



Overview of the International Situation and Outlook for Japan's Diplomacy

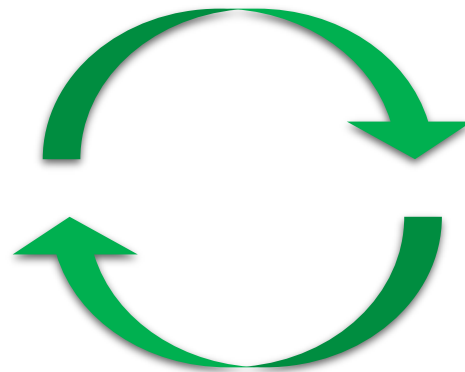
– lead the world toward reconciliation and cooperation –

Contents

1. Overview of the International Situation :
What is happening in the world right now?
2. Outlook for Japan's Diplomacy :
What kind of diplomacy will Japan pursue in response to this?



What is happening in the world
right now?



What kind of diplomacy
will Japan develop?



1. Overview of the International Situation

What is happening in the world right now?



1-1. The international community at a turning point in history

The movements of the world after the Cold War

- Under a stable international order, the overall disparities among nations have been reduced.
↔ Some countries have not been able to fully enjoy the benefits; domestic disparities have widened in some developed countries.
- The rise of emerging and developing countries
→ Strengthening their voice, dissatisfaction with the existing international order
- Rapid development of science and technology
→ The scope of what needs to be protected has expanded to include cybersecurity and countering disinformation.
- Global Challenges are becoming serious.
→ Coordination among countries and regions is essential.

Despite experiencing changes and conflicts, the world has been making efforts to maintain international order by following the rules.

But...

Russia's aggression against Ukraine launched (2022~)

End of the Cold War



1-1. The international community at a turning point in history

The meaning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine

- One of the major power entrusted with responsibility of maintaining peace and security of the world has committed a serious violation of the rules and unilaterally aggressed another country by force.
= Challenges to what the international community has protected together in the post-Cold War.



Furthermore ...

- Deterioration of the situation in the Middle-East
→ Confrontation in the international community is more complex depending on the position taken.
- Developing of emerging and developing countries
→ As the influence of these countries grows and the dissatisfaction with the order established by developed countries.



A turning point in history

It is evident to everyone that the existing order is being threatened.

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

- ① Challenge to the existing international order
- ② Shift in the power balance among nations
- ③ Economic security and science and technology

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

① Challenge to the existing international order

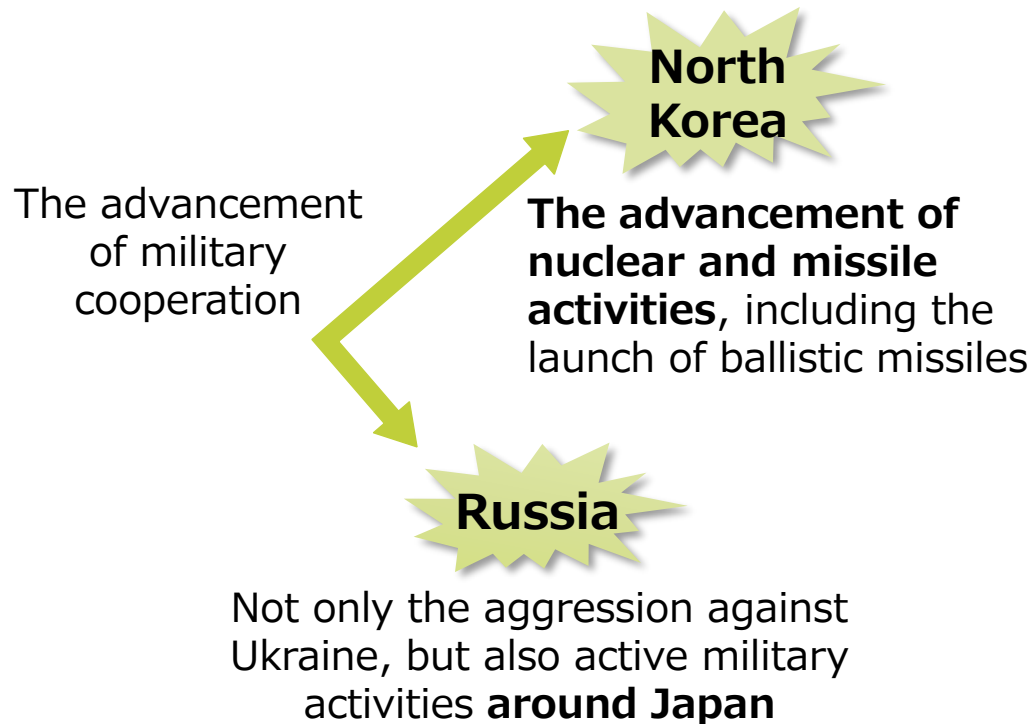
- **Russia launched its aggression against Ukraine in February 2022**

- An outrageous act shaking the very foundation of the international order
- A blatant violation of the principles of the UN Charter, including the general prohibition of the use of force
- As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan takes the position that Russia's nuclear threats are absolutely unacceptable, let alone the use of such weapons.

→ **It shakes the very foundation of the existing international order, which the international community has built up over a long period of hard work and much sacrifice.**

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

Security environment in East Asia becomes ever more severe



China

Extensively and rapidly enhancing military power, continuing and intensifying military activities **around Japan**



The region where Japan is located is not considered safe ...

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

Security environment in East Asia becomes ever more severe

- The situation in Europe is linked to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Joint flights and navigations between China and Russia

Chinese bomber and patrol aircraft



Russian bombers



Source:
The Japan Joint Staff home page

If rule-breaking succeeds somewhere in the world, it could shake the safety of other regions, leading them to believe that it is acceptable to break the rules.



1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

② Shift in the power balance among nations

- **Increasing presence of emerging and developing countries (known as the "Global South")**
 - Positions and issues vary from country to country.
- **Dissatisfaction with existing rules and systems**
 - Many global issues are becoming increasingly serious.
 - The "Pact for the Future," proposing 56 Actions including reform of the UN Security Council, was adopted at the Summit of the Future held at the UN General Assembly in September 2024.



The important thing is...

- **An approach of overcoming conflict in values and interests**
- **A fine-tuned diplomacy to seek cooperation that is truly needed by each country**



1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

② Shift in the power balance among nations

- **Multilateral initiatives, such as those of the United Nations (UN), are facing difficulties.**
→ The UN Security Council has not necessarily been fulfilling its expected roles in response to the situation in Ukraine and the Middle-East, and there is a need to strengthen the functions of the UN, including reform of the UN Security Council.

What is the UN ?

An international organization created after World War II to ensure that people would never suffer from war again. The UN Security Council is considered **the main body responsible for maintaining world peace**, and only a limited number of members can participate. The UN marks its 80th anniversary in 2025, but some of its aspects do not adequately reflect the current state of the international community.

Source : UN photo



UN Security Council

In principle, a resolution cannot be passed if one of the five countries, the U.S., the UK, France, China, or Russia, opposes it.

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

③ Economic security and science and technology

What is “globalization”?

As the movement of people, goods and capital across national borders becomes more active, increased trade of goods and services and investment abroad deepen economic ties around the world.

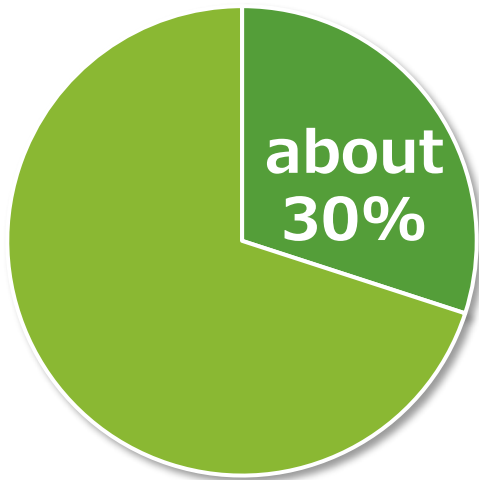


→ **It can bring not only positive aspects such as growth and prosperity, but also security threats.**

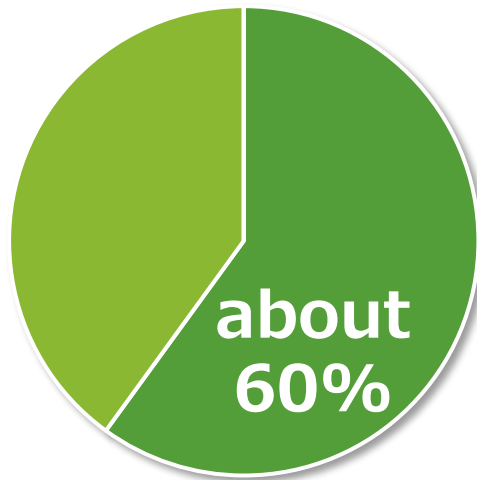
- The potential shortages of food and energy supply due to the impact of conflicts and infectious diseases on exports and imports
- Possibility of intellectual property and technologies being stolen

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

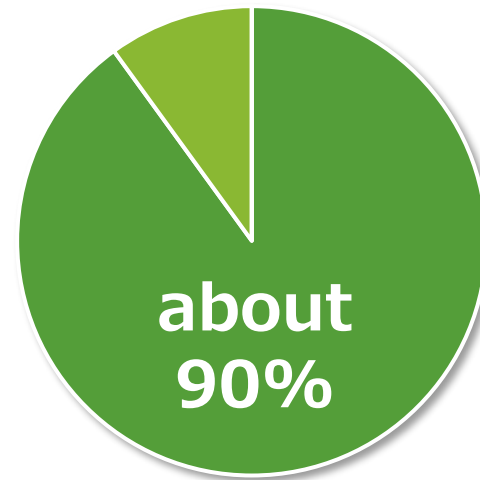
Q. How much does Japan rely on energy imports?



A.



B.

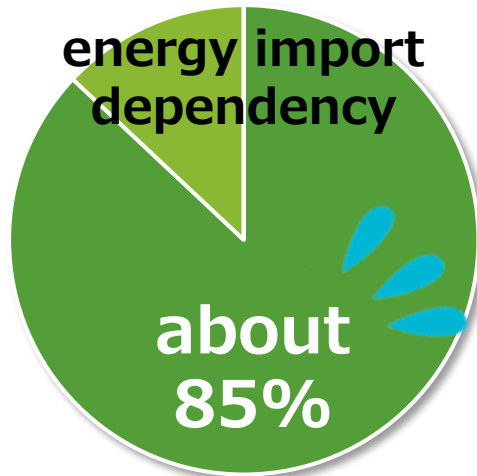


C.

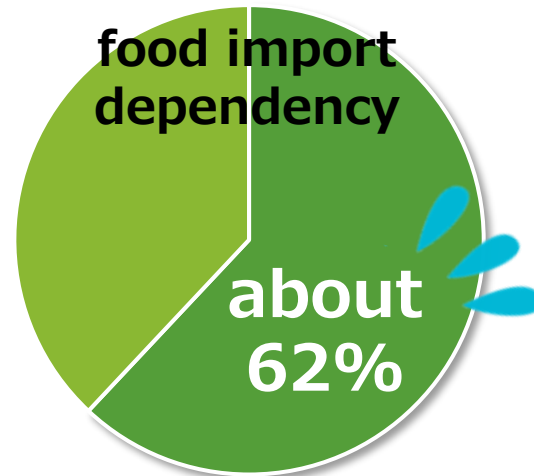
1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

③ Economic security and science and technology

- Japan relies on imports for most of its food and energy !



Data Resource: "General Energy Statistics" (2023) by Agency for Natural Resources and Energy



Data Resource: "the total food self-sufficiency ratio on a calorie supply basis" (2023) by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

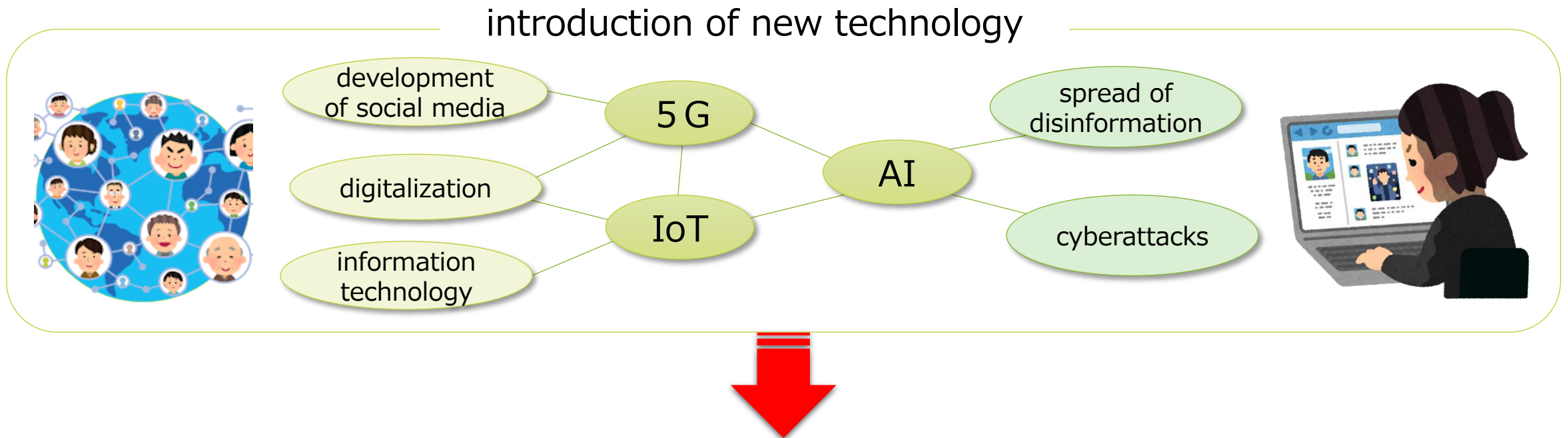
Various factors, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, are causing prices of all kinds of goods to rise.



→ **World events have a significant impact on the lives of every citizen !**

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

③ Economic security and science and technology



Cooperation for appropriate fair management is essential

in order to utilize free economic activities, science and technology and innovation.



2. Outlook for Japan's Diplomacy

In light of the above international situation, what kind of diplomacy will Japan develop?



2-1. Basic policy of Japan's diplomacy



The international community at the “turning point in history”



Maintaining and strengthening the international order
based on values and rules will lead the world
toward reconciliation and cooperation
through “**diplomacy of dialogue and cooperation**”

Specific initiatives

- ① Enhancing and strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance
- ② Cooperation with allies and like-minded countries to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”
- ③ Leading the strengthening order in the international community by cooperate with the Global South



2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

- ① Maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law
- ② Relations with various countries and regions
- ③ Promotion of cultural and people-to-people exchanges
- ④ Economic diplomacy
- ⑤ Issues addressed multilaterally

1-2. Major challenges facing Japan's diplomacy

- ① Challenges to the existing international order
- ② Shift in the power balance among nations
- ③ Economic security and science and technology

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

① Maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law

While the existing international order is under serious challenges, **the rule of law is emphasized** as a means of maintaining peace.

What is the rule of law?

The concept that recognizes the superiority of the law over all forms of power. It is an essential cornerstone of a fair and just society within a country and constitutes the basis of the international order that consists of friendly and equitable relations between states.



To explain plainly, the idea is to create an international atmosphere of "Let's follow the rules!" For example, if there is a rule that says, "Don't take what belongs to others," and someone breaks the rule, everyone else will imitate them, and the situation could turn into a competition by force. It is precisely because no one breaks the rule that we can all get along.

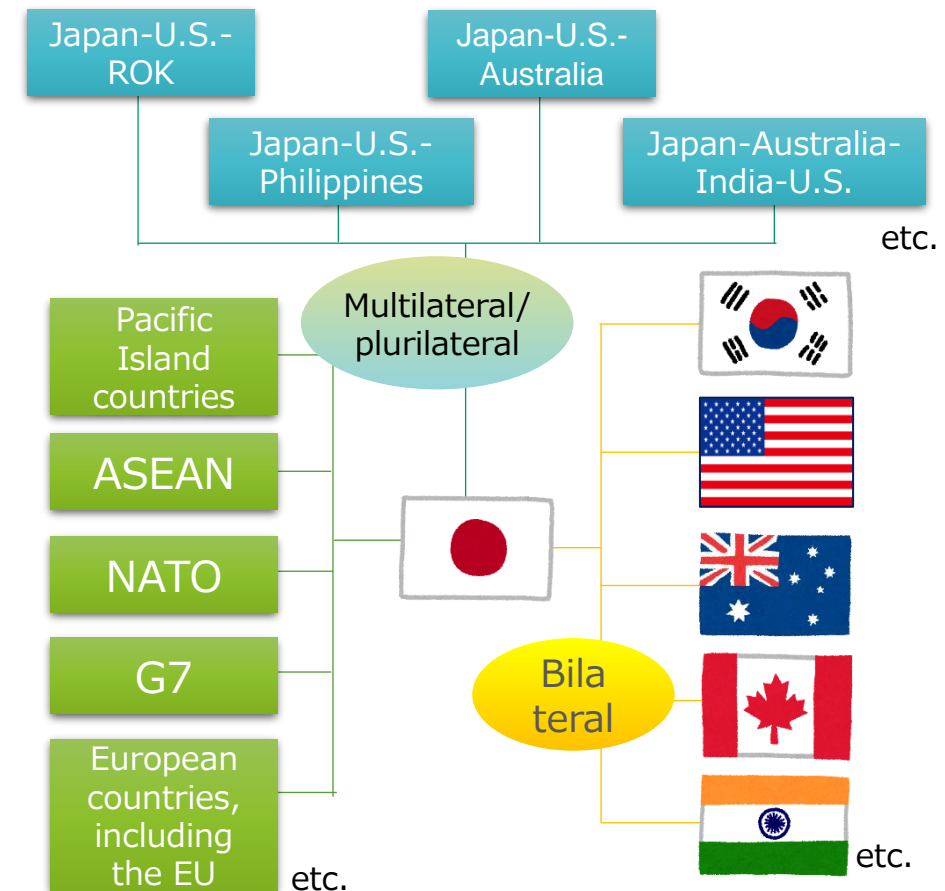
2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

① Maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law

- **Further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance**

- The U.S. is Japan's only ally, and the Japan-U.S. Alliance is the foundation of Japan's foreign policy and security.
- Strengthen ties not only in diplomacy and defense, but also in economy and other fields.

- **Japan will strengthen its multilayered network not only in the U.S. but also with "colleagues who can cooperate with Japan."**

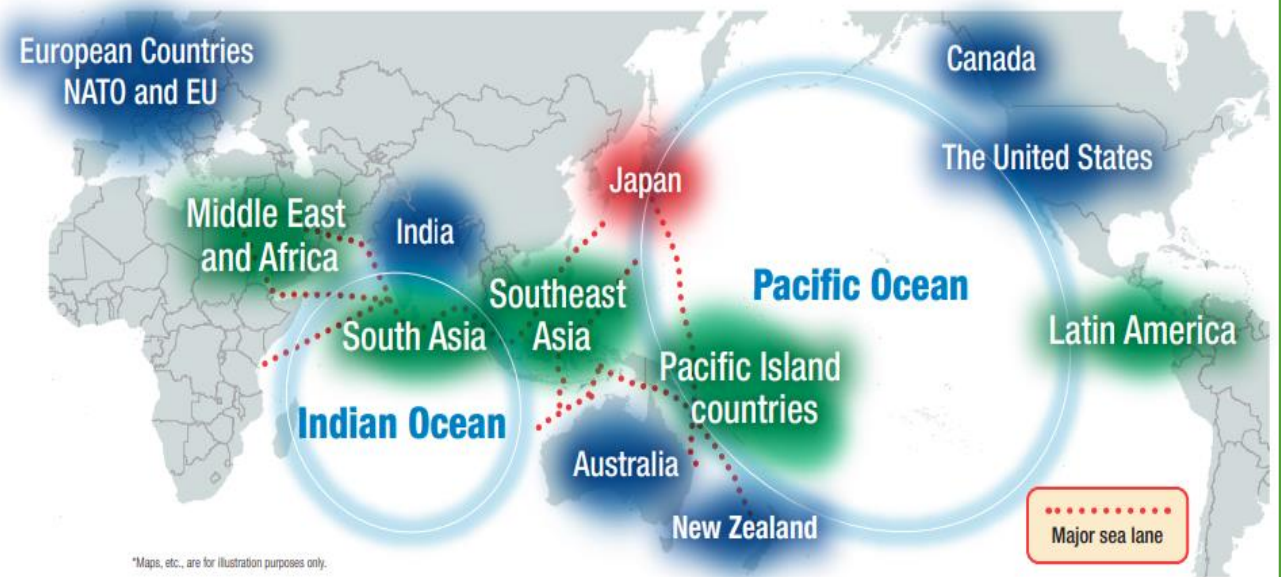


2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

① Maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law

“Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) ”

- Intersection of “two continents” - the fast-growing Asia and the high-potential Africa - and “two oceans” that are essential for trade and other activities.
→ The Key to Global Stability and Prosperity !
- The countries that share the same ideas, such as “the importance of following the rules,” will join forces to protect peace and security throughout the region.



Resource: Defense of Japan 2024
on Kids Site

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

① Maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law

- **Strengthen Japan's ability to defend itself**

- Under the National Security Strategy, Japan will strengthen its own initiatives and cooperative relationships with various countries in critical challenges and fields.
- Implement OSA (Official Security Assistance), a framework which provides grants to friendly countries' armed forces to purchase equipment and supplies as well as develop infrastructure.

Source: Official Website of the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet



Why does OSA contribute to national security?

Amidst the growing security threats in the region surrounding Japan, Japan must cooperate in strengthening not only its own defense capabilities but also those of its neighbors. The OSA also enables cooperation to strengthen the security and deterrence capabilities of friendly countries, which will contribute to peace and security throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

② Relations with various countries and regions

The ROK :

- An important neighboring country with which Japan should work together in dealing with various issues and continue to communicate closely
- Usher in a new era as partners
- Deal in a resolute manner regarding Takeshima

China :

- Comprehensively promoting a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests" and building "constructive and stable Japan-China relations"
- There are many concerns and issues, but through repeated dialogue, Japan will assert its position while cooperating on matters of common interest.

Russia :

- Japan-Russia relations are in a difficult situation, but Japan will firmly maintain its policy of concluding a peace treaty through resolution of the territorial issue.

Japan-China-ROK :

The Ninth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in March 2025. The three countries will promote practical cooperation for the future.



2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

② Relations with various countries and regions

Africa :

With a growing population, dynamic growth can be expected in the future. Through initiatives such as **TICAD**, Japan will work together to address challenges.



The Middle East :

Japan depends on the region for about 90% of its crude oil imports. This region is very important for ensuring stable energy supplies. Japan strengthens cooperation through the **"Japan-Arab Political Dialogue"** and the **"Japan-GCC Foreign Ministers' Meeting."**

Central Asia and the Caucasus :

These countries have been greatly affected in various aspects by Russia. Japan will promote cooperation such as **"Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue.**



Pacific Island Countries :

Strategically very important as a partner that shares values and principles. Japan and Pacific Island countries host **PALM**.



Latin America and the Caribbean :

Geographically distant but **close to Japan in values**. The world's largest Nikkei community as a bridge of friendship. Partners in exporting abundant resources, energy, and food to Japan.

Southwest Asia :

India is an important partner to realize a **FOIP**. Japan and Southwest Asian countries enjoy traditional friendly relationships and they offer attractive markets and production bases for Japanese companies.



Southeast Asia :

The stability and prosperity of ASEAN, which is the key to the realization of FOIP, is important for the entire region. **Japan-ASEAN friendship and cooperation** celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023.

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

③ Promotion of cultural and people-to-people exchanges

➡ Deepening mutual understanding beyond national boundaries !



- **Cultural Diplomacy**

- Dissemination of the attractions of Japan through cultural programs and other activities (from traditional to pop culture) implemented by diplomatic missions overseas and the Japan Foundation will lead to a better understanding of Japan and the smooth implementation of Japan's foreign policy.

- **People-to-people Exchanges**

- Student Exchanges Program...
Accepting international students, strengthening relationships with former international students, and supporting their activities
- JET Programme...
Local authorities invite foreign nationals as Assistant Language Teachers (ALT), etc.
- Sports Exchange...
Support the transport of equipment to sports organizations in foreign countries and diplomacy through sports
- Youth Exchange...Exchange between promising youths between Japan and various countries

JENESYS



2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

④ Economic diplomacy

- Expanding and maintaining the **Rules-based Free and Fair Trade**
 - Strengthening and maintaining the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.



The WTO is an international organization that helps member countries to 1) make rules, 2) settle disputes and 3) monitor rule compliance so that member countries can freely trade goods and services.

- **Addressing to the “economic security”**
 - Ensuring Japan's peace, security, and economic prosperity through the initiatives in economic field in cooperation with other countries.

Efforts in economic field

Ensuring a stable supply
of essential goods

Protecting and promoting
critical technologies

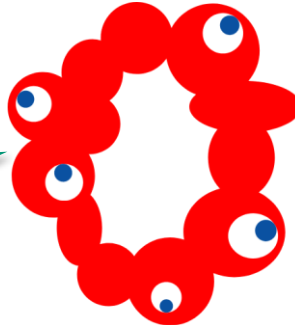
Promoting the rules-
based economic order

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

④ Economic diplomacy

- Incorporate the growth of developing and emerging countries, the Global South, to Japan
→ **Fine-tuned and strategic economic diplomacy for each country and region**
- Contribute to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies and exports of Japanese food products by utilizing **officials in diplomatic missions overseas including those in charge of cross-border economic affairs and Japanese business support**
- Implement more effective development cooperation/ODA by proposing attractive assistance to partner countries through the **“co-creation for common agenda initiative”** and by collaborating closely with private companies and other stakeholders

Also, actively utilizing soft power, e.g. Japanese culture, science and technology!



OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN
EXPO
2025



EXPO
2027
YOKOHAMA JAPAN



What is ODA (Official Development Assistance)?

Among the international cooperation activities carried out by the government, those aimed at helping the economic and welfare development of developing countries. In addition to helping poor countries, this also has the advantages of ensuring a stable supply of food and energy for Japan and making it easier for Japanese companies to do business overseas.

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy



⑤ Issues addressed multilaterally

- Working to strengthening the functions of the UN, including reform of the UN Security Council
- Japan will speak out firmly against serious human rights violations, support the efforts of other countries, and promote human rights diplomacy in its own way.
- Promoting diplomacy centered on the participation of women, as part of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiatives
- 2025 marks the 80th year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan will advance efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons.

2-2. Initiatives of Japan's diplomacy

⑤ Issues addressed multilaterally

- Working together to address the common challenges of all human based on the concept of human security.



climate change·
environmental issues

disaster risk
reduction

global
health

food

terrorism and
transnational organized
crime



What is “human security”?

The concept focuses on individuals, promoting national and social development by protecting and empowering them, and enabling them to live with dignity, and freedom from fear and want.



Conclusion



Conclusion

- The international community at the **turning point in history**
 - Russia's aggression against Ukraine, complex conflicts surrounding the situation in the Middle East, the rise of emerging and developing countries, worsening global issues ...
- Japan will develop a **diplomacy that leads the world toward reconciliation and cooperation** from division and confrontation, built on the trust that Japan has established as a peace-loving nation.

