

## **Japan's Actions against Piracy off the Coast of Somalia**

Maritime Security Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
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Japan is very much concerned with the growing threat posed by piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Already today, the number of piracy incidents has surpassed that of last year.

Japan has taken several actions to prevent Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in cooperation with international partners. Japan is committed to act to protect maritime security and work together with international partners to improve stability in Somalia and to build capacity in coastal states.

Japan has:

- actively participated in discussions in the Contact Group established in line with UN Security Council Resolution. Japan is committed to work together with members of the CG. Japan chairs the 4<sup>th</sup> CG meeting on September 10.
- deployed two destroyers with 8 Japan Coast Guard law enforcement officers on board from March this year, therefore joined international partners to enhance maritime security by navy patrols and navy escorting operations. 2 more vessels took over the mission at the end of July. All together, our vessels escorted more than 50 times and 200 ships until now.
- made necessary arrangements to deploy two P-3C maritime patrol aircrafts to the Gulf of Aden. These aircrafts have started patrol mission out of Djibouti since June 11 and contributing to disarming pirate vessels by providing information to other navy vessels.
- passed the "Anti-Piracy Measures Law " on June 19. The new Law enables us to protect any ship from pirates regardless of their flag country. Under the new Law, our navy ships have operated 13 times and escorted 81 ships (as of September 1). The average number of the escorted ships per mission is more than double during the period.
- provided financial assistance worth \$67 million to the Somali TFG for improvement of security, for the last two years through international organizations.
- submitted a Supplemental Budget this year worth ¥3.6 billion, to support AMISOM and implement projects in Somalia, as well as to help neighboring countries' capacity development efforts through the IMO(International Maritime Organization). This Supplemental Budget has already been approved. Japan's State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ms. Hashimoto announced this at the Brussels Meeting held this April.
- sent survey/ODA missions to Yemen and Djibouti to analyze the feasibility of assistance to these countries. Japan believes that improving coastal countries capabilities for preventing piracy and armed robbery is crucial for the resolution of the piracy problem. We also invited coast guard officials of coast countries nearby Somalia to the training courses held in Japan.
- worked closely with UN Security Council Members and like-minded countries in the UN to bring more stability in Somalia.