

Report of the Japan-NATO Joint Study Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

The aim of this report is to provide the outcome of the Japan-NATO Joint Study Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, in order to enhance the practical cooperation in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, in line with the Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme between Japan and NATO.

Introduction

During his visit to Japan in April 2013, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed a Joint Political Declaration, the first of its kind, which identified areas of bilateral cooperation, such as crisis management and disaster relief that could be strengthened. In addition, they decided to establish a “Japan – NATO Joint Study Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief”. This study group is the first step toward shaping Japan – NATO cooperation based on the Political Declaration between Japan and NATO leaders.

Following this historical development, the Study Group shared experiences and lessons learned from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief practices between Japan and NATO, explored possibilities for practical cooperation in this field and paved the way for promoting Japan-NATO cooperation in other areas.

The aim of the Japan-NATO Joint Study Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief is to explore concrete opportunities for Japan-NATO cooperation in the field of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Outcome of the Study Group

As a result of the discussions in the Joint Study Group, Japan and NATO have reached the conclusion that they could promote practical on-site and off-site cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The cooperation that could be carried out in the short term and challenges to overcome in the medium-to-long term are as follows:

In case of NATO and Japanese deployment to the stricken nation

- Coordination on areas of activities
 - Information-sharing before dispatching military units or JDR/SDF.
- On-site cooperation
 - This cooperation is possible within existing arrangements.
 - An information-sharing mechanism between NATO representatives on the ground and Japan would be established.
 - The stricken nation will identify a POC.
 - Possible cooperation in the medium-to-long term that require coordination and framework.
 - Cooperation on transportation (close coordination (framework) and extra transportation capacity are required.)
 - Cooperation on mutual logistics support (ACSA is required.)
- Off-site cooperation (Coordination and cooperation through the framework of NATO such as the EADRCC.)
 - This cooperation is possible within existing arrangements.
 - Promotion of knowledge sharing and cooperation between Japan and the EADRCC (Identification of POC between the EADRCC and Japan, including regular dialogue);
 - Japan's participation in the EADRCC information-sharing mechanism;
 - Japan's participation in trainings and exercises organised by the EADRCC and sharing Japan's expertise with NATO;
 - Japan's contribution to exercises organised by the EADRCC (possibility to select specific areas to contribute to);
 - Enhance dialogue on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief between Japan and NATO, including the North Atlantic Council, the Political and Partnerships Committee and the Civil Emergency Planning Committee;
 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense regularly exchange information and co-host events with the NATO Contact Point Embassy.

- Possible future cooperation that require coordination and framework in the medium-to-long term.
 - Carrying out an exercise between Japan and the EADRCC (decision on exercise procedure, selection of participants);
 - Sending Japanese staff to NATO(EADRCC) (establishment of secondment post for Japan);
 - Japanese contribution to Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) (selection of fields possible to contribute to, checking contribution process);
 - Registering Japanese staff on COMPASS;
 - Cooperation in capacity-building carried out by NATO (selection of appropriate fields, establishment of scheme and framework for cooperation).

During 2014, the following activities in the field of civil protection including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are planned by NATO in which Japan could participate.

- CMX 2014 (already agreed);
- A Civil Protection Groups Seminar to be held in June 2014;
- A Seminar of the Industrial Resources and Communications Services Group on “Aging Infrastructure to be held in May 2014;
- A Civil Aviation Training Seminar, focussing on consequence management aspects of catastrophic events in terms of civil aviation, to be held in the October November time frame;
- An Inland Surface Transport Training Seminar focussing on potential consequences of extreme space weather on the use of inland surface transport to be held in September 2014;
- An Ocean Shipping Training Seminar focusing on the threat to, and the vulnerabilities of, global positioning and timing systems on navigation. The seminar will also analyse the condition of the current ocean shipping market;
- A Joint Health, Agriculture and Food Group (JHAFG) Training Seminar focussing on interconnectivity of civil and military services in the area of health, food and agriculture, from a “one-health” perspective;
- In addition, the Civil Protection Groups will organise the following CBRN courses for trainers of first responders to a CBRN incident:

- 5 - 9 May 2014;
- 25 - 29 August 2014;
- 15 - 19 September 2014.

Follow-up framework of the Study Group

In order to verify and assess the implementation of the report of the Study Group, discuss how to proceed with cooperation, and advance effective cooperation, Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense) and NATO (Operations Division) will ensure proper follow-up in line with the Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme between Japan and NATO.