

*International Seminar on Capacity Building of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies
in Emerging Countries*

Tokyo, 24-26 September 2013

Chairman's Summary

1. The seminar was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and was attended by participants from Japan and 13 other countries, namely; Bangladesh, Djibouti, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Yemen and Vietnam. It was chaired by Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi, Director of the Maritime Security Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, MOFA.
2. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, stated that Japan will strive to further advance regional and international peace and stability based on the principle of international cooperation, and stressed the importance of maintaining oceans as the global commons. He emphasized the importance of providing assistance to countries to reinforce their maritime law enforcement capacities so as to ensure maintenance of an "open and stable sea" based on the "rule of law." He expressed his hope that the seminar would contribute to realizing concrete capacity building endeavors through international cooperation.
3. Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Deputy Assistant Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs served as the keynote speaker. In his speech, he highlighted Japan's current maritime security efforts in such areas as anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, contribution to the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and assistance to foreign countries. He stressed the connection between maintaining maritime order in the Indian and Asia Pacific Oceans and continued peace and prosperity in the region, the need to develop maritime law enforcement capacities in each country so as to maintain this maritime order, the significance of international support for countries embarking on capacity building programs, and Japan's readiness to consider ways to promote such international cooperation. He emphasized the importance of 'rule of law' and asked participants to consider during the seminar what follow-up actions they might take to strengthen maritime security.
4. Discussions and deliberations during the seminar focused on the following: Japan's approach to maritime security, the good examples of maritime security enforcement in Malaysia and the Philippines, and possible types of Japanese assistance.

5. Dr. Tetsuo Kotani, Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and Mr. Iwao Mabuchi, Japan Coast Guard (JCG) provided presentations on Japan's approach to maritime security. They outlined the historical background of the JCG; its purpose, mission, and organization; challenges it faces to maintain maritime order; and international cooperation it has extended. They indicated that a maritime law enforcement agency would be required to address a broad range of issues such as illicit activities at sea, boarder security, preservation of the marine environment, maritime traffic safety, maritime accidents, natural disasters, etc. Dr. Kotani shared Japan's experience, emphasized that good order at sea is key to a country's economic prosperity, and noted the importance of good seamanship. He also emphasized the importance of following international law and supporting international cooperative efforts like ReCAAP.

6. During the discussions that followed, some participants provided updates on their countries' efforts to strengthen their maritime security capabilities. Attendees emphasized the need to establish strong enforcement capabilities and to promote international cooperation; with a number of representatives expressing appreciation to Japan for the maritime security assistance extended their countries, and hope for Japan's continued support. As an inter-sessional event, attendees participated in a technical visit to the 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters of the JCG in Yokohama (Yokohama Maritime Disaster Prevention Base). The visit helped provide a clearer understanding of the activities of the JCG and provided a good example of what a maritime security agency is like.

7. Participants appreciated the presentations made by Mr. Tan Kok Kwee of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), and Mr. Commodore Rolando D. Legaspi of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on their countries' efforts to strengthen their maritime law enforcement. The presentations highlighted efforts at personnel training, equipment acquisitions and administrative changes. Presenters emphasized the importance of inter-agency collaboration, and shared international cooperation, in particular that extended by Japan, complimented their countries' maritime security goals. Participants recognized that the experience of the two presenter countries could serve as valuable examples for other countries as they identify challenges and ways to enhance their maritime law enforcement capacities. Participants asked what the key has been to presenter countries' security enforcement successes. Participants acknowledged that all countries must prioritize their efforts given limited resources.

8. The seminar explored the types of assistance that Japan could provide participating countries based on Japan's aid policies. Presentations were made by Mr. Nobuharu Imanishi with MOFA, Mr. Toshitaka Ishima with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Mr. Yosuke Watanabe with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Presentations highlighted that Japan can provide both hard assets, such as facilities and equipment, and soft assets, such as personnel training. Presenters emphasized that the provision of support was a collaborative effort between Japan and the recipient country. The exchange of views on the types of assistance that Japan might provide proved very informative, and led participants to consider how best Japan's assistance could support their maritime security goals.

9. The seminar provided participating countries with an opportunity to further strengthen cooperative relations in the field of maritime security and to establish a network of contacts for further cooperation. It was expected that participating countries will identify priority areas for building and/or strengthening maritime law enforcement capacities from a mid- and long-term perspective, and consider how Japanese assistance might help them accomplish their maritime security objectives.

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