

• P R E S S   R E L E A S E

• E M B A S S Y   O F   J A P A N  
• I N   F I N L A N D

• Unioninkatu 20-22, 00130 Helsinki, FINLAND | tel:+358 (0)9 686 0200 | www.fi.emb-japan.go.jp

## **Japan-Finland Defense Minister's Video Teleconference**

28 August 2020

On 27 August, **Mr. KONO Taro**, Minister of Defense of Japan and **Mr. Antti Kaikkonen**, Minister of Defense of Finland had a teleconference to discuss defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and Finland. Minister Kono expressed his expectation for the participation of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force in Military Music Festival Hamina Tattoo next year.

Regarding COVID-19, they agreed on the followings:

- (1) sharing information, knowledge and lessons learned about the measures taken by the defense authorities towards overcoming COVID-19 at the earliest stage;
- (2) necessity of sharing recognition of threat based on the current circumstances and of potential effects of the spread of COVID-19 on defense policy of each country from the view point of the role of defense authorities; and
- (3) promoting vigorously defense cooperation and exchanges and maintaining communication between the defense authorities.

Our bilateral defense cooperation and communication have been further developed recently, exemplified by the dialogue between Dr. Niinistö and Mr. Iwaya, the then Defense Ministers, as well as their signing of “the Memorandum between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defense of Finland on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Defense” in February 2019.

For further information, please contact: 09-686-0200 /

Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel SUZUKI Shinjiro

[shinjiro.suzuki@mofa.go.jp](mailto:shinjiro.suzuki@mofa.go.jp)