

JAPAN-ASEAN SECURITY CO-OPERATION
Recommendations from a Team of Experts
October 2005

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Introduction

A team of security experts, in their private capacity, studied possible measures to enhance security cooperation and partnership between Japan and ASEAN countries, on 7 and 8 October 2005 in Singapore. Their discussion was based on the “Japan-ASEAN Security Co-operation: Recommendations from a Team of Experts” which was produced at the Second Japan-ASEAN Security Symposium on 27-28 October 2004 and submitted to the leaders at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting on 30 November in Vientiane, the Laos People’s Democratic Republic. This 2004 policy recommendations paper was produced by a team of security experts, pursuant to Section C., “Strengthening Political and Security Cooperation and Partnership,” of The Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action attached to The Tokyo Declaration for the Dynamic and Enduring Japan-ASEAN Partnership in the New Millennium, in December 2003.

Seven critical security challenges to be addressed jointly by Japan and ASEAN were identified in the 2004 policy recommendation paper, and thus explored in depth in the two meetings this year by a team of security experts: (1) Maritime Safety and Security; (2) International Terrorism; (3) Transnational Crimes; (4) Military Modernisation and

Weapons of Mass Destruction; (5) Peace Operation; (6) Infectious Diseases and Environmental and Natural Disasters; and (7) Institutional Arrangements for Japan-ASEAN Security Co-operation. The Singapore meeting reviewed these proposals with a view to identify specific cooperative measures and challenges involved in the implementation of these measures.

Recommendations

1. Maritime Safety and Security

The team of security experts notes that a number of piracy and armed robbery incidents at sea found worldwide have taken place for the last several years in Southeast Asia. To meet such grave security threats from piracy and armed robbery at sea, the team hereby recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Co-operate in strengthening patrol and surveillance to enhance maritime security in Southeast Asia;
2. Improve the regional reporting systems on piracy for more effective and co-ordinated counter operations;
3. Increase further Japan's contribution to strengthening capacity of ASEAN countries' relevant agencies, including their coast guards, by providing vessels with necessary weaponry and training of personnel;
4. Promote exchanges and communications to enhance co-operation among Japan and ASEAN countries' coast guards, navies and/or other relevant authorities;
5. Intensify further experts meetings and joint exercises among the relevant authorities of Japan and ASEAN countries;
6. Establish a list of operational contact points of Japan and ASEAN countries among the relevant authorities that will facilitate information exchange and the conduct of joint exercises;
7. Accelerate the implementation of the Regional Co-operation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships;
8. Continue upgrading the security of ports and the strengthening of institutions for good governance at sea among Japan and ASEAN countries;
9. Enhance further co-operation in strengthening capacity in the areas of interdiction and boarding techniques, and of law-enforcement in accordance with international law through legal training for law enforcement officials; and
10. Expand bilateral and regional maritime security co-operation, such as search and rescue, mine sweeping, submarine rescue and other security measures to strengthen good governance at sea.

2. International Terrorism

The team of security experts notes that there can be no justification for acts of terrorism and welcome the close co-operation in countering terrorism between Japan and the ASEAN countries. Nonetheless, in view of continuing security threats from terrorist attacks, the team hereby recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Explore approaches to counter terrorist propaganda, such as through the use of ICT systems;
2. Expand co-operation in tackling potential root causes of international terrorism, such as poverty, political oppression, human rights abuses and the policies of major powers in the Middle East;
3. Strengthen the legal infrastructure for co-operation to combat terrorism, such as criminalisation of terrorism and extradition of those involved on a reciprocal basis;
4. Enhance information and intelligence sharing for effective law enforcement and to disrupt terrorist operations such as raising and moving funds for their operations;
5. Build capacity of police, aviation, immigration, customs and other relevant agencies' personnel through bilateral and/or regional joint training and seminars, involving those organisations, such as the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-terrorism (SEARCCT) in Malaysia, the Indonesia Centre for Law Enforcement Co-operation (ICLEC) in Indonesia and the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) in Singapore;
6. Develop programmes to strengthen national capacity to restrict and trace movement of terrorists and develop standard regulations regarding the legitimate use of biological and chemical materials; and
7. Pool resources and invigorate inter-agency collaboration and co-operation in developing new equipment and technologies in such areas as advanced passenger information (API), machine readable passport/visa (MRPV) and biometric technology.

3. Transnational Crimes

The team of security experts notes that transnational crimes continue to be security threats to the region. To step up efficacy in meeting such security threats from transnational crimes, the team hereby recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Develop more effective exchanges of information and intelligence sharing;
2. Create database on transnational crimes which include typology studies to determine trends of modus operandi of cross-border criminals in the region;
3. Enhance capacity of officials and relevant agencies to combat transnational crimes, such as through regional training programmes for preventing flow of funds into the hands of terrorists and for protecting witnesses;
4. Strengthen legal infrastructure for conducting joint and combined operations in combating transnational crimes;
5. Compare laws of countries and strengthen legislation to suppress transnational crimes;
6. Utilise advanced technology, such as information satellites and modern surveillance aircraft to enhance detection and surveillance capabilities;
7. Promote public awareness and participation through TV and other mass media and education systems; and
8. Enhance public and private sector co-operation in the region for effective suppression of transnational crimes.

4. Military Modernisation and Weapons of Mass Destruction

The team of security experts believes that military modernisation and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, together with the slow progress of disarmament, are security concerns and even threats to Japan and ASEAN countries. Thus, the team recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Increase transparency through exchange of information, including standardisation of defence white papers, and exchanges of defence personnel;
2. Establish effective export control systems for weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery as a high priority and ensure its effective implementation, which should include internal export control mechanisms within the private sector;
3. Build capacity to interdict shipment carrying WMDs and their delivery systems;
4. Enhance security trade controls among ASEAN countries and with Japan;
5. Establish a study group to recommend more effective measures to prevent nuclear proliferation and accelerate nuclear disarmament; and
6. Strengthen and promote dialogue to share information on military modernisation and acquisition, as well as transportation and accumulation of weapons of mass destruction.

5. Peace Operations

The team of security experts notes that peace operations have become more complex and multi-dimensional to cover peace making, peacekeeping and peace building. These require comprehensive and integrated approach to respond to challenges to peace. The team recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Develop, through co-operative efforts, conflict prevention and mediation roles for peace making;
2. Encourage the establishment of national PKO training centres in all ASEAN countries, and set up a network of collaboration among them for the purpose of (i) sharing experiences and doctrines about peace keeping, (ii) strengthening capacity building for personnel, and (iii) upgrading interoperability, through joint training and provision of facilities;
3. Explore ways to set up an ASEAN-Japan PKO training centre in Southeast Asia to share experiences and knowledge, and foster confidence among the trainees from the military, the police and other relevant government agencies, as well as civil society; and
4. Jointly study and develop comprehensive peace building measures, including the establishment of a peace building fund.

6. Infectious Diseases and Environmental and Natural Disasters

The team of security experts notes that infectious diseases, and natural and environmental disasters, exemplified by SARS, tsunami and haze, are both economic and human security threats. To meet such threats, the team of security experts recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Intensify co-operation to combat infectious diseases through increased surveillance, reporting, training of medical experts, R&D, stockpiling and assistance in medication;
2. Explore co-operative mechanisms to respond swiftly to natural calamities, such as earthquakes, typhoons, flash flooding and tsunamis, including establishing a regional protocol for dispatching and receiving emergency rescue and disaster relief units, and introducing early warning systems;
3. Build capacity for each country to respond to such disasters, especially through co-operation in joint rescue training/exercises;
4. Establish contingency programmes to prepare for any future occurrences of such natural calamities through strengthening national capacity, including

development of escape routes, methods of evacuation and public training and education;

5. Explore ways of co-operation, strengthen networks for information exchanges, and increase public awareness, to prevent and respond effectively to deforestation, haze, acid rain, marine pollution and other environmental disasters;
6. Study possible roles of military institutions in tackling with natural disasters, bearing in mind their resources and responsiveness;
7. Establish co-ordination among relevant agencies, coast guards, meteorological, health, police, budget offices to meet effectively disasters; and
8. Involve effectively private sectors' participation, including NGOs, in establishing contingency programmes.

7. Institutional Arrangements for Japan-ASEAN Security Co-operation

The team of security experts recognises that security threats change due to the fluid regional and global security environment, and that constant review of co-operation measures and their implementation would, therefore, be required. Mechanisms to assess and respond to the threats should be established. The team recommends that Japan and ASEAN countries:

1. Establish expeditiously the “Japan-ASEAN Security Forum” (JASeF) at track II level, that would constitute a platform for Japan and ASEAN countries (i) to exchange information and evaluation on security threats in the region, (ii) to review the implementation of co-operative measures already agreed, and (iii) to propose new areas of co-operation between Japan and ASEAN;
2. Ensure funding for JASeF activities through the Japan-ASEAN General Exchange Fund (JAGEF) on a three-year budget basis;
3. Expand the Japan-ASEAN Forum to include participants from relevant ministries and agencies; and
4. Expand Japan-ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting to include defence officials, for the purpose of strengthening further Japan-ASEAN security cooperation amongst others.

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