

## **Joint Press Release on Japan-Australia Summit Meeting (7 April)**

### **Overview**

- The leaders of Japan and Australia confirmed their intention to elevate the strategic partnership between Japan and Australia to a new special relationship based on common values and interests, including the rule of law.

### **Economic relations**

- Confirmed a substantive agreement in the bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. Confirmed they would work together to sign the EPA as early as possible.
- Called for redoubled efforts to conclude the TPP negotiations.
- Underlined the importance of stable trade and investment in energy and mineral resources based on market principles.
- Noted the importance of utilizing highly efficient coal-fired power generation technology.
- Welcomed the economic reform initiatives of both Japan and Australia. Vowed to work together at an upcoming G20 meeting.

### **Security and defense cooperation**

- Welcomed Japan's security policy efforts, including the "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.
- Reaffirmed the importance of strong U.S. engagement in the Asia-Pacific region and trilateral cooperation.
- Affirmed their intention to elevate bilateral security and defense cooperation to a new level, improve interoperability between the two countries' defense organizations, and further expand combined training.
- Instructed that defense cooperation will be strengthened at the '2+2' ministerial-level consultations in Tokyo in June this year.
- Decided to commence negotiations towards a framework agreement on cooperation on defense technology and equipment.
- Specified joint research in the marine hydrodynamics field as an initial area of cooperation.
- Decided to establish a bilateral cyber-policy dialogue.
- Affirmed that a Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel will be sent to participate in the Albany Convoy Commemorative Event that is scheduled to be held in late 2014 and which will mark the centenary of bilateral cooperation in World War I.

### **People-to-people exchanges**

- Announced the establishment of a Japan-Australia Friends of the New Colombo Plan group by government-affiliated organizations of both countries, in order to support the pilot phase of the New Colombo Plan (NCP) in Japan.

**Regional and international issues**

- Emphasized shared regional interests in ensuring and maintaining regional peace and stability, respect for international law, unimpeded trade and freedom of air and sea navigation.
  - Shared the view that international disputes and issues should be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law rather than by force.
  - Confirmed their intention to work together to support elections in Fiji, and to support peace and development in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (Independent State of Papua New Guinea).
  - Discussed and shared views on a range of regional and international issues, notably situations surrounding North Korea, including its nuclear and missile issues as well as the abductions issue, Syria, United Nations Security Council reform, and non-proliferation and disarmament.
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