

JIIA-DPG
6th JAPAN-INDIA INDO-PACIFIC FORUM
9th Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue

Tokyo
November 16, 2023

Joint Statement

The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) convened the 6th Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum on November 15- 16, 2023. This was the 9th edition of the Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue series co-anchored by JIIA and DPG. The event was hosted by JIIA with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan. The DPG delegation was supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The JIIA and DPG delegations were led respectively by Ambassador Sasae Kenichiro, President of JIIA, and Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh, Director General, DPG.

Amid the evolving geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, the 6th Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum emphasized the crucial role of the “Special Strategic and Global Partnership” between Japan and India in promoting regional stability and prosperity. Discussions delved into the changing global power structures and growing US-China competition, the strategic role of the QUAD in the Indo-Pacific, and the importance of collaborative efforts in areas such as maritime security and economic resilience. With the Indo-Pacific security milieu becoming more complex, the impact of the challenges in Ukraine, the tensions surrounding Taiwan and the Philippines, as well as the situation over Israel and Palestine, the deepening relationship between Japan and India, which marked 70 years of diplomatic relations last year, is indispensable for the stable future and prosperity of the region.

Deliberations at the Forum were structured into three sessions: "Global Power Alignments and Regional Developments in the Indo-Pacific" (Session 1), "India-Japan Bilateral Relations and Cooperation" (Session 2), and a comprehensive review of the “The Influence and Promise of India and Japan in Shaping the Future of the Indo-Pacific (Open Session)” that reflected upon the insights from the previous two sessions. The first two sessions were held behind closed doors, observing the Chatham House Rule, while the culminating Open Session was streamed live.

Attendees emphasized the essential cooperative spirit between Japan and India as global dynamics, especially in the Indo-Pacific, continue to transform. The shifting power dynamics accentuate the necessity of a robust regional security framework to promote rules-based interactions amongst nations in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

Session 1 addressed challenges to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific, focused on the role and progress of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) and its expanding engagement with regional institutions ASEAN, IORA, and PIF, and looked ahead to India's hosting of the next Quad summit. Participants advocated reforms in multilateralism to reflect current realities, welcomed the G20 process, and suggested pathways towards a more equitable and democratic global order. They recognised the far-reaching impact of the Ukraine crisis and the Israel-Hamas conflict on international relations and strategic balances. They further discussed the transition towards a multipolar geopolitical landscape, while emphasising the rising importance of emerging and developing nations. The contributions of Japan and India in leading the G7 and G20, respectively, were welcomed, especially their efforts in fostering cooperation with emerging and developing countries.

Session 2 highlighted the existing and potential areas of collaboration between Japan and India, with a focus on maritime security, defence partnerships, and economic security. Participants noted the continuing progress of defence exchanges since the second Japan-India Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") in September 2022, including the inaugural Japan-India joint fighter exercise. Following the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations, they anticipated further milestones in the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" between Japan and India. These included enhanced traditional security cooperation and concrete bilateral initiatives in trade, investment, economic security, transparent and reliable supply chains, critical and emerging technologies, strategic minerals, and vital infrastructure development. The importance of ongoing maritime security cooperation was underscored, with interest being expressed in both the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. While identifying defence equipment and technology cooperation as a key area of collaboration between Japan and India, participants called for the early concretisation of specific projects under discussion.

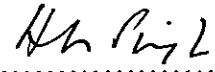
The Open Session of the Forum conveyed to wider national and regional audiences the opportunities and challenges in broadening India-Japan collaboration across the diplomatic, defense, security, economic and technological realms.

Participants reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to consistently elevate the public policy relevance of this pivotal Forum in future years.

Participants at the Forum including distinguished experts, senior governmental representatives from both sides, and diplomatic officials from the Embassy of India in Tokyo.

On behalf of the DPG delegation, Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh thanked JIIA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan for their hospitality and excellent arrangements. The next edition, the 7th India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum (10th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue), will be hosted by DPG in New Delhi in 2024. Dates will be finalized through mutual consultations.


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Ambassador Sasae Kenichiro
President, JIIA


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Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh
Director General, DPG

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