

Remarks of HE Ambassador Takashi Murata
on the occasion of Japan Self-Defense Forces Day reception on 26th Sep 2019

Excellencies, Honorables, Distinguished Guests,

It is my great honor to receive you in Japan Self-Defense Forces Day Reception. On behalf of the Government of JAPAN, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all.

As you recognize, the political, economic and cultural exchange between both countries is increasing now as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Finland, and in regard with defense, the former Minister of Defense, Dr. Jussi Niinisto visited Japan in February this year, marking the 65th SDF anniversary. During the visit, both the Ministers of Defense concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at MOD.

At present, the security situation around Japan is changing at an incredibly fast rate of speed. The change of the power balance in the international society is accelerated and complicated, and the uncertainty about the existing order is increasing. In addition, rapid expansion in using new domains in the space, cyber, and electromagnetic field means that we must drastically re-examine the whole traditional concept of national security, which has emphasized the correspondence in the traditional physical domains such as land, sea, and air. For the reinforcement of the

defense capability in the future, this will be needed to keep the quality and quantity of the defense capability on the necessary and sufficient levels in order to build truly practical defense which is not just an extension of the traditions. Especially in the new domains, such as space, cyber and electromagnetic fields, it is especially vital for us to acquire superiority.

To break away from the conception that depends on traditional domains, such as land, sea and air , and to build the new defense capability concept “Multi-domain Defense Force” which is in close inter-disciplinary cooperation with all the domains, we have to change in alternative ways at a drastically different speed.

Last year in December, our government published the National Defense Program Guidelines and Mid –Term Defense Program. For example, Japan will acquire 147 F-35 fighters, including 42 F-35Bs, and refurbish the Izumo-class destroyers for the operation of F-35Bs and so on.

For JAPAN, the US - Japan Alliance continues to serve as the foundation of Japan’s security. In addition, deepening and enhancing defense cooperation and exchange with Finland, which has the common idea about security, is also indispensable. We in Japan will make an effort to promote defense cooperation and exchange in a visual way.

Now, I would like to make a toast to the development of our defense cooperation and exchange with Finland and to your health Kippis Kanpai.

Remarks of Lt. Col Shinya Matoba
on the occasion of Japan Self-Defense Forces Day reception on 26th Sep 2019

Excellencies, Honorables, Distinguished Guests, Hyvää Päivää.

Today, we are very honored to be able to hold our Japan Self-Defense Forces Day Reception. Let me take this occasion to say a few words to express our welcome.

This may be a quite sudden question, but do any of you know the word “SISU”? All the Finns guests tottakai (of course) understand. It means in English the spirit “never give up”. Through the defense attaché tours, supervised by the Finnish Defence Forces, whenever I have met and talked with Finnish officers, sergeants, conscripts and female volunteers, I have experienced that they are very patriotic and they perform military duties with the spirit “SISU” against every difficulties.

In Japanese we have a similar word with the spirit “SISU”. That is the spirit “Hutou Hukutsu”.

Japan Self-Defense Forces has made steadily efforts with the spirit “Hutou Hukutsu” for every difficulty it has met since its establishment.

Japan Self-Defense Forces celebrates its 65th anniversary this year.

And last year, our government had published the National Defense Program Guidelines and Mid-Term Defense Program.

It shows what true defense capability is, not just an extension of the

tradition. And this is the plan to operate our Japan Self Defense Forces in a cross-domain system, which is fused in the traditional domain such as land, sea and air with the space, cyber and electromagnetic together. Japan Self-Defense Forces are dealing with our duty with the spirit “Hutou Hukutsu” to carry out our plan as soon as possible and to build the sufficient preparations.

This month, Prime Minister Abe instructed our generals that our Japan Self- Defense Forces are facing a big wave; and whether we can secure the superiority in the new domain or not, it will be directly connected to the defense capability of Japan. In addition, many countries are now in fierce competition for the development of high technology, so Japan Self-Defense Forces have to watch this actuality and have to defend Japanese national life and property.

Now, in February this year, Finland and Japan have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding. I will make more efforts with the spirit “SISU and Hutou Hukutsu” to deepen and enhance our defense cooperation and exchange in a visual way.

Olisin kiitollinen, jos saisin avustustanne jatkossakin.

Paljon kiitoksia tästä päivästä.