1. Basic concept

- The focus of FOIP is to protect “sea lanes”, the artery of logistics. As new challenges such as combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing arise, it is becoming more and more important to protect sea lanes.

- IUU fishing, which takes advantage of deficiencies in international law and the vulnerability of coastal countries’ capacity to react, is confirmed in various places of the world its harmful effects such as (1) negative impacts on fisheries resources, (2) hitting local economy, including food security, (3) destroying the marine environment, and (4) threatening maritime security (invasion into other countries' EEZ in the South China Sea) have been reported.

⇒ Contributing to maintaining peace and stability at sea mainly by stepping up a maritime domain awareness (MDA) campaign, including building a network to combat IUU fishing among like-minded countries, and providing Southeast Asian, Pacific Island, Latin American countries, etc. with cooperation and other sorts of assistance to enhance maritime law enforcement capacity in tangible and intangible aspects based on Japan’s knowledge (with enhancing MDA capacity, security and rescue, and electronic hydrographic charts in mind).

2. Items of cooperation

- Continue to provide patrol ships and mechanical equipment and support maritime transport infrastructure

- Step up efforts to develop human resources and build networks, particularly establishing closer cooperation among coast guard agencies

- Encourage Non-Parties of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) to do so

- Support administrators at maritime law enforcement agencies in the Indo-Pacific region through capacity building to combat IUU fishing (such as sending and inviting experts)

- Train members of coast guards from various countries in Japan mainly through joint drills with these coast guards and maritime safety policy programs

- Consider domestic legislation with ship rider agreements in mind and dispatch the Japan Coast Guard’s and Fisheries Agency’s ships within the range allowed by the current laws and ordinances

- Dispatch Fisheries Agency’s vessels for cooperative survey on IUU fishing activities

- Develop electronic hydrographic charts in coastal countries facing sea lanes