

17 June 2015

ENGLISH only

**Remarks by Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Akira MUTO
at Session 3: Vision for security co-operation in Asia: experience
sharing and new co-operation areas
in Seoul on June 2, 2015**

Ms. Chairperson,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my deep appreciation once again to the Republic of South Korea for extending hospitality and my respect to Asia Contact Group Chair Switzerland for exercising leadership. Yesterday, we reaffirmed the belief that Asia and Europe should work together to tackle global challenges such as counter terrorism and violent extremism, disaster risk reduction, and cyber security.

1. Reaffirming Fundamental Principles beginning with the Rule of Law

- The year 2015 is a milestone, marking the 40th anniversary since the Helsinki Final Act was adopted at Helsinki Summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Final Act stipulates important basic principles such as sovereign equality, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law. Today, these principles are important not only in Europe, but globally to secure peace and stability and the Final Act holds even more importance as the basic document.
- Today, there are a lot of territorial and maritime disputes in many parts of the world, including in our region. The rule of law, which is an essential component of the Final Act, is absolutely necessary to prevent and resolve disputes in a peaceful manner. As I stated yesterday, Japan's acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice is an indelible symbol of our commitment to this fundamental principle.
- In light of ensuring the rule of law, Ukrainian crisis caused a grave concern beyond Europe to the international community, prompting Japan to apply sanctions against the act of violation of territorial integrity, and to support Ukraine, including by backing up the activities of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM).

*) Re-distribution due to change of distribution status, text remains unchanged

2. Asian Situation and “Proactive Contribution to Peace”

- Furthermore, unilateral attempts to change the status quo in territorial and maritime disputes have become obvious in Asia in recent years. From the viewpoint of carrying through the rule of law, the situation in Asia concerns other regions beyond Asia and it is now a common challenge for Europe and Asia not to tolerate any attempt to change the status quo by use of force or coercion. In today’s globalized world, no country can maintain its peace and safety on its own, which makes joint efforts and collaboration between Europe and Asia all the more necessary to ensure peace and stability of the world.
- In this regard, Japan, as a “Proactive Contributor to Peace”, will further contribute more actively in securing peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world. As part of this effort, we are trying to build and maintain multilayered, rule-based security environment through open dialogue and confidence-building, with the Japan-US Security Arrangements at its core, while attempting to realize a peaceful and stable international community through peace keeping, counter-terrorism, capacity building, and international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities, and while developing domestic legislation, enabling our country to play more active roles for peace and security in the region, as well as in the world. We believe that the international community also expects Japan to take more responsibilities for maintaining international peace and stability.
- The year 2015 also marks the 70th year since the end of WWII. We pledged not to fight a war again and have followed a path of peace-loving nation. With deep remorse for its wartime actions, Japan has for the past 70 years championed freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law, which have become firmly rooted in Japanese people, and contributed to regional and international peace, stability, and prosperity. Japan’s security policy is an extension of this peaceful course it has taken. Our peaceful orientation will never sway since it is the resilience of the Japanese citizens who believe in these values that have made irreversible the path Japan has taken.

3. Strengthened Cooperation between Asia and Europe

- What we should take note in pursuing stronger cooperation between Asia and Europe is that both regions are seeking a comprehensive approach where the politico-military; the economic and environmental; and the human dimensions are regarded as security issues. Both regions understand that although the security environments are different in Europe and Asia, and notwithstanding geographic distance, in a more globalized and interlinked world, each of these two regions is affected by, and can affect, developments beyond its borders. Against this backdrop, Asia and Europe need to pursue strengthened cooperation in addressing common global challenges such as counter terrorism, cyber security, maritime security, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and human security.
- In order to promote cooperation in coping with regional and global challenges, it is in our view important to draw on experiences of OSCE in confidence-building and sharing values as stipulated in the Helsinki Final Act; involve broad stakeholders; use and develop ongoing frameworks such as ARF, EAS, ADMM+, and EAMF (Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum) in a multi-layered manner; and advance concrete cooperation in the field where each framework has its own strength.
- For example, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which started in 1994, is a forum to foster region-wide dialogue on political and security issues in the Asia Pacific region. It has the longest history among other forums centered on ASEAN, characterized by the highest number of

participating parties, including North Korea and EU.

- The ARF put into place a three-stage process: Stage 1 on promotion of Confidence Building Measures; Stage 2 on development of Preventive Diplomacy; and Stage 3 on Elaboration of Approaches to Conflicts. The adoption of a gradual evolutionary approach is similar to that of OSCE. The ARF covers a wide range of fields such as disaster relief, counter terrorism and transnational crimes, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, regional situations including North Korea and the South China Sea. In recent years, the ARF has also held seminars on preventive diplomacy, outer space, and cyber security. Currently, Japan serves as a co-chair at the Inter-Sessional Meetings on Maritime Security and on Disaster Relief.
- Amid increasingly severe security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, ARF is a valuable international forum where relevant parties can frankly exchange views on political and security situations and concrete steps forward in each field to improve security in the diversified Asia Pacific region. Japan hopes that ARF will gradually evolve and play an important role in securing peace and stability in the region. To that end, Japan intends to be even more actively involved in the process while drawing on OSCE's expertise.

Thank you for your kind attention.

(End)