

*Summary*  
Foreign Minister Kishida's Remarks at the 21st  
ASEAN Regional forum  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

August 10, 2014  
Government of Japan

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida attended the 21st ASEAN Regional Forum, held on August 10, 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The following is a summary of Foreign Minister Kishida's statement delivered during the forum.

**Opening Remarks**

Foreign Minister Kishida opened his statement by expressing his appreciation to Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin, who manages all related ministerial meetings.

**Regional and Global Issues**

**(1) South China Sea**

Foreign Minister Kishida emphasized that issues concerning the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region that concerns the whole international community including Japan. He reiterated "the three principles on the rule of law at sea", which Prime Minister Abe proposed in his Keynote Address of the Shangri-La Dialogue, namely that (1) states shall make and clarify their claims based on international law, (2) states shall not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims, and (3) states shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means. He gave his support to actions that are based on the three principles.

The Foreign Minister also reminded of Prime Minister Abe's proposal to make a firm pledge and return to the spirit and the provisions of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that all concerned countries agreed to, and not to undertake unilateral actions associated with a permanent physical change. He added that he strongly looks forward to the acceleration of consultations on the Code of Conduct (COC), gave his support to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement as well as the Nay Pyi Taw Statement that was announced at the ASEAN

Summit this May.

## (2) North Korea

Foreign Minister Kishida emphasized that Japan's policy of aiming for a comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues remains unchanged. He stated that North Korea's nuclear and missile activities remain actual threats for the region and international community, and that repeated launches of ballistic missiles by North Korea clearly violate the UN Security Council resolutions and the purpose of the Joint-Statement of the Six Party Talks, and adversely impact on the process to resolve issues through dialogue. He urged North Korea to refrain from any provocative actions and to sincerely and fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions and Joint-Statement of the Six Party Talks.

He addressed that, based on the agreement between Japan and North Korea reached in May, North Korea has begun comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals, including the abductees, and Japan lifted some measures against North Korea. He also addressed that the abductions issue is not only a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens people, but also a universal issue among the international community as violation of fundamental human rights. He expressed Japan's intention to carefully assess the result of the investigations being conducted by North Korea.

## (3) Ukraine

Foreign Minister Kishida addressed that the annexation of Crimea is a clear violation of international law. He stated that any attempt to change the status quo through coercion could never be overlooked, and that situation in Crimea is not a regional issue, but a global concern which could affect Asia as well.

He expressed his deepest condolences to the victims of the shooting-down of Malaysia Airlines flight and their families. Once again he strongly called upon all the parties concerned to cooperate with the international investigation to probe into the truth as soon as possible, and to have dialogues towards ceasefire by both sides and peace. He also addressed that Japan remains ready to provide necessary cooperation.

#### (4) Gaza

Foreign Minister Kishida expressed his deep concern about the situation where there have already been more than 10,000 casualties since the Israeli side launched a military operation a month ago. He also expressed his deep concern on the resumption of violence between Israel and Palestinian militants after the end of a three-day ceasefire on Friday. Foreign Minister Kishida stressed that Japan continues to make efforts to achieve a sustainable ceasefire in coordination with the international community, including Emergency Grant Aid of a total 5.5 million US dollars and teleconference between Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

#### (5) Iraq

Minister Kishida emphasized that maintenance of the national unity and the early formation of a stable government are important for the stabilization of the situation in Iraq. Minister Kishida expressed that Japan has long been supporting anti-terrorism efforts by the U.S and the Iraqi government, and that he understood the recent targeted airstrikes by the U.S. had been carried out as part of such efforts, to protect U.S. personnel and help forces in Iraq protecting civilians placed under a severe condition, on the premise of the consent by the Iraqi government. Minister Kishida also explained that Japan will continue to cooperate with relevant countries in order to restore the stability of Iraq.

#### **Japan's Security Policy, 'Proactive Contribution to Peace'**

Foreign Minister Kishida elaborated Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, including the Cabinet Decision made on July 1st on Development of Seamless Security Legislation to protect the lives and peaceful livelihood of the people of Japan as the security environment surrounding Japan becomes ever more severe, and so that the Constitution will limitedly allow the exercise of the right of collective self-defense as well as for Japan to further contribute to PKOs and logistics support. He reiterated that the course Japan has taken as a peace-loving nation will remain unchanged.

#### **Activities in ARF**

Foreign Minister Kishida emphasized Japan's resolve to contribute

to the activities in ARF. In this regard, he explained that Japan will co-chair ARF-ISG (Inter-Sessional Group) with Malaysia for the coming session.

(1) Maritime Security

Foreign Minister Kishida stated that Japan will co-chair the ARF-ISM (Inter-Sessional Meeting) on Maritime Security with U.S. and the Philippines from this summer, and will play a leading role in promoting confidence-building and concrete cooperation in the region.

(2) Disaster Relief

Foreign Minister Kishida noted that Japan, as one of the co-chairs at ISM on Disaster Relief, has been closely working with the other co-chair, China and Myanmar. He also highlighted that the next ISM will be held in the early months of the next year, coordinating with the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

(3) Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Foreign Minister Kishida addressed that Japan hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) Ministerial Meeting in Hiroshima in April and the ISM on Non-proliferation and Disarmament under the theme of nuclear disarmament in Tokyo in July. As a foreign minister from Hiroshima, an atomic bombed city, he underscored that Japan as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in war, is resolved to play a leading role in making realistic and practical efforts toward the success of NPT Review Conference in 2015 which will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and furthermore toward the goal of “a world free of nuclear weapons”..

(4) Space Security

Foreign Minister Kishida explained that Japan, U.S. and Indonesia will hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Space Security Workshop in Tokyo in October, expressing his intention to deepen discussions on cooperation for maintaining sustainable space environment.

/END/