

Joint Press Release of the 1st Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue

1. Mr. Mitsunari Okamoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Neris Germanas, Vice-Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Andris Pelss, State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and Mr. Rainer Saks, Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia met in the framework of the Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue on 27 September in Vilnius, Lithuania.
2. They welcomed the progress of the relations between Japan and the Baltic countries in a broad range of areas such as people-to-people exchanges, economic cooperation as well as science and technology cooperation since the visit of Prime Minister Abe to the Baltic countries in January 2018. In this regard, representatives from the Baltic countries welcomed the visit of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) mission as an important step to boost trade and investment opportunities of both sides.
3. They discussed the future Japan-Baltic cooperation, focusing on the area of life science and affirmed the importance and potential of the cooperation in the area.
4. They also exchanged and shared views on regional affairs in East Asia and Europe, including the situation in the Korean peninsula and the conflict in eastern Ukraine. They expressed their commitment to maintaining the rules-based international order including in the maritime domain, which is the foundation of global security and prosperity. They also expressed their strong opposition to any unilateral actions that increase tensions or change the status quo by force or coercion and underlined the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law.
5. They reiterated their commitment to the realization of the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and all ballistic missiles of North Korea in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). They reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the relevant UNSCRs. They emphasized the importance of the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.
6. They stressed the importance of increasing opportunities of political and economic interaction to further strengthen the cooperation between Japan and the Baltic countries. They decided to hold the 2nd Japan - Baltic Cooperation Dialogue in 2019 in Riga, Latvia.

27 September, Vilnius, Lithuania