

MEDIA NOTE

January 6, 2024

JOINT PRESS RELEASE ON THE TRILATERAL UNITED STATES – JAPAN – REPUBLIC OF KOREA INDO-PACIFIC DIALOGUE

The following text was released by the Governments of the United States of America, Japan, and the Republic of Korea on the occasion of the Trilateral United States-Japan-Republic of Korea Indo-Pacific Dialogue.

Begin Text

The Governments of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea convened the inaugural trilateral Indo-Pacific Dialogue in Washington, D.C. on January 5, 2024. Led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Daniel J. Kritenbrink, Japanese Deputy Minister/Director-General Kobe Yasuhiro, and Republic of Korea (ROK) Deputy Minister Chung Byung-won, the meeting built upon commitments made during the Trilateral Leaders' Summit at Camp David hosted by President Joseph Biden on August 18, 2023.

Before beginning their planned discussions, the three partners expressed their condolences for those who lost their lives in the recent earthquake in Ishikawa prefecture.

The representatives of the United States, Japan, and the ROK discussed each country's Indo-Pacific approach and opportunities for cooperation, with an emphasis on partnership with Southeast Asian and Pacific Island countries. They shared their respective assessments on geopolitical trends shaping the Indo-Pacific, highlighting the need for enhanced trilateral cooperation.

They reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate through regional forums and groupings, including ASEAN, the Friends of the Mekong, the Partners in the Blue Pacific, and the Pacific Islands Forum. They took note of the unique opportunity for trilateral cooperation at the UN in 2024 while the United States, Japan, and the ROK all hold seats on the Security Council. They celebrated the success of the U.S. APEC host year in 2023 and looked forward to cooperating on the ROK's APEC host year in 2025, and applauded progress made on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity negotiations. They discussed strategies to advance women's economic empowerment and equitable participation in the digital economy and looked forward to the 2024 Women's Economic Empowerment Conference in Washington, D.C. They also noted with optimism opportunities for further youth engagement with Pacific Island and Southeast Asian countries, supported in tandem by the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, including the upcoming July 2024 Trilateral Global Leadership Youth Summit in Busan.

Additionally, they emphasized the importance of collaborating to enhance regional economic security, resilience, and development, including taking action to combat climate change and

engaging with Indo-Pacific partners on issues such as information and communications technology, cybersecurity, and emerging technology, including through the AI Safety Summit and the Global AI Forum hosted by the ROK in 2024. Furthermore, they reiterated their ongoing commitment to trilateral maritime security and law enforcement cooperation in accordance with international law with a focus on support for capacity building in the region.

While focusing on the opportunities for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the partners also noted with concern worrying trends in the region, including the worsening humanitarian, political, and economic crisis in Myanmar. Recalling the publicly announced positions of the three countries regarding the recent dangerous and escalatory behavior supporting unlawful maritime claims by the PRC in the South China Sea, they strongly reiterated their firm commitment to international law, including the freedom of navigation and overflight, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and they opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion anywhere in the waters of the Indo-Pacific. They condemned the DPRK's continued development of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programs, growing military cooperation with Russia, and grave human rights violations and abuses. They reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as indispensable to security and prosperity in the international community.

Recognizing the increased threat posed by foreign information manipulation, the United States, Japan, and the ROK discussed ways to effectively counter these threats while respecting freedom of expression.

The trilateral Indo-Pacific Dialogue is a new chapter in our countries' partnership and an important step forward to strengthen and more closely align our policies globally. Assistant Secretary Kritenbrink, Deputy Minister/Director-General Kobe, and Deputy Minister Chung reaffirmed their intent to continue to hold the trilateral dialogue annually and coordinate closely on issues of shared concern in the Indo-Pacific.

End Text