

New Plan for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Why FOIP now?

- **The international community is at a history's turning point**
 - **Rise of emerging countries and developing countries**
→The balance of power is shifting dramatically. There is a growing call that various opinions should be heard. On the other hand, the issue of disparities is also surfacing.
 - **A compound crisis with entanglement of different issues** (Global challenges, issues brought by scientific and technological developments)
→The more vulnerable the nation, the greater the sacrifices. On the other hand, there is a growing need for cooperation among countries.

➔ **The international community lacks a guiding perspective that is acceptable to all about what the international order should be.**

The considerable discrepancies in the attitudes across various countries even toward Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an indication that a strong centrifugal force is working within the international community at the level of a "perspective."

- **Core principles of FOIP is defending "freedom" and "the rule of law", and respect for "diversity", "inclusiveness" and "openness".** These principles have won a lot of sympathy from the international community. FOIP has gained widespread support and endorsement not only from the U.S. and European countries but also from emerging and developing countries.

➔ **In the current situation where there is no consensus on what should be the underlying perspective for the next era, the FOIP is a vision that is gaining in relevance in order to seek cooperation in the international community.**

New Plan for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”

1. Purpose and Fundamental Concept

<Purpose>

- **Demonstrate clearly the concept of FOIP as a guiding perspective to be shared by the international community at the history’s turning point.**
- **Strengthen efforts to realize FOIP.** In particular, **incorporate new elements of addressing peace and the global commons (such as climate and the environment, global health and cyberspace)-related issues into cooperation for FOIP.** Also, take further measures in areas such as connectivity and freedom of the seas that have been the focus of FOIP.

<Fundamental Concept>

- The FOIP has been flexible in evolving in a way that embraces various voices from the international community and **can be characterized as “our FOIP,”** shared by countries. **This vision is becoming more important than ever toward the goal of leading the international community in the direction of cooperation rather than division and confrontation.**
- **Even at this turning point, the fundamental concept of FOIP remains the same.** We will enhance the connectivity of the Indo-Pacific region, **foster the region into a place that values freedom, the rule of law, free from force or coercion, and make it prosperous.** With this backdrop,
 - Defend **freedom and the rule of law**: Vulnerable countries are in greatest need of the rule of law. The principles of the UN Charter should be upheld.
 - Respect **diversity, inclusiveness, and openness**: Not excluding anyone, not creating camps, and not imposing values.
- Based on these principles, **the approach we should take going forward is**
 - **Rulemaking through dialogue**: Having a dialogue and cooperation regardless of the size of countries.
 - **Equal partnership among nations**: Aim for a world where diverse nations coexist and prosper together under the rule of law, without falling into geopolitical competition, instead of unipolar, bipolar, or multipolar one.
 - **Approach focusing on “people”**: Creating necessary conditions for the survival, welfare, and life with dignity of individual people anywhere in the world while respecting diversity and inclusiveness among countries.
- Japan will strengthen coordination with the United States, Australia, India, ASEAN and the Pacific Island countries, the ROK, Canada, Europe and elsewhere. We will expand the networks among countries that share the vision, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and direct efforts in the spirit of co-creation.

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2. Expansion of Cooperation for FOIP (New Pillars of Cooperation for FOIP)

Set forth the pillars of cooperation for FOIP that are suited for the history’s turning point in order to realize a world that FOIP aims for

First Pillar: Principles for Peace and Rules for Prosperity

The backbone of FOIP. Defend “peace”, and create an international environment where freedom, transparency, and the rule of law are upheld and **the weak are not beaten by force.**

● **Fundamental principles that the international community should uphold for Peace / Peace Building**

- Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo
- Settlement of disputes through dialogue
- Response from a perspective of Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

● **Create a free, fair and just economic order in a manner that adapts to changing times**

- Maintain the WTO rules as a foundation and promote a higher level of liberalization, such as the CPTPP
- Economic Partnership Agreement with Bangladesh, which will soon graduate from being classified as a least developed country
- Enhance cooperation with the U.S. and partners through IPEF

● **Rulemaking to prevent opaque and unfair practice**

- Promote the implementation of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment
- Lead the international community toward transparent and fair development finance (debt restructuring of Sri Lanka)

Second Pillar: Addressing Challenges in an Indo-Pacific Way

The new focus of cooperation for FOIP. Expand cooperation for FOIP with the dramatic increase in the importance of **“global commons”, such as climate and the environment, global health and cyberspace**, and thereby enhance the resilience and sustainability of societies.

● **Climate and the environment / energy security**

- “Asia Zero Emission Community” concept, aiming for achieving both decarbonization and economic growth
- “Assistance for loss and damage” to countries vulnerable to natural disaster
- “Blue Ocean Vision” to protect the ocean

● **Food security**

- Emergency food aid to support vulnerable countries etc.
- Offering the framework for providing rice to ASEAN region in response to an emergency

● **Global Health**

- Cooperation to achieve universal health coverage
- Support establishing the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases

● **Disaster prevention and disaster response capacity**

- Cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, for which Japan has know-how and technologies

● **Cyber**

- Countermeasures against disinformation (holding workshops etc.)
- Support for cybercrime prevention, cyber security capacity building etc.

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Third Pillar: Multi-layered Connectivity

Core element of the cooperation for FOIP. In order to achieve vigorous growth of the entire region, countries need to stay connected in various aspects. Japan will increase each country's options and help them overcome their vulnerabilities through initiatives to further enhance connectivity.

● **Initiatives to further enhance connectivity**

- Southeast Asia
(a new contribution of 100 million US dollars to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund etc.)
- South Asia
(the Bay of Bengal-Northeast India industrial value chain concept in cooperation with India and Bangladesh etc.)
- Pacific Islands region (overcoming vulnerabilities through integrated development of various infrastructure) (e.g. the new Palau International Airport Terminal project, undersea cable, capacity building etc.)

● **Enhance “knowledge” connectivity, which is a further development of “human” connectivity**

- Connect the “youth” who will lead the next generation (exchange programs etc.)
- Connect “knowledge and experience” (a branch of the University of Tsukuba in Malaysia etc.)
- Connect “laboratories and the field” (providing remote ICU services etc.)
- Connect “entrepreneurs and investors” (supporting startups etc.)

● **Digital connectivity**

- Promote open and reliable digital technology, including Open RAN
- Develop information infrastructure including undersea cable

Fourth Pillar: Extending Efforts for Security and Safe Use of the “Sea” to the “Air”

Ensure the security and safety of the entire “public domain,” having **“marine routes”** at the center as the **“focus of FOIP”** and incorporating ensuring the safe and stable use of air domain.

● **“Three principles of the rule of law at sea”**

- Japan officially adopted the position that existing baselines can be maintained even if the coastline recedes due to rising sea levels caused by climate change
- Hold seminars on law of the sea and maritime cooperation in collaboration with ASEAN countries

● **Strengthen maritime law enforcement capabilities**

- Providing patrol ships and equipment and supporting maritime transport infrastructure
- Human resource development and network building (especially cooperation among coast guard agencies)
- Combating IUU fishing

● **Enhance maritime security**

- Capacity building support for other countries defense authorities, joint training, and development of legal infrastructure such as the RAA and ACSA
- A new framework for assistance (grant aid to armed forces and other organizations of friendly countries)
- Strengthen Maritime Domain Awareness (capacity building support and utilization of maritime information gained by satellites)

● **Promote safe and stable use of the air space**

- Enhance capability for grasping situation of the air
- Cooperation on new technology (measures in the environment field and drones etc.)

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3. Methods to Promote Cooperation for FOIP

- In expanding cooperation for FOIP, the key will be to implement an optimal combination of various methods. Japan will further strengthen diplomatic efforts including by expanding our ODA in various forms, while engaging in a strategic use of it.
 - From this viewpoint, Japan will revise the Development Cooperation Charter and set forth guidelines for Japan’s ODA for the next 10 years.

Specifically,

→Strengthen coordination among agencies that handle ODA and other official flows, and **launch an “offer-type” cooperation** which will enable to create and propose attractive plans tailored to development demands while taking advantage of Japan’s strengths.

→**Introduce a new framework for “private capital mobilization-type” grant aid that will attract investments as a new form of ODA.** It is a new menu that combines grant aid and technical cooperation in order to contribute to tackling economic and social challenges by supporting start-ups. It will create a mechanism which mobilizes the wisdom and investments of private capital which seeks to contribute to economic and social challenges.

- In terms of mobilizing private capital, Japan will **amend the JBIC Law.**

→The amendment will enable the JBIC to make a loan to foreign companies that support Japanese companies' supply chains as well as to invest in startups with overseas operations with an eye on growth areas such as digital and decarbonization.

- Japan will **respond robustly to the needs of each country** with the public and private sectors working in tandem through these efforts.

Japan will mobilize **a total of more than 75 billion US dollars in public and private funds in the Indo-Pacific region by 2030** in infrastructure, for which there are major demands from each country. Japan will grow together with other countries.

(Reference) Efforts and cooperation for FOIP in other countries and regions

Europe

- Japan has confirmed its collaboration with many European countries and the EU to realize a FOIP.
- The UK, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and the EU have issued documents about the Indo-Pacific.

UK

- Announced its policy on further engagement in the Indo-Pacific (March 2021)
- Defined the Indo-Pacific as a “permanent pillar” (March 2023)

France

- “France’s Indo-Pacific Strategy” (October 2018 (revised in July 2021, February 2022))

Germany

- “Policy guidelines for the Indo-Pacific” (September 2020)

Italy

- “The Italian Contribution to the EU Strategy for the Indo-Pacific” (February 2022)

Netherlands

- “Indo-Pacific: Guidelines for strengthening Dutch and EU cooperation with partners in Asia” (November 2020)

EU

- “Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific” (September 2021)
- “Global Gateway”, the EU’s connectivity strategy (December 2021)

Czech Republic

- Strategy for cooperation with the Indo-Pacific (October 2022)

V4 (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic)

- Shared the view to promote cooperation toward FOIP (May 2021)

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- “IORA’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” (November 2022)

Middle East

- Affirmed the importance of the principles set out in “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” (The Second Arab-Japan Political Dialogue, April 2021)

Africa

- Cooperation under the vision of a FOIP has been affirmed with six countries. (December 2020 and January 2021)
- Taking good note of the initiative of a FOIP (TICAD8 Tunis Declaration, August 2022)

Japan-Australia-India-U.S.

- To realize a FOIP, the four countries established working groups in the areas of health security, critical and emerging technologies, climate change, infrastructure, space, and cyber security, and have promoted their cooperation in each of these areas. In addition, the four countries agreed to further advance cooperation in a wide range of areas, including people to people exchange, maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. (Quad leaders' Meeting in March and September 2021 and May 2022)
- Reaffirmed their commitment to the realization of a FOIP. (Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, September 2022)

ASEAN

- Adopted “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)” (June 2019)
- Adopted “Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” (November 2020). It was confirmed that the AOIP and Japan's FOIP share fundamental principles and to strengthen ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership through enhanced practical cooperation and synergy in the four areas as outlined in the AOIP, namely, maritime cooperation, connectivity, SDGs, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation.
- Issued the “Progress Report”s on Japan’s concrete cooperation projects on the AOIP.

Republic of Korea

- “Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region” (November 2022)

India

- Vision for Indo-Pacific region “Act East” policy (Prime Minister Modi’s speech in June 2018)
- “Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative” (November 2019)
- Reaffirmed common vision for a FOIP, free from coercion (Japan-India Summit Joint Statement in March 2022)

Australia

- Shared the view to deepen cooperation towards realizing a FOIP (Ninth Japan-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”) in July 2021)
- Affirmed unwavering commitment to a FOIP (Australia-Japan Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation in October 2022)

NZ

- Affirmed the importance of proceeding concrete efforts, by coordinating with related countries, toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” (Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in February 2022)
- Agreed to further strengthen the “Strategic Cooperative Partnership” between Japan and New Zealand to realize a FOIP (Summit Meeting, April 2022)

Canada

- Japan-Canada Action Plan for contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific region (Foreign Minister’s Meeting in October 2022)
- Indo-Pacific Strategy (November 2022)

U.S.

- “Indo-Pacific Strategy” in February 2022 (Secretary Blinken’s visit to Fiji).
- Japan-U.S. Joint Statement “Strengthening a Free and Open International Order” (May 2022, Summit Meeting)
- National Security Strategy (Includes a section of “Promoting a Free and Open Indo-Pacific”) (October 2022)

Pacific Island Countries

- PIF Leaders welcomed Japan’s contribution through “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” (PALM 9 in July 2021)

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

- Affirmed collaboration to realize a FOIP (Foreign Minister Hayashi’s visit to LAC in January 2023)
- Expressed support for Japan’s efforts (Japan-Paraguay Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in November 2021, Japan-Guatemala Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in July 2021, Japan-Ecuador Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in January 2023)

(Reference) Strengthening domestic and international partnerships

In expanding cooperation for FOIP, further collaboration with domestic and international stakeholders and the development of Japan's domestic infrastructure are essential.

- Countries and Partners
 - Strengthen mutually complementary efforts with the U.S., Australia, India, South Korea, Canada, Europe, etc.
 - Utilizing frameworks such as the G7, Japan-U.S.-Australia-India, and Japan-U.S.-Korea, promote cooperation for rulemaking and enhancement of autonomy of each country.
 - Promote cooperation with emerging and developing countries more extensively than before.
- International and regional organizations
 - Continue to contribute to international and regional organizations with expertise and neutrality, while promoting information sharing and dialogue.
- Private sector
 - Private sector funds and technologies are indispensable for the development and growth of each country, and their presence is increasing year by year. Pursue synergies through public-private partnerships.
- Think tanks etc.
 - Utilize the policy proposal and dissemination functions of universities and think tanks (utilize Track 1.5, etc.).

(Reference) Further Collaboration and Cooperation with Emerging Countries, etc.

While respecting the ownership of each country, we will cooperate with each country to ensure that the people can enjoy the fruits of this cooperation.

Central Asia and Caucasus Countries

While possessing abundant resources, the region has limited outlets to the sea, and there are many destabilizing factors such as terrorism in the surrounding area.
→ Connecting the region to the rest of the world, including the Indo-Pacific, by strengthening connectivity through the Caspian Sea Route.

Southwest Asian Countries

● It is important to ensure the stability of sea lanes and to address the vulnerability of inland region.
→ Promote partnership with India, which is the G20 presidency and a QUAD member, enhance regional connectivity and advance cooperation in various areas to improve the autonomy of each country.

ASEAN Countries

● Japan respects ASEAN centrality and unity, and fully supports the AOIP.
● This year marks the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Announced an additional 100 million USD supports to Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).
→ Will set out a new vision for cooperation on the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.
→ Strengthen cooperation on priority areas of the AOIP (maritime cooperation, connectivity, SDGs (health, climate change, disaster prevention, etc), economic and other possible areas of cooperation (including supply chain, digital, food security)) which are shared by FOIP.

Middle East Countries

The Middle East and North Africa
● Major supplier of global energy, holding a sea lane that is essential for the growth of the world economy.
● Many destabilizing factors, including terrorism.
→ Japan promotes to strengthen regional connectivity, increasing self-reliance through means such as industrial diversification, and to enhance cooperation in the area of security.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

● Promoting regional cooperation based on "IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific"
→ Strengthen cooperation in IORA's 6 priority areas (Maritime Security, Disaster Prevention, Fisheries, Trade & Investment, Academic Cooperation, Tourism)

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries

● Value the rule of law and promote a free and fair economic order
● Need to address issues such as disparities and vulnerability
● Supply source of important mineral, energy, and food resources. Vital for further growth in the Indo-Pacific.
→ Japan promotes cooperation in areas such as green, digital, food security, supply chain, maritime cooperation, and connectivity enhancement.

African Countries

● Africa, supported by its young people and abundant resources, is a continent where the dynamic growth is expected.
● Vulnerable with many destabilizing factors such as terrorism.
→ Japan, as "a partner growing together with Africa", aspires to realize resilient Africa that Africa itself aims to achieve through TICAD process.
→ Focus on start-ups and facilitate increased investment. Cooperate in green investment, digital and food security.

Pacific island countries (PICs)

● Strategically important region where sea lanes connecting Japan and Australia and sea lanes from the Indian Ocean through the South China Sea to the Pacific Ocean intersect.
● Geographically dispersed and vulnerable.
→ In order to enhance the autonomy of each country and the unity of the region, the region is cooperating in various areas including climate change, green, maritime cooperation, connectivity, digital, and economic security, with a view to next year's PALM 10.