

Trilateral Joint Press Statement
Bali, Indonesia
July 23, 2011

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Takeaki Matsumoto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea Kim Sung-hwan, and Secretary of State of the United States of America Hillary Rodham Clinton met in Bali, Indonesia, on the margins of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial meeting on July 23, 2011. This meeting follows the successful ministerial trilateral held in Washington D.C. on December 6, 2010, and builds on our expanding trilateral cooperation in the Asia Pacific region and globally.

The Ministers recognized that the U.S.-Japan and U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) Alliances and Japan-ROK partnership are essential to the maintenance of peace and stability in Asia. All three reaffirmed their mutual bilateral responsibilities and steadfast commitments under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America and the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty, which serve as the foundations for the two alliance relationships. The Ministers resolved to build on mutual bilateral responsibilities to deal effectively with common security threats.

The Ministers reiterated their commitment to the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and shared their belief that North Korea must make sincere efforts to improve relations with the ROK before the Six-Party Talks can be resumed, including sincere and constructive inter-Korean dialogue. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the inter-Korean dialogue on denuclearization held in Bali on July 22, 2011, and they emphasized that the inter-Korean dialogue should be a sustained process going forward. They pledged to maintain close consultations on policy toward the DPRK, continue efforts to dissuade North Korea from taking provocative actions, and encourage the DPRK to take concrete steps to demonstrate a genuine commitment to denuclearization. The Ministers affirmed that the DPRK's provocative and belligerent behavior threatens all three countries and will be met with solidarity from all three countries. They also urged North Korea to take actions to resolve the abduction and family reunion issues. They also agreed to further enhance cooperation with China and Russia on DPRK-related issues.

The Ministers underscored the importance of sustained multilateral cooperation to prevent North Korean proliferation and to ensure full implementation of relevant international sanctions. They agreed to continue coordination on an appropriate response to North Korea's uranium enrichment program, reiterating that this is a violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874 and is inconsistent with North Korea's commitments under the September 2005 Joint Statement. They also agreed that North Korea's uranium enrichment program must also be addressed in order to allow for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

The Ministers exchanged views on important regional issues, particularly with respect to Southeast Asia, and they agreed to work together to support the ASEAN Regional Forum's evolution to a solutions-oriented regional security body with tangible programs to advance peace and stability. The Ministers also pledged to coordinate efforts to support the East Asia Summit as a forum where leaders can have interactive discussions on vital political and strategic issues, including non-proliferation, maritime security, and disaster relief.

The Ministers affirmed their commitment to enhancing policy coordination and cooperation on global issues, including non-proliferation, human rights, and development cooperation. As three key donor countries, they agreed to enhance coordination on their countries' development cooperation policies for greater impact and effectiveness, particularly in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands and Africa. In this context, the Ministers agreed to launch trilateral working group meetings on Africa and Southeast Asia to ensure close coordination on development and political security issues. The Ministers also reaffirmed their commitments to reconstruction and development in Afghanistan through active support for the development of Afghan National Security Forces(ANSF), police, law enforcement, education, and governance institutions. The Ministers recognized the importance of the upcoming High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan, Korea in November, 2011, and agreed to cooperate for the successful outcome of the conference.

The Ministers recognized the value of further advancing trilateral cooperation to address regional and global issues, based on the shared interests of the three countries in maintaining peace, prosperity, and security in the Asia Pacific region and worldwide. In recognition of the importance of enhancing trilateral cooperation, the three Ministers agreed to explore the creation of a Trilateral Secretariat to help facilitate future trilateral meetings, to plan for joint endeavors and to deepen trilateral engagement across a broad range of issues.