Case (44): Provision of equipment and materials and infrastructure development to armed forces and other related organizations

1. Basic concept

The National Security Strategy formulated in December 2022 states that, apart from ODA aimed chiefly at economic and social development of developing countries, the Government will establish a new cooperation framework for the benefit of armed forces of other countries. It will provide these countries with equipment and materials and develop infrastructure in order to strengthen their security capacities and deterrence capabilities.

When Japan strove to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”, there were growing needs for the provision of equipment and materials and the development of infrastructure to be used by the armed forces of other countries, particularly in the field of maritime security. Despite that, support for armed forces remained limited because of the principle of non-military purposes uses in ODA.

In order to enable Japan to fulfill its role more actively than before in an effort to promote maritime security which is a pillar of FOIP, the Government established a grant aid framework for the benefit of armed forces and other related organizations of other countries.

Under this framework Japan will respond flexibly to the needs of various countries together with the conventional cooperation on defense equipment and technology transfer. It will also contribute to enhancing the security capacities and deterrence capabilities of other countries, strengthening their relationships of security cooperation with Japan, creating a desirable security environment, and maintaining and bolstering international peace and safety.

2. Items of cooperation

- Provision of equipment and materials to armed forces etc., and the development of infrastructure in the field of monitoring and surveillance, counter-piracy measures, counterterrorism, and humanitarian operations (such as disaster response, search and rescue, and healthcare) etc.
- For the time being, the provision of equipment for the benefit of maritime security to Southeast Asia and other regions will be expected (radars, data analysis and communications equipment, etc.)