and cooperate toward the realization of peace and stability in the region.

Japan's Policy toward the United States and Japan-U.S. Security Arrangement

- The Japan-U.S. Alliance serves as **the cornerstone of Japan's foreign policy and security.**
- As Japan's sole ally, with the world's greatest comprehensive national power, **the United States remains indispensable to maintaining regional stability.**



(Key Priorities Moving Forward)

- ⇒ **Deepen high-quality and tangible cooperation across a wide range of areas**—covering diplomatic and security affairs, as well as economic affairs, including economic security—so that **Japan and the United States can realize their mutual interests and further strengthen the Alliance.**
- ✓ Maintain and strengthen **the U.S. commitment to the Indo-Pacific region.**
- ✓ Further enhance **the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance**, including extended deterrence, through **reinforcing Japan's defense capabilities and advancing a broad range of Japan-U.S. security cooperation.**
- ✓ Achieve **economic growth and strengthen economic security** for both Japan and the U.S. by **advancing the expansion of trade and investment relations**, the development of resilient **supply chains** for critical minerals and other resources, and cooperation on **advanced technologies** including AI.

Security cooperation with like-minded countries

- Japan will strengthen cooperation with its ally and like-minded countries that value the maintenance and development of a free and open international order, by leveraging multifaceted cooperation frameworks. In particular, it is important **to promote multilayered cooperation with allies and like-minded countries of the U.S. in the region, such as Japan-U.S.-ROK, Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-Philippines, and Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) .**
- Furthermore, from the perspective that the security of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions is inseparable, Japan will also **deepen cooperation with like-minded countries and partners in Europe, including the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).**
- Japan will enhance and utilize the legal foundations and dialogue frameworks for security cooperation. Japan will establish and maintain critical partnerships for economic security.

ODA's Contribution to Security

- ODA has contributed to the stabilization of sea lanes, the development of a desirable security environment for Japan, and regional stabilization. Strategically strengthening cooperation with like-minded countries in a wide range of fields, including non-military areas, by utilizing ODA will also contribute to Japan's security.
- Stabilizing sea lanes, which are directly linked to the stability of Japan's economic activities, and strengthening connectivity, as well as enhancing the security self-reliance of like-minded countries, are all vital to Japan's security.

1 Strengthening Sea Lanes (Examples)

— Capacity Building for Maritime Security Agencies / Provision of Patrol Vessels

- ✓ The Philippines: “Capacity Building Support for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)”

For the Philippines, which is located at a strategic point on sea lanes, Japan has continuously provided support to strengthen the PCG's maritime law enforcement capabilities since 2002. The number of PCG personnel has increased from 4,000 to about 30,000.

- ✓ Indonesia: “The Project for Strengthening BAKAMLA's Capacity”

Developing personnel equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for the operations of the Coast Guard Agency of the Republic of Indonesia. Strengthening surveillance capabilities in waters where illegal fishing, suspicious vessels, stowaways/smuggling, terrorism, and other incidents frequently occur.



2 Strengthening Connectivity (Examples)

(1) Ports

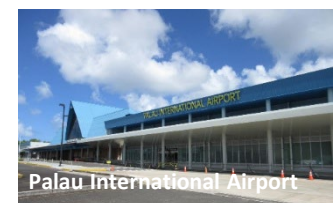
- ✓ Micronesia: “The Project for Expansion of Pohnpei Port”

Pohnpei Port is the largest port in the country, serving both as a fishing port and a commercial port. The project involves newly developing berths and other facilities capable of accommodating fishing vessels and cargo vessels, with the aim of alleviating congestion and improving safety at the port, thereby contributing to the strengthening of connectivity within and beyond the strategically important Pacific Islands region.

(2) Airports

- ✓ Palau: “Support for Palau International Airport”

Supporting expansion and operations of the terminal at the country's only international airport, which serves as the gateway to Palau — located at a strategically important hub in the Central Pacific. Contributing to the strengthening of regional connectivity.



Current Status and Future Direction of OSA

- ◆ Since the establishment of OSA in 2023, **16 projects (totaling 15 billion yen)** have been approved for **11 countries**.
- ◆ The initiative mainly provides **monitoring and surveillance equipment** (Patrol boats, Coastal radar system, UAVs, etc.) and implements the **transfer of defense equipment and technology, capacity building, and infrastructure development**, for earning strong appreciation from Indo-Pacific partner countries and strengthening military ties.
- ◆ Total budget of FY2026: **18.1 billion JPY** (Approx. 121 million USD)
- ◆ General idea of the OSA 2026 is:
 1. To expand the number of partner countries, mainly in the Indo-Pacific region;
 2. To coordinate with security assistance tools including defense equipment transfers and capacity-building support by the Self-Defense Forces;
 3. To pursue the formulation of more advanced and large-scale projects;
 4. To put a priority on maritime security cooperation, mainly focusing on monitoring and surveillance;
 5. To align with the security assistance programs of the U.S., Australia and others.

23 OSA partners for FY2023

24 OSA partners for FY2024

25 OSA partners for FY2025

 Infrastructure development projects

 Projects in coordination with JSDF's capacity building



Diplomatic Efforts to Ensure Economic Security

- **Strengthen Japan's economic security** (including promoting energy and food security), through **securing strategic self-reliance and indispensability** as well as **enhancing the international economic order** which contributes to economic security.

《Securing Strategic Self-Reliance》

- Japan's **supply chain resilience and diversification - Efforts for securing strategic goods**
 - ① **Cooperation among like-minded countries**: G7, Japan-U.S.-Australia-India, Japan-U.S.-ROK, bilateral cooperation (US/UK/France/Germany/EU/Australia/ROK/India/Canada, etc.)
 - ✓ **Making multi-layered and effective use of the summit/ministerial frameworks and dialogues on economic security, etc.**
 - ② **Securing critical minerals such as rare earth elements**
 - ✓ Concrete cooperation with like-minded countries (rare earth refining, etc.)
 - ③ **Ensuring the stable supply of energy and food**
 - ✓ Enhancing cooperation with international organizations and resource-rich countries

《Securing Strategic Indispensability》

- **Strengthening promotion and protection in parallel for securing strategic indispensability**
 - ① Critical and emerging technologies such as quantum and biotechnology (enhancing international collaboration, securing excellent human resources (brain circulation with emerging countries in mind))
 - ② Support the deployment of optical communications, undersea cables, Open RAN & Beyond 5G, etc. (the "FOIP Digital Corridor Concept")
 - ③ Strengthening technology protection (research security, export controls, etc.)

《Building and Strengthening the International Economic Order Contributing to Economic Security》

- Developing discussions aimed at **rule-making and reinforcement in terms of economic security**, including responses to non-market policies and practices and economic coercion
 - ✓ Proactive utilization of frameworks among like-minded countries (G7, OECD, etc.)
 - ✓ Strategic expansion of agreements with a high degree of like-mindedness, including CPTPP
 - ✓ Spearhead efforts under frameworks w/broad participation by the Global South (WTO, RCEP, G20, APEC, etc.)

[Leveraging ODA that contributes to ensuring economic security, as a tool to promote the goals above]

Japan will strengthen the self-reliance and economic resilience of like-minded countries and the Global South through ODA in collaboration with OESA *, which eventually **supports Japan's supply chain and enhances its resilience**.

(e.g.: "Strengthening the Global Supply Chain through Nacala Corridor Development," Assistance to lay undersea cables in the Pacific Island Countries)

* OESA means the Overseas Economic-Security Arrangement, which will be established under the revised Economic Security Promotion Act. Through subordinated investments by JBIC, etc., OESA supports overseas projects that are operated by the private companies and critically important for economic security.

Responses to Cognitive Warfare

1 Issues Surrounding Cognitive Warfare

- (1) As the security environment changes at an accelerating pace, the issues to be addressed are rapidly expanding from the traditional domains of land, sea, and air—as well as space and cyberspace—into the human cognitive domain.
- (2) Amid intensifying international competition over narratives and images (“cognitive warfare”) it is necessary to further strengthen public diplomacy, as well as capabilities for collecting and analyzing information to accurately and swiftly grasp developments in the information space.

2 Information Collection and Analysis and Public Diplomacy to Prevail in Cognitive Warfare

- To respond to the intensification of cognitive warfare, safeguard trust towards Japan, and gain the support and understanding of the international community, Japan will fundamentally reinforce multifaceted information collection and analysis capabilities by leveraging AI and other emerging technologies, while strengthening public diplomacy consisting of two pillars: dissemination of policies and public relations, and cultural diplomacy and promotion of Japan’s attractiveness.

(1) Dissemination of Policies and Public Relations

- To counter the spread of narratives and disinformation that undermine Japan’s image, Japan will raise awareness of disinformation and respond appropriately through “prebunking” in advance and “debunking” after the fact.

Prebunking :Strengthen direct and indirect dissemination. (including via social media) of Japan’s positions and policies, while enhancing social resilience and narrowing the space for foreign information manipulation.

- Expand the utilization of external experts
- Engage influencers
- Invite, dispatch, and develop experts
- Fundamental strengthening of domestic think tanks,
Coordination with major overseas think tanks.

Debunking : As necessary, respond calmly to disinformation, misinformation and information manipulation through rebuttals based on objective facts.

(2) Cultural Diplomacy and Promotion of Japan’s Attractiveness

- By increasing feelings of familiarity, favorability, and trust towards Japan, Japan will foster an international environment in which Japan’s communications are favorably received.
 - Further enlarge the circle of “Japan’s friends” by leveraging its soft power. (Note: There are also cases where cultural promotion is cleverly utilized to undermine Japan’s international reputation.)
 - Promote Japan’s positive images including its path as a peace-loving nation since the end of World War II, contributing proactively to the peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community.
 - Effectively implement cultural projects and people-to-people exchanges.
- Maximize the utilization of overseas facilities such as diplomatic missions, the Japan Foundation, and the JAPAN HOUSE. This is also effective in promoting the overseas expansion of the content industry.

Basic position

- ✓ Our policy of comprehensively promoting a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests” and building a “constructive and stable Japan-China relations” with China remains consistent.
- ✓ There are a number of challenges and concerns, such as unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East China Sea, including the situation surrounding the Senkaku Islands, and in the South China Sea, military activities around Japan by China, including those conducted in coordination with Russia, and restrictions targeting, rare earth and other materials.
- ✓ China is an important neighbor, and precisely because there are various pending issues and challenges, it is all the more important for Japan and China to communicate with each other. Japan intends to continue responding calmly and appropriately from the perspective of national interests.

Response to international narrative warfare

- ✓ The scope of anti-Japan narratives by China has been intertwined with issues regarding history and has been expanding into Japan’s overall security policy. There are also attempts to undermine international reputation of other countries, including Japan.
- ⇒ Calmly and resolutely provide inputs of Japan’s positions through diplomatic channels and counter communications based on objective facts when necessary.
- ⇒ Foster an international favorable environment which positively embraces our counter-communications through expanding likability of, affinity toward, and credibility of Japan.

【Regarding the inappropriate remarks by a Chinese participant to the Munich Security】

A Chinese participant made inappropriate remarks regarding the security policies of the Japanese government at the Munich Security Conference on February 14. Responding to the statement, Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu made his case clear at another session of the Conference, followed by a stern demarche against the Chinese side through diplomatic channels. Given that the China’s assertions are factually incorrect and ungrounded, the Government of Japan hereby reiterates its position.

There are countries in the international community that have been rapidly increasing their military capabilities in a non-transparent manner for many years and continuously intensifying unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. Japan opposes such moves and distances itself from them. Japan’s consistent contributions to international peace and stability are widely recognized. Japan’s efforts to strengthen its defense capabilities are in response to an increasingly severe security environment and are not directed against any specific third country. We expect that the issue surrounding Taiwan will be resolved peacefully through dialogue, and this stance remains unchanged.

It is precisely because there are pending issues and challenges, it is all the more important for Japan and China to communicate with each other. The Government of Japan remains open to dialogue with China and intends to continue responding calmly and appropriately going forward.

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Example of Counter-Messaging (2026 February, at the Munich Security Conference)

1. Message in Japanese

⇒ Views as of April 24: Approx. 9.73 million

2. Message in English

⇒ Views as of April 25: Approx. 2.15 million

Policy toward North Korea

- Japan's basic policy toward North Korea is to achieve the normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea through comprehensively resolving outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, as well as settlement of the unfortunate past in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration.
- Japan will continue to ensure the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and seek the complete dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs in cooperation with the international community, including through close coordination among Japan, the U.S. and the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- Japan will address North Korea's malicious cyber-related activities (including cryptocurrency thefts and IT workers), which fund North Korea's nuclear and missile development, in cooperation with the international community, including the U.S. and the ROK as well as with the private sector.
- Japan will do its utmost, without ruling out any options, to achieve the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

Policy toward Russia

- Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous act that shakes the very foundations of the international order and undermines the peace and stability of the entire international community. From this perspective, Japan has continued support to Ukraine and sanctions against Russia in cooperation with the international community including the G7.
- At the same time, it is important to appropriately maintain the bilateral relations as neighboring countries. While normalizing relations is not easy under the current situation, Japan will continue making utmost diplomatic efforts to create an environment that contributes to the resolution of bilateral outstanding issues.
- Although Japan-Russia relations are in a difficult situation, Japan's policy of concluding a peace treaty through the resolution of the issue of the attribution of the Four Northern Islands remains unchanged.

⇒ As the security environment surrounding Japan becomes increasingly severe and military cooperation between China and Russia, as well as between Russia and North Korea, advances, it is crucial to achieve a new balance in international relations, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

Japan's Diplomatic Efforts in Response to the Current Situation in the Middle East

On February 28, the United States and Israel started military operations against Iran. In response, Iran launched missile and drone attacks against Israel and surrounding countries.

In addition to causing numerous casualties, material damage has been inflicted on infrastructure including energy-related facilities, while damage to civilian vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and impediments to free and safe navigation have also occurred.

Japan's Diplomatic Efforts

- **Communication with the United States and Israel**
- **Communication with Iran (Three phone calls at the summit level and six phone calls at the foreign ministerial level)**
- **Coordination with Gulf States**
 - ✓ GCC (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait)
- **Coordination with Mediating Countries**
 - ✓ Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar
- **Multilateral Efforts**
 - ✓ Summit and Foreign Ministers' Meetings on the Strait of Hormuz (Joint Statements)
 - ✓ Coordination with organizations such as the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
 - ✓ Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)+ Summit Meeting on Energy Resilience
 - "Partnership for Outstanding Well-being, Energy, and Resource Resilience in Asia (POWERR Asia)"