

**Remarks by Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
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at Special Session of the 2015 OSCE-Asian Conference:
Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative
in Seoul on June 1, 2015**

Chairman,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the 2015 OSCE-Asian Conference in Seoul, I would like to express my appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its hospitality.

1. Japan's Stance on Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI)

- It is our understanding that the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) encourages relevant countries to advance dialogue and cooperation on soft fields such as climate change, environmental issues, disaster relief, and nuclear safety, eventually expanding such cooperation into political and security sphere. We believe it is necessary to promote regional cooperation for building confidence among States as well as individuals, through various efforts including NAPCI. Building confidence and cooperative relationship is our common goal.
- We need to pay attention to European experiences presumably used as reference when considering Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative, and also need to take Asian diversity into consideration.
- Europe has built security systems by setting up multi-layered frameworks; EU has carried forward a community-building under the grand goal of European integration; NATO has played a major role in collective defense; OSCE has taken initiatives of confidence-building. We should remember that behind these moves, there existed political and economic systems, shared values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, along with long-standing efforts and cooperation among relevant countries.
- Turning to Asia, stages of development, political and economic systems, security environment, values, historical backgrounds, and balance of power significantly differ from those in Europe. Whether it is appropriate to immediately bring a European model into Asia requires careful consideration.

2. Learning from OSCE Experiences

- When we think about security in Asia, we should learn lessons from OSCE's experiences where it's possible.

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- One of the good experiences OSCE holds is its strength in building confidence among a wide range of countries concerned, which Japan believes, has contributed to security in Europe. There are existing frameworks for dialogue in the Asia Pacific region such as ARF, EAS, and ADMM+. It is essential to utilize and develop such frameworks involving a wide range of people concerned in a multi-layered manner.
- Another experience is that Europeans had built security architecture around the shared values through the Helsinki Final Act. It may be difficult to share all values overnight in diversified Asia, but it's critical to firmly share, first and foremost, the rule of law. There are a number of territorial and maritime disputes in many parts of the world, including in our region, and the rule of law is indispensable for the prevention and peaceful resolution of these disputes. This critical value must be firmly established and further strengthened as a basis for global peace, stability, and prosperity.
- Japan believes that the rule of law includes (a) the formulation and development of a new order of international law, (b) a dispute settlement between States in a peaceful way, and (c) the development and improvement of legal system in each country. We make various contributions in these fields, and Japan is one of just a few countries that have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (the ICJ). This acceptance is an indelible symbol of Japan's commitment to the rule of law. We also support Asian countries in the development and improvement of legal system and works on international cooperation based on this critical value.
- On the latest development in Asia, we have taken initiative and taken part in the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) with 10 ASEAN countries, the US, China, Russia, the Republic of Korea, Australia, India, and New Zealand, where we reiterated many times the importance of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We proposed setting up this forum at EAS Summit meeting in 2011. The forum of track 1.5 deals with such topics as the rule of law, best practices in the region, and capacity building with a participation of eminent scholars and experts. In August last year, the 3rd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum was held in Vietnam. We once again stressed the importance of "Three principles on the rule of law at sea," proposed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in his keynote address of 13th IISS Asian Security Summit "Shangri-La Dialogue," in May last year:
 - (1) Firstly, States shall make their claims based on international law;
 - (2) Secondly, States shall not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims;
 - (3) Thirdly, States shall seek to settle dispute by peaceful means.
- Moving forward, we intend to make further contributions in collaboration with other initiatives and efforts, to regional and global peace and prosperity under the banner of "proactive contribution to peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. We believe Asia and Europe, while continuously involving as many people concerned as possible and by sharing mutual wisdom and lessons learned, will be able to uphold the rule of law and promote confidence-building and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Thank you for your kind attention.

(End)