

Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the Defense

Industry Forum

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When discussing defense industries, we often focus on advanced technologies, sophisticated systems, and industrial capabilities.

Yet its origins go back to the earliest human communities seeking to protect their families, livelihoods, and way of life.

As history advanced, military power became associated with visible symbols of national strength, such as warships, tanks, fighter aircraft, and other strategic assets.

However, the nature of security has changed profoundly.

The modern security environment now extends far beyond traditional military domains, encompassing discussions on semiconductors, critical minerals, digital infrastructure, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, cyber resilience, and secure supply chains.

The distinction between civilian and military technologies has become increasingly blurred.

In today's interconnected world, security is no longer defined solely by the number of warships or fighter jets, but by the resilience of the networks that bind us together.

In considering the evolving nature of defense industrial cooperation, the word “dual use” has long been familiar. In its usual context, it refers to borderless technologies that can be utilized for both military and commercial purposes.

□ However, I believe that “dual use” in its broader sense offers a wider perspective on the role of defense in today’s world.

Resilient defense industries ensure not only the national security of their own country but also extends to fortify international and regional security.

Or even, I might say, they support not only the protection of our countries today, but also the well-being of future generations.

No country, regardless of size or capability, can independently develop and sustain all the technologies required to

meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The international environment surrounding us continues to grow even more complex and uncertain.

Wars and conflicts in different parts of the world remind us that peace can never be taken for granted.

In addition, their ripple effects are felt in the daily lives of ordinary citizens all around the world.

Against this backdrop, in April 2026, Japan undertook a revision of its defense equipment transfer policy.

This revision reflects Japan's resolve to respond to an evolving security environment, while remaining firmly committed to its policy of a "Proactive Contribution to Peace based on the principle of international cooperation."

To understand its significance, it is imperative to reflect on key developments over the past decade.

After establishing its first ever National Security Strategy in 2013, in August 2016, the Japanese government under the leadership of the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe articulated the

vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Coincidentally, one month earlier, the Arbitral Tribunal issued a unanimous award. Japan highly appreciates the position of the Government of the Philippines, which has consistently complied with the award and shown its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea. Japan is seriously concerned about recent reports about a floating structure in Scarborough Shoal. We uphold the rule of law and strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the South China Sea, and any actions that increase regional tensions.

Taken together, these developments underscore the enduring importance of international law, peaceful dispute resolution, and a rules-based order.

Over the past ten years, the Japanese government has gradually reviewed and adapted its defense policy, including the revision of the National Security Strategy and its related basic policies in 2022, as well as on-going policy reviews.

The Philippines has maintained unwavering efforts not only for its sovereignty but also on behalf of nations that stand for a rules-based world order, which Japan deeply respects.

As a close friend, trusted partner, and fellow maritime nation, Japan and the Philippines have stood together in advancing the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Today, that vision continues to evolve.

Last month, Prime Minister Takaichi announced the updated Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Later in the same month, during President Marcos's state visit to Japan, the Japan-Philippines relationship was elevated to new heights, now standing as Comprehensive Strategic Partners.

Our two leaders underscored that defense industrial cooperation between Japan and the Philippines directly contributes to strengthening supply chain resilience, enhancing interoperability and supporting long-term defense readiness.

The momentum we have set in motion will converge into an even stronger partnership.

One in which Japan and the Philippines stand ever more resilient, deeply interconnected, and jointly prosperous.

That is why I am particularly honored to witness this gathering today.

The Japan-Philippines Defense Industrial Forum represents more than an exchange of ideas. It represents a shared commitment to shaping the future together.