

JIIA-DPG
4th JAPAN-INDIA INDO-PACIFIC FORUM
7th Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue

Tokyo and New Delhi

December 21, 2021

Joint Statement

The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIJA) and the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) held the 4th Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum on December 21, 2021. This was the 7th 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. Owing to travel restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the dialogue took place on a virtual platform.

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

H.E. Mr. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, and H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered keynote addresses at the open session of the Forum. This affirmed the importance attached by the two governments to this premier forum for strategic communication between think tank experts and senior officials from both sides, with a view to harnessing greater policy coordination on wide-ranging issues facing the Indo-Pacific.

The 4th Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum took place against a backdrop of international and regional strategic transformation. In the year since the Forum's last session, the Indo-Pacific region has witnessed intensification of the US-China competition, extending over wide-ranging areas from military and security to advanced technology and strategic resources. The region has also continued to suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic, with grave social and economic consequences.

Deliberations at the Forum were organised into three sessions: "Free and Open Indo-Pacific and the Quad" (Session 1), "Japan-India Bilateral Relations post the COVID-19 Pandemic" (Session 2) and "Enhancing Japan-India cooperation for FOIP and role of the Quad" (Open Session). Sessions 1 and 2 were closed-door and governed by the Chatham House Rule. The Open Session was live-streamed.

Participants at the Forum observed that, in the prevailing global and regional environment, it was more necessary than ever for Japan and India to stand together to bridge the Indo-Pacific and reinforce regional prosperity and stability. Growing strategic imbalances in the Indo-Pacific had highlighted the importance of regional security architecture in shaping the rules-based behaviour of States. The Quad summit meetings were held twice in 2021, including the first-ever in-person meeting in Washington DC, and the Quad summit has been regularised following on the foreign ministerial level of talks. Based on Joint Statements and promotion of concrete cooperation under working groups on vaccines, critical emerging technologies and climate change issues, as well as cooperation frameworks for cyber space and outer space, the Quad aims to uphold peace and prosperity in the region, and to maintain and strengthen a Free and Open Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law.

In terms of bilateral relations, participants at the forum stressed the importance of elevating the “Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership” to greater heights by promoting cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political, defence and security issues, strengthened economic cooperation as well as greater people-to-people exchanges, looking ahead to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India next year.

Participants also shared the view that, in addition to wide-ranging security cooperation including in the new fields such as cyber, space and economic security, it is important for both countries to promote cooperation in areas such as green technology, advanced manufacturing, digital technology, healthcare, enhancing connectivity and people-to-people exchanges at various levels such as through the Specified Skilled Worker programme, and steadily advance the implementation of vital economic infrastructure projects including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail. They further recognised the importance of joint efforts to build economic resilience through trusted, secure and transparent supply chains, as well as cooperation on critical minerals, strategic technologies and strategically important infrastructure projects. They also encouraged greater bilateral diplomatic and strategic coordination to build habits of cooperation on shared interests and goals in the Indo-Pacific, as well as enhanced defence ties.

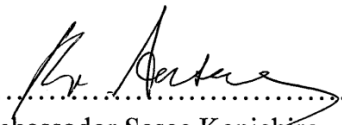
Participants recalled the major contributions to India-Japan relations made by former Japanese Prime Ministers, Abe Shinzo and Suga Yoshihide, during their terms in office. They welcomed the fact that Prime Ministers Kishida Fumio and Narendra Modi had already held a cordial conversation on the phone and decided to continue working


towards the realisation of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”. They looked forward to the next Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting as well as the next bilateral summit to define and intensify the future direction of bilateral relations in various domains.

Finally, the participants affirmed their commitment to continually enhance the public policy relevance of this important Forum over the coming years.

Attendees included expert delegates, representatives of both governments and diplomatic officials from their respective embassies in Tokyo and New Delhi.

The members of the DPG delegation led by Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh expressed their deep gratitude to JIIA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan for their excellent arrangements in hosting the Forum. DPG will host the fifth edition of the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum (8th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue) in New Delhi sometime in 2022, with suitable dates to be decided 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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