

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2017

I. Japan's Overview of the Regional Security Environment

Rapid shifts in the global power balance after the end of the Cold War have enhanced the significance of the Asia-Pacific region, while deepening the relationships of security interdependence and providing opportunities for cooperation across the region. At the same time, these changes have caused problems and tensions in the region and made its security environment even more severe. Large-scale military forces remain concentrated in the areas surrounding Japan. Some actors possess nuclear weapons or continue their development. Meanwhile, the region sees the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles, etc.. Risks that could hinder open access and free use of various domains such as the sea, outer space, and cyberspace are increasing than ever before. In addition, there are growths of international threats, large-scale natural disasters and transnational crime in the regions. Under these circumstances, no single country can any longer secure its peace and security by its own power. It is essential for countries to work together to ensure the peace and security of the international community.

Against these backgrounds, the Asia-Pacific region is making progress cooperating in the field of non-traditional security issues through confidence-building measures, not only in bilateral and trilateral frameworks but also in multilateral security frameworks, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus). Japan welcomes these developments, as these efforts contribute to create a better regional security environment. Japan is eager to further promote and develop these multi-layered initiatives through the above-mentioned regional frameworks securing peace and stability of the region. On the other hand, situation surrounding Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea are major issues that can destabilize the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region. It is essential to continue discussing these issues at ARF.

Maritime issues including those surrounding the South China Sea are directly linked to the peace and stability of the region and the international community as a whole. The international community pays attention to these issues in the context of thorough respect for the rule of law and securing the freedom of navigation and overflight. In the keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe advocated the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea": (i) states shall make and clarify their claims based on international law; (ii) states shall not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims; and (iii) states shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means. These three principles gained supports from many countries, and Japan will consistently support actions based on these principles. In this context, Japan strongly hopes for full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) of 2002, and the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

On the other hand, Japan has serious concerns that unilateral actions, including large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes, are continuing in the South China Sea, which could change the status quo and raise tensions in the region. Each state needs to refrain from unilateral actions and acts based on the universally-recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and in light of the final award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal under UNCLOS on July 12, 2016, which is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute. In particular, coastal states need to recognize that in maritime areas pending final delimitation, they are obliged by international law to refrain from unilateral actions that would cause permanent physical change to the marine environment, be it for military or civilian purposes. Japan strongly expects that the parties' compliance with the award will eventually lead to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.

On the occasion of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April 2016, the foreign ministers issued the "G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security", underlining the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, compliance with international law, peaceful resolution of maritime disputes and the importance of international cooperation and marine science and technology cooperation, including an effective Maritime Domain Awareness, with a view to fighting illegal maritime activities, including piracy and armed robbery at sea, that threatens the stability, security and prosperity of the international community. Furthermore, at the occasion of G7 Ise-shima Summit in May 2016, the importance of "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea" was highlighted among the leaders. In September 2016, the G7 issued the "G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Recent Developments in Asia", where the July 12, 2016 award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal under UNCLOS is considered as a useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea. In addition, Japan hosted the 2nd G7 High-Level Meeting on Maritime Security, with the participation of some ARF member states as observers, in Tokyo in December 2016, where the participants discussed how to address common challenges on maritime security. In 2017, G7 leaders sent a strong message on maritime security to the international community through Foreign Ministers' Joint Communique and Leaders' Communique, which, for instance, urged all parties to pursue demilitarization of disputed features.

ARF can play an important role in ensuring the rule of law at sea, the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, and peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law. In this context, Japan welcomes many initiatives that have been made at ARF for official events aimed to discuss maritime security issues in the region. Japan, for its part, organized the ARF Seminar on Regional Confidence Building and the Law of the Sea in December 2015 in Tokyo. With the participation of renowned experts in the law of the sea, this seminar, which was co-chaired by Japan, Viet Nam, and India, successfully offered an opportunity for participants from ARF member states to better understand the international legal regime of maritime areas pending delimitation and share

their views on the importance of the rule of law. Japan will continue to proactively contribute to these efforts.

North Korea continues development of nuclear and missiles program. The threat has entered a new level. It is a serious threat to international peace and security and totally unacceptable. North Korea conducted nuclear tests in January and September 2016. North Korea has also launched more than 30 ballistic missiles since 2016. Even after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2321, North Korea repeatedly launched ballistic missiles. These acts constitute one of the serious destabilizing factors for security in the region.

North Korea's nuclear and missile development, including its uranium enrichment activities, violates the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and the Joint Statement of Six-Party Talks. The international community must continue to strongly urge North Korea in a concerted manner to fully comply with the relevant UNSCRs and refrain from any further provocation. To this end, it is imperative for each country to steadily implement measures against North Korea pursuant to the relevant UNSCRs. On top of these measures, Japan will also continue to steadily implement measures of its own. It will continue to closely coordinate with countries concerned, including the US, the Republic of Korea (ROK), China, and Russia, strongly urging North Korea to refrain from any further provocations and comply with the relevant UNSCRs.

With regard to Japan-North Korea relations, Japan will continue to make its utmost efforts toward comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration under the policy of "dialogue and pressure," and "action for action." In its Government-level Consultations with Japan in May 2014, North Korea promised to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals, including abductees. Nevertheless, no abductee has yet returned home. The abduction issue is a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and the safety of Japanese citizens. Japan will continue to urge North Korea to take concrete actions in order to achieve the return of all the abductees at the earliest possible time, while urging North Korea to implement the agreement made in Stockholm.

II. National Security and Defense Policy

1. Japan's Security Policy

(1) "Proactive Contribution to Peace"

The security environment surrounding Japan has become even severer due to the dramatic change in the global power balance and the emerging threats that extend beyond national boundaries. No nation can maintain its own peace and security by itself. Being well aware of this, and under its policy of

“Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, Japan will contribute even more actively to ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community. With the National Security Council (NSC) serving as a control tower, and in accordance with the National Security Strategy (NSS), Japan will continue its path as a peace-loving nation, work in close cooperation with the U.S. and other partners as a major global player in the international community, and implement its national security policies in a steadfast manner, thereby making a more proactive contribution to peace and stability of the region and the world more than ever.

(2) Japan’s Legislation for Peace and Security

Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security took effect in March 2016. The legislation is designed for Japan both (i) to make a seamless response to any situation amid an increasingly severe security environment surrounding the country, and (ii) to put into concrete practice its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and thereby administer more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community.

Now that the Legislation for Peace and Security has taken effect, Japan’s “use of force” will be permitted, under the Constitution, to exercise the right of collective defense in a limited manner in addition to the right of individual self-defense if the "Three New Conditions," which are unmatched worldwide in terms of stringency, are met.

The legislation has expanded the range of activities in which Japan can engage in during U.N. PKOs. It also allows Japan to participate in internationally coordinated operations for peace and security that are outside the U.N. PKO framework. Furthermore, the legislation allows Japan to engage in cooperation and support activities, such as supply and transportation under certain conditions, when the peace and security of the international community is threatened including those concerning U.N. resolutions. By allowing these activities, the legislation enables Japan to better contribute to the peace and stability of the international community.

However, Japan’s postwar posture as a peace-loving nation has not been changed for more than 70 years. Japan has taken various opportunities to explain both its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and the Legislation for Peace and Security to the countries concerned in a transparent and sincere manner, winning support and understanding from countries around the world.

2. Japan’s Defense Policy

(1) National Defense Program Guidelines and the Medium-Term Defense Program

The National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) for FY2014 and beyond sets forth the basic

principles for Japan's national defense, explains the significance and role of its defense capabilities, and on the basis of these provides fundamental guidelines for future capability development, including the specific architecture of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the target level for main equipment improvement. In light of the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan since 2010 when the previous guidelines were drawn up, the Government made a Cabinet decision on the new NDPG in December 2013, taking the NSS into account.

The new NDPG sets out the following three points: (i) Japan's own efforts, (ii) strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and (iii) active promotion of security cooperation, as the pillars for the essential defense of the lives and property of Japanese people as well as the sovereignty of Japan's territorial land, waters, and airspace. The NDPG calls for the building of a "Dynamic Joint Defense Force" that will enable the JSDF to conduct a diverse range of JSDF activities seamlessly and dynamically, adapting to situations as demanded, under the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan. It also calls for promoting a variety of further cooperative initiatives in a multi-layered manner with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Medium Term Defense Program (MTDP) is, on the other hand, the first five-year defense buildup program laid out to achieve the target level for defense capabilities set forth in the NDPGs. The expenditures required to implement the defense force developments described in this program amount to approximately 24,670 billion yen in FY2013 prices. For the duration of this program, in harmony with other measures taken by the Government, approximately 700 billion yen will be secured by means of further streamlining and rationalization through efforts such as equipment procurement reform.

(2) Defense-Related Expenditures

In addition to the cost of maintaining and operating the JSDF, defense-related expenditures in Japan include the cost of improving the living environment in the vicinity of defense facilities and support for US forces stationed in Japan.

As the budget based on the new NDPGs and MTDP mentioned above, the FY2017 defense-related expenditures budget includes an array of projects aimed at the establishment of a Dynamic Joint Defense Force.

Excluding the costs related to the Special Action Committee on Okinawa or SACO (the cost of implementing the SACO Final Report to mitigate the impacts on people in Okinawa), the U.S. forces realignment-related expenses (the portion allocated for mitigating the impact on local communities), and the expenses associated with the acquisition of new government aircraft, the expenditure budget for FY2017 has been increased by 38.8 billion yen (or 0.8% growth rate) from the previous fiscal year to 4,899.6 billion yen, marking the fifth consecutive year of growth. Major factors behind the

growth include additional JSDF activity expenses needed to respond to the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, as well as personnel expenses resulting from requests relating to organizations/personnel and compensation system review, and obligatory outlay expenses relating to equipment, etc. on past contracts.

Including 2.8 billion yen in SACO-related expenses, 201.1 billion yen in the U.S. forces realignment related expenses (the portion allocated for mitigating the impact on local communities), and 21.6 billion yen in expenses associated with the acquisition of new government aircraft, Japan's total defense-related expenditure budget for FY2017 amounts to 5,125.1 billion yen, an increase of 70.9 billion yen, or growth rate of 1.4% from the preceding fiscal year.

The FY2016 defense-related expenditure is 0.89% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), SACO-related expenses, U.S. forces realignment related expenses and expenses associated with the acquisition of new government aircraft excluded, and 0.93% with the above three included.

3. Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

Given an increasingly severer security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, securing the forward deployment of U.S. forces based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and strengthening the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance are essential not only for the security of Japan, but also for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-US Alliance, the two countries are expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including ballistic missile defense, cyberspace, outer space, and maritime security, as laid out in the 2015 Defense Guidelines and the Legislation for Peace and Security.

In light of the recent security environment, the United States will strengthen its presence in the Asia-Pacific region, and Japan will assume larger roles and responsibilities in the alliance. The United States and Japan will further enhance cooperation with allies and partners in the region.

III. Japan's Contributions to Regional Security

1. Maritime Security

Securing the safety of navigation is indispensable for the international community as a whole, and international coordination and cooperation are crucial to maintain it. "Open and Stable Seas" underpinned by a maritime order that is governed not by force or coercion but by laws and rules that constitute global commons essential for peace and prosperity of the entire world. It is necessary to maintain and develop them. From this perspective, Japan has been striving to ensure the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight through various initiatives such as counter-piracy measures in

Asia and Africa as well as close coordination and cooperation with other countries.

As part of its efforts to secure the safety of navigation in Asia, Japan has advocated the establishment of a forum to provide EAS member countries with the opportunity to discuss maritime cooperation and maritime issues in the region, which has borne fruit in the form of the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). At the third EAMF held in Viet Nam in 2014 and the fourth EAMF in Indonesia in September 2015, Japan underscored the importance of the rule of law at sea, while referring to the "three principles of the rule of law at sea" mentioned above. At the same time, Japan proposed to establish mechanism to reflect the outcome of EAMF upon EAS.

In addition, Japan took the initiative in establishing the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). Japan has been actively contributing to the implementation of the ReCAAP by making financial contributions to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and supporting ReCAAP ISC's efforts in the area of information sharing and capacity building assistance.

In ARF, Japan has been co-chairing the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ARF ISM on MS) with the Philippines and the United States since August 2014. Together with the co-chairs, Japan has worked on revising the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. With a view to further promoting cooperation on maritime security, Japan hosted the 9th ARF ISM on MS in February 2017, where the Japanese delegation stressed the importance of ensuring free, open and stable seas and rule of law at sea as well as free and open Indian and Pacific Oceans. The common understanding reached among the participants in the meeting included (i) the importance of enhancing international and regional cooperation, (ii) cooperation should be based on the regional ownership and responsibility, including, for instance, ASEAN unity and centrality, (iii) the importance of securing the compliance with international law including UNCLOS in the conduct of concrete action and cooperation, (iv) the importance of enhancing cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities in order to facilitate capacity building on law enforcement and environment conservation capability. Furthermore, Japan serves with Malaysia as the lead countries for "confidence-building measures based on international and regional legal frameworks, arrangements, and cooperation," which is one of the priority areas for the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. In this context, Japan hosted the ARF Seminar on Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia, in Tokyo in March 2015 (co-chairing with the US, Malaysia, and India), and ARF Seminar on Regional Confidence Building and Law of the Sea, in Tokyo in December 2015 (co-chairing with Vietnam and India).

2. Disaster Relief

Japan has provided active support in responding to large-scale natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific

region. In November 2016, a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) JSDF Unit consisting of one P-1 patrol aircraft conducted emergency relief operations over earthquake-stricken New Zealand for emergency relief operations. During FY2016, Japan extended emergency assistance to ARF members through provision of emergency relief goods in three cases and emergency grant aid in two cases to assist the people affected by major natural disasters, such as the heavy rainfall in Sri Lanka and the earthquake in Indonesia.

Japan also co-chaired the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) together with Myanmar and China (from July 2013 to July 2016). In February 2016, it co-chaired the 15th ARF-ISM on DR in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defense Authorities, and Disaster Relief Agencies from ARF member states as relevant international organizations. The meeting discussed regional frameworks, activities, and cooperation for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, from both civil and military perspectives in light of the latest initiatives taken by these countries. As Myanmar has often been hit by floods and cyclones in recent years, the participants generally seemed to have much interest in disaster risk reduction (DRR). In fact, many questions were asked in relation to the capacity-building assistance that Japan has been providing to ASEAN, as JICA has already extended assistance in Myanmar of various kinds in this sector. Japan will work with other ARF participants and contribute to ARF activities in order to make regional disaster relief cooperation more practical and effective.

In addition, Japan is an active player in other regional frameworks as well. For example, Japan proactively participates in EAS initiatives that address disaster risk reduction as a priority area. In the framework of Japan-China-ROK trilateral cooperation, the three countries hold a regular table top exercise on disaster management, whereby they discuss the humanitarian assistance and disaster management mechanisms of each country in order to enhance mutual understanding. Within the framework of Japan-ASEAN cooperation, Japan provides three types of assistance through the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). The first type of assistance concerns the development and operation of an ICT-based disaster management system. This has helped facilitate timely information-gathering and responses, and international rescue and relief operations. The second type concerns the development and operation of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA). DELSA has been developing a framework for stockpiling emergency relief supplies at specific locations and transporting these items to disaster-hit areas. The third type of Japan's assistance through the AHA Centre concerns a human resources development project in DRR. This project involves a six-month training program for officials at the DRR organization in ASEAN Member States. In June 2016, Japan offered its knowledge and experience in DRR to the program participants when they visited the country.

3. Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

In the field of counter-terrorism, Japan continues to make efforts against international terrorism and violent extremism in cooperation with the countries and the regional and international organizations concerned. In this regard, at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in Vientiane, Laos on September 7, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that Japan would provide approximately 45 billion yen over the next three years for Asia as comprehensive counter-terrorism measures consisted of (i) improvement of counter-terrorism capacity, (ii) measures to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and (iii) social and economic development assistance for creating a foundation for a moderate society. He also stated that Japan would help develop 2,000 personnel for counter-terrorism over the next three years. In February 2017, Japan decided to contribute approximately 35 million US dollars for enhancing counter-terrorism and violent extremism measures in Asia.

Specifically, Japan has continuously held multilateral and bilateral counter-terrorism consultations with nations in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere, primarily with Southeast Asian countries, to enhance international counter-terrorism cooperation. To help build anti-terrorism capacity, Japan supports projects in such areas as immigration control, aviation security, maritime and port security, and law enforcement under a number of frameworks, which include the ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue (AJCTD), the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime plus Japan (AMMTC+Japan), and the Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime plus Japan (SOMTC+Japan). The 17th Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in Myanmar in November 2014 adopted the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The participants agreed to strengthen cooperation in countering terrorism and violent extremism between Japan and ASEAN, and to expand its scope to include international organized crime. AMMTC + Japan in October 2015 took note of the SOMTC + Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017), which is designed to promote the implementation of the Joint-Declaration. In January 2017, Japan hosted a Workshop for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Asia, attended by representatives from some Southeast Asian nations.

Japan has also been stepping up its efforts to combat transnational crimes in the Asia-Pacific region in three major aspects. The first aspect is strengthening transnational legal frameworks. For example, Japan has been tackling drug problems in alliance with ARF member countries through measures such as the exchange of information on synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), and investigative cooperation in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and other drug-related treaties. The second aspect is supporting local initiatives designed to combat illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, and corruption in the Southeast Asia through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). For example, Japan has dispatched an expert to Myanmar to help

improve the management of prisons in cooperation with UNODC. Specific follow-ups include the compilation of a handbook on international cooperation regarding cases of bribery of foreign public officials, which is designed to address the challenges in Southeast Asia. The third aspect is promoting policy coordination with various countries and international organizations. Japan actively participates in multilateral frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), and the Bali Process, which involves consultations on irregular immigrants and trafficking in persons.

4. Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

The schism on approaches towards a world free of nuclear weapons has become salient among nuclear-weapon States, between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States, and even among non-nuclear-weapon States. In addition, the international community is facing a serious challenge to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as highlighted by North Korea's nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches. In spite of the severe security situation which the international community finds itself in, Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, will continue to take concrete and practical steps towards a world free of nuclear weapons, believing that only the promotion of cooperation between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States will lead to a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, Japan is committed to maintaining and enhancing the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has been engaging in various diplomatic efforts. These efforts include the contribution to the three pillars of the NPT (nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy) through the NPT Review process, as well as the submission of resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly, the activities through the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and the contribution to the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD). In addition, Japan has been engaged in efforts for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as the co-chair of the Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the CTBT for a two-year term since September 2015. Also, Japan is currently contributing to the creation of the necessary dynamism and momentum for a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) negotiation as Members of the high-level expert preparatory group.

Taking into consideration serious challenges to the international non-proliferation regime, such as North Korea's nuclear tests and launch of ballistic missile launches, Japan is engaged in outreach activities in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of achieving three key objectives: (i) promoting the universalization of disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and reinforcing their implementation at the national level; (ii) establishing and strengthening export control systems; and (iii) raising

awareness of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and enhancing related efforts. As part of these activities, Japan has been hosting a range of meetings each year, including the Asia Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) and Asian Export Control Seminar.

5. Cyberspace and Outer Space

Cyber attacks are becoming increasingly diversified and sophisticated. Some attacks target critical infrastructure as seen in attacks against the Deutsche Telekom in November 2016, as well as attacks that resulted in the leakage of personal information of some 1.2 million people from the Japan Pension Service in May 2015. How to develop systems and capabilities to protect states, and the lives and property of the citizens from such cyber attacks constitutes a major challenge from both national security and economic perspectives. To this end, Japan is working with other countries concerned to promote a mutual understanding on these issues in a number of areas. One such area is deliberating international rules, including those on how to apply existing international law to acts in cyberspace as well as developing international norms. Other areas include supporting capacity building and developing confidence-building measures.

Countries in Asia-Pacific Region are discussing cyberspace issues under frameworks such as ARF and ASEAN+3 meetings. The ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), which was endorsed at the 22nd ARF, calls for confidence-building measures, awareness-raising, capacity building support, and crime control regarding cybersecurity. Japan is proactively participating in international meetings on these issues to boost cyber security in the region. From the viewpoint of the increasing importance of the situation surrounding cyberspace, ARF recognizes the value of continuing to exchange views from a comprehensive standpoint with the aim of promoting a peaceful, safe, open, and coordinated ICT environment, and preventing conflicts and crises through capacity-building assistance while building confidence among nations. In July 2015, Japan sent a study mission on cybersecurity to Viet Nam to promote cooperation in this sector. Going forward, Japan will increase its support for capacity building in cyber security with a focus on ASEAN countries according to the “Japan’s Basic Strategy of Cybersecurity Capacity Building.”

Japan’s bilateral initiatives include discussions and dialogue on cyberspace with the U.S., Australia, the U.K., France, India, Russia, Israel, Estonia, Germany, ROK and Ukraine. Japan has also been holding trilateral talks involving China and ROK, and exchanging views with such international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Council of Europe (CoE).

In addition to these initiatives, Japan will accelerate ties with ASEAN countries and public/private-sector collaboration to reinforce its efforts to address cyber security issues.

In order to deal with issues pertaining to the increase of congestion in outer space and threatening space activities of other countries to secure the safe and stable use of outer space, Japan has been proactively engaged in building a safe space environment and promptly developing international rules. Within the framework of the ARF, Japan has been playing a leading role, as it hosted the second ARF Workshop on Space Security, which was held in Tokyo in 2014, promoting the common understanding of the member states with regard to the current situation of space environment and the importance of prompt development of international rules. Japan also has been conducting bilateral consultations and cooperation with various countries focusing on space issues. Japan has been committed to the establishment of the rule of law in outer space. For this purpose, Japan has been actively engaged with discussions in multilateral fora including establishing the “Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the United Nations, as well as strengthening norms of responsible behavior for all space activities, as mentioned in the joint statement of G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April 2017.

6. Preventive Diplomacy

Japan believes it is important for ARF to make steady progress from the first stage of the “promotion of confidence-building measure” to the second stage of “development of preventive diplomacy” and further to the third stage of “approaches to dispute settlement.” However, despite the cumulative efforts of the ARF countries have so far succeeded in facilitating confidence-building measures to a certain extent, progress toward the development of preventive diplomacy has only just begun. In this context, Japan welcomes the approach taken in the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Training, held in Yogyakarta in November 2015, and the ARF Training Course on Preventive Diplomacy, held in Hanoi in March 2016; that is, the approach of analyzing case studies in the region while sharing the understanding of the concept and modus operandi of preventive diplomacy among the ARF participants in order to promote preventive diplomacy. Japan has long been committed to conflict prevention and peace building through human resources development and other modalities means. Japan will take advantage of its expertise in these areas to further contribute to the ARF’s efforts to promote preventive diplomacy.

7. ADMM-Plus Initiatives

The ADMM-Plus provides a framework for addressing a wide range of security issues common to the region. Japan is committed to this framework with the aim of developing the forum into a key pillar of regional security cooperation. Within the ADMM-Plus, seven Experts’ Working Groups (EWGs) have been established to increase concrete military-to-military cooperation in handling security issues common to the region: humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), maritime security, counter terrorism, military medicine, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian mine action and cyber security. Japan is taking part in each EWG to further enhance regional security cooperation

by actively exchanging views with other countries and making proposals.

Japan had helped to intensify cooperation with other member countries in military medicine areas by acting as co-chair of the EWG on military medicine along with Singapore, conducting field training exercises on HA/DR and military medicine in Brunei in June 2013. From 2014 to 2017, Japan co-chaired the EWG on HA/DR together with Lao PDR. Efforts were made to formulate a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the establishment and management of a Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC) so as to amplify the activities of assisting foreign forces that are accepted by disaster-affected countries in the event of natural or other disasters. In August 2015, for example, a table top exercise (TTX) was conducted in Lao PDR. In September 2016, exercises on HA/DR and military medicine, AM-Hex 2016, were conducted in Thailand in order to test the final draft of the SOP. At the 9th EWG meeting on HA/DR in December 2016, the SOP was adopted and it has been on the track of discussion in the framework of ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) since then.

The ADMM-Plus is a vital framework providing the member countries with opportunities to conduct multilateral talks on a wide range of regional security issues in an open manner. Japan believes it is important to keep this framework open without putting any restriction on the issues to be addressed in the forum, while allowing the participating countries to discuss a wide range of issues in a candid manner.

IV. Japan's Future Contribution to Enhance Capability of ARF

As a framework for candid discussion on the political and security issues of the entire Asia-Pacific region, ARF has steadily contributed to confidence-building in the region. In recent years, various initiatives have been put forward in a wide range of areas, including maritime security, disaster relief, counter terrorism and transnational crime, non-proliferation and disarmament, preventive diplomacy, cyberspace, and outer space. Some of these initiatives have been translated into exercise-type activities, such as the ARF-Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx). During the inter-sessional year of 2015-2016, Japan played a leading role in animated discussions within the ARF by exercising initiatives in such areas as maritime security, disaster relief, outer space, and counter terrorism.

To further develop ARF as an action-oriented framework instead of making it serve merely as a forum for dialogue, ARF countries that co-organize each initiative need to establish practical agenda items and programs with the cooperation with stakeholders, including relevant international organizations and experts. Also, member states need to work more closely with one another to avoid duplications among initiatives and produce favorable outputs. In addition to these efforts to improve ARF functions, it is also important to strengthen cooperation with other regional security frameworks in pursuing effective synergy. The edge of the wedge is the area of disaster relief. In this particular

area, similar exercises are increasingly conducted under different regional frameworks such as ADMM plus. Member states need to streamline such exercises from the viewpoint of reducing personnel and financial costs for participating countries and pursuing practical initiatives. The ARF Multi-Year Strategic Exercise Plan Workshop, held in April 2015, discussed how to optimize disaster relief exercises. Such discussions are in line with this awareness. They give a hint as to how the effectiveness of the ARF can be ensured in the future.

Japan will proactively contribute to improve ARF functions and coordinate among different regional frameworks while continue to exercise initiatives in various areas.