

# Chapter 2

## Japan's Foreign Policy by Region

<b>Section 1</b>	Promotion of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)"	30
<b>Section 2</b>	Asia and Oceania	35
<b>Section 3</b>	North America	98
<b>Section 4</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean	110
<b>Section 5</b>	Europe	120
<b>Section 6</b>	Russia, Central Asia and Caucasus	141
<b>Section 7</b>	The Middle East and North Africa	149
<b>Section 8</b>	Africa	162

## Section 1

# Promotion of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”

### 1 Overview

The Indo-Pacific region, which stretches from the Asia-Pacific across the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the core of the world's vitality and supports more than half of the world's population. At the same time, it is a region which has seen complex power dynamics of countries and has experienced drastic shifts in the regional power balance. The region also faces a variety of threats, such as piracy, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters and illegal fishing. It is essential to ensure peace and prosperity in the entire region and beyond, through establishing a free and open order based on the rule of law.

Japan has long emphasized the importance of taking a holistic view of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, as seen in the “Confluence of the Two Seas” speech regarding the Indian and Pacific Oceans delivered by Prime Minister Abe to the Indian Parliament in 2007. In August 2016, this concept was brought to fruition as the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” vision, which Prime Minister Abe announced to the world in his keynote speech at the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Kenya. In his speech, Prime Minister Abe stated that the key to stability and prosperity of the international community is the dynamism created by combin-

ing “Two Continents”—rapidly-growing Asia and potential-filled Africa—and “Two Oceans”—free and open Pacific and Indian Oceans—and that Japan would work to realize prosperity in Asia and Africa.

In order to materialize FOIP, Japan, as its advocate, initially sought to further strengthen strategic cooperation with India, which historically has had strong ties with East Africa, as well as with the U.S., Japan's allies, and Australia.

With India, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in November 2016, the two countries shared the view to take initiatives for the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region by enhancing the synergy between Japan's FOIP and India's “Act East Policy” through collaboration.

With the U.S., during Prime Minister Abe's summit meeting with President Barack Obama in December 2016, the two leaders shared the recognition on the importance of expanding the network of allies, including among Japan, the U.S. and Australia and among Japan, the U.S. and India, in order to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” and ensure stability and prosperity in the region. In addition, at the summit meeting in November 2017 when President Donald Trump visited Japan as the first stop on his first trip to Asia after taking office, the two leaders shared the view that both countries would work together to promote FOIP.

Prime Minister Abe visited Australia in November 2018 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The two leaders affirmed that the two countries share the FOIP vision and shared the view on working together for regional stability and prosperity. Prime Minister Morrison expressed his commitment to promoting an “open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific” in his foreign policy speech in June 2019.

Furthermore, policy documents on the Indo-Pacific have been released by ASEAN in June 2019, France in June 2018, Germany in September 2020, and the Netherlands in November 2020. In particular, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), adopted at the ASEAN Summit in June 2019, enshrines the rule of law, openness, freedom, transparency and inclusivity as ASEAN’s principles of action.

In 2020, Japan continued to actively engage in diplomatic activities for the realization of FOIP, even as the global spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) limited in-person diplomatic activities.

Shortly after taking office, Prime Minister Suga held a summit telephone call with President Trump in September, during which the two leaders shared the view that Japan and the U.S. would work closely together to achieve FOIP. In October, Prime Minister Suga visited Viet Nam and Indonesia for his first overseas visit as Prime Minister. He clearly stated that Japan, as an Indo-Pacific nation, would continue to contribute to regional peace and prosperity, based on the belief that ASEAN, located in the center of the Indo-Pacific region, is the cornerstone of the efforts for realizing FOIP. In November, Prime Minister Suga attended the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting. At the meeting, the Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific was adopted, which affirmed that ASEAN’s AOIP and FOIP share fundamental principles and confirmed that Japan and ASEAN would promote concrete cooperation in line with the AOIP.

Foreign Minister Motegi resumed his overseas travels with his visit to the UK in August. Over the course of around half a year to January 2021, Foreign Minister Motegi visited 23 countries in Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Through in-person meetings in those countries, he advocated the importance of promoting FOIP and gained support from a wider range of countries. In addition to bilateral meetings, Japan held the 2nd Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in October, which was the first ministerial-level international conference hosted by Japan since the outbreak and spread of COVID-19. The meeting affirmed the importance of broader coordination with more countries for the realization of FOIP, noting that it is a vision for peace and prosperity of the region, and its importance in the post-COVID-19 world is increasing.

In this way, Japan has strategically promoted efforts to realize FOIP in cooperation with like-minded countries from 2016 to the present. As a result, the vision of FOIP first proposed by Japan is now shared by the U.S., Australia, India, ASEAN and major countries of Europe, and is gaining broad support in the international community. Various consultations and cooperation are also under way. The vision is becoming increasingly important to the post-COVID-19 world, and Japan will continue to pursue wider coordination for its realization.

## 2 Japan’s Efforts and Cooperation toward FOIP

To contribute to regional peace and prosperity as an Indo-Pacific nation, Japan will cooperate with like-minded countries and strategically implement measures for the realization of FOIP. Specifically, Japan will take measures, including: (1) promoting policy on maritime order and sharing insights on maritime law with the international community; (2) rule-making to expand a free and fair economic area; (3) enhancing connectivity

across the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean; (4) enhancing governance through capacity building; and (5) ensuring maritime security and marine safety.

As for (1), Japan has provided assistance to Southeast Asian countries and Pacific Island countries, including capacity building in maritime law enforcement and seminars on the law of the sea.

As for (2), following the TPP11 Agreement and the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-EU EPA), the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement entered into force in January 2020. In addition, Japan leads the creation of economic and trade rules for the post-COVID-19 era, as shown in the signing of the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-UK CEPA) in October and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement in November.

As for (3), Japan has implemented projects that help strengthen the connectivity of the Southern Economic Corridor, known as “Mekong’s main artery” that connects Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh and Bangkok to the Indian Ocean, and of the East-West Economic Corridor, which connects Da Nang, Viet Nam to Laos and the inland areas of Thailand to the Indian Ocean via Myanmar.

As for (4), in order to support self-sustained and sustainable growth, Japan provides assistance to countries mainly in Asia and Africa, including dispatching macroeconomic advisors for capacity building in fiscal policy and public debt management.

As for (5), in order to establish a free and open international order, Japan actively extends capacity building assistance on maritime law enforcement to the Philippines, Viet Nam and other countries located along Japan’s sea lanes, including provision of patrol vessels, coastal monitoring radars and other equipment, as well as human resource development through the dispatch of experts and trainings.

### 3 Collaboration and Cooperation with Other Countries

#### (1) U.S. (See Section 3, 1)

On January 28, 2021, Prime Minister Suga and President Joe Biden held their first summit telephone call. The two leaders affirmed the importance of strengthening the U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region, and confirmed that they would work closely together to realize FOIP. On January 27, Foreign Minister Motegi and Secretary of State Antony Blinken held their first foreign ministers’ telephone call and exchanged views on the importance of FOIP. In March, just two months after the inauguration of the Biden administration, Foreign Minister Motegi and Secretary of State Blinken held their first in-person foreign ministers’ meeting. The two ministers reaffirmed that Japan and the U.S. would continue to take the lead in strengthening cooperation to realize FOIP while working together with Australia, India, ASEAN and other partners.

#### (2) ASEAN (See Section 2, 7)

During Prime Minister Suga’s visit to Viet Nam and Indonesia in October, Prime Minister Suga expressed Japan’s intention to collaborate with ASEAN in creating a peaceful and prosperous future for the Indo-Pacific region, and shared the view on promoting concrete cooperation to this end. In Viet Nam, Prime Minister Suga delivered a speech entitled “Building Together the Future of Indo-Pacific,” in which he expressed strong support for the AOIP announced by ASEAN in 2019 and advocated that Japan and ASEAN work hand in hand to achieve a more prosperous FOIP. At the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in November, attended by Prime Minister Suga and the ASEAN leaders, Japan and ASEAN released the Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, confirming that the AOIP and FOIP promoted by Japan share fundamental principles. Japan and ASEAN will deepen cooperation that

contributes to the realization of FOIP by steadily promoting the Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative, which was unveiled at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting, as well as through other concrete cooperation programs in line with the four priority areas of the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, SDGs, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation.

### **(3) Australia (See Section 2, 6)**

In November, Prime Minister Morrison visited Japan as the first counterpart with which Prime Minister Suga held an in-person summit meeting in Japan since taking office. The two leaders affirmed that Japan and Australia, as “Special Strategic Partners” that share basic values, such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as strategic interests, would work together toward realizing FOIP. Foreign Minister Motegi and Foreign Minister Marise Payne also held foreign ministers’ meetings in-person in October and by telephone in February 2021, and they shared the view that they would work closely together as like-minded countries for the realization of FOIP. In February 2021, Prime Minister Suga and Prime Minister Morrison held a telephone call and shared the view to promote bilateral cooperation as well as collaboration with the U.S. and ASEAN toward the realization of FOIP.

### **(4) India (See Section 2, 5)**

During the first telephone call between Prime Minister Suga and Prime Minister Modi in September, Prime Minister Suga expressed Japan’s intention to work with India to play their role for achieving FOIP. At the Japan-India Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue in October, Foreign Minister Motegi and External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar exchanged a wide range of views regarding cooperation for realizing FOIP and affirmed their intention to continue reinforcing the bilateral cooperation, including the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative promoted by India.

### **(5) Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (See the Special Feature on page 27)**

The four countries of Japan, Australia, India and the U.S. have the shared goal of strengthening a rules-based free and open international order. In order to make tangible progress with FOIP, the four countries share the view on further implementing practical cooperation in various areas, including quality infrastructure and maritime security, and on the importance of expanding cooperation to more countries to realize this vision. The four countries also fully support the AOIP and welcome the proactive efforts by European and other countries toward FOIP. Based on this recognition, the 2nd Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in Japan in October 2020. The ministers concurred on further developing practical cooperation in various areas and affirmed the importance of broadening cooperation with more countries to make tangible progress with FOIP. In February 2021, following the inauguration of the Biden administration in the U.S., a Japan-Australia-India-U.S. foreign ministers’ telephone call was held, during which the four countries shared the view on continuing to further deepen engagement and cooperation with ASEAN, the Pacific Island countries, Europe and other countries to realize FOIP. In March 2021, the first Japan-Australia-India-U.S. leaders’ video conference was held at the call of the U.S., during which the leaders shared the view to cooperate with a range of partners to realize FOIP at the summit level as well.

### **(6) Europe**

#### **A The EU (See Section 5, 2-(1))**

Since around autumn 2020, interest in the Indo-Pacific has increased in Europe, and discussions on the Indo-Pacific started in the EU. In January 2021, Foreign Minister Motegi became the first Japanese foreign minister to attend an EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting in a virtual format, where he explained about FOIP to the EU and Foreign Ministers of EU member states.

In response, Foreign Ministers of many EU member states expressed understanding and support for the importance of a rules-based free and open international order in the Indo-Pacific. Japan and the EU shared the view to further promote cooperation in areas such as connectivity and maritime security.

**B The UK (See Section 5, 2-(2))**

In August, Foreign Minister Motegi visited the UK as his first overseas visit since the global outbreak of COVID-19. During his meeting with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, the two ministers discussed ways to further strengthen their relations in wide-ranging areas, including cooperation to realize FOIP. In September, Prime Minister Suga held a telephone call with Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The two leaders confirmed to collaborate to further deepen their bilateral relations, including strengthening cooperation in the field of security for the realization of FOIP. Furthermore, the two countries affirmed that they would further enhance such cooperation at the Japan-UK Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") held in February 2021 for the first time in three years and the Japan-UK summit telephone call held in the same month.

**C France (See Section 5, 2-(3))**

In October, Foreign Minister Motegi visited France and held a meeting with Europe and Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. The two ministers confirmed to promote bilateral cooperation

in the Indo-Pacific. During Prime Minister Suga's summit telephone call with President Emmanuel Macron in the same month, the two leaders shared the view that both Japan and France, as Indo-Pacific nations, would cooperate for the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

**D Germany (See Section 5, 2-(4))**

In September, the German cabinet adopted the "Policy Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific Region," which emphasizes the importance of the principles of freedom of navigation, rule of law and connectivity in the Indo-Pacific. During a video teleconference meeting with Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in October, Foreign Minister Motegi praised Germany's Policy Guidelines, and the two ministers shared the view on strengthening cooperation toward realizing FOIP.

**E The Netherlands (See Section 5, Other European Regions on page 136)**

In November, the Netherlands released the "Indo-Pacific: Guidelines for Strengthening Dutch and EU Cooperation with Partners in Asia," which underscores the Netherlands' strengthened commitment to the South China Sea and promotion of maritime security in the Indo-Pacific. In December, Prime Minister Suga held a telephone call with Prime Minister Mark Rutte and welcomed the release of the Netherlands' own Indo-Pacific guidelines. In addition, the two leaders shared the view to work together to realize FOIP.