

Comprehensive Cooperation on Wide-ranging Objectives Should be Promoted to Strengthen the Japan-US Alliance

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1. Although we are now marking 150 years of Amity and 50 years of Alliance between Japan and the U.S., it is more important than ever that the Japan-US Security Alliance be affirmed and further strengthened. The US needs Japan as a primary partner, sharing the same values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and freedom, and enabling it to develop a worldwide security strategy. For Japan, the Alliance is indispensable for ensuring its security and prosperity.
2. The Alliance should work not only for the security of Japan and the US but also regional and world peace and stability, especially given the recent security environment in which we face the rogue state of North Korea, the rising of China, transnational terrorism and piracy, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other global issues. The Alliance should be engaged in space, the air, the ocean, and cyber space, with a view towards their management and use, and maintain a high awareness of recent developments in the technologies related to security in these areas.
3. Comprehensive Japan-US cooperation on economic and technology as well as military and security issues should be pursued to ensure a strong partnership and further deepen the Japan-US alliance. A comprehensive power covering shipping, ocean governance, maritime research, and development, in addition to naval capabilities, inevitably arises in discussions on how to seek the sea-power that is indispensable for the maintenance of the freedom of navigation and maritime security.
4. The Road Map on which a consensus was reached by both states in 2006 should be implemented and it is highly advisable that new consultations on the two countries' security cooperation begin soon. Operational collaboration plans should be made to have the Japan-US alliance really workable and effective. For that, Japan must construct the necessary legal infrastructures, such as a positive interpretation on the exercise of the right of collective self-defense and the introduction of a Comprehensive Security Cooperation Act to engage in international military cooperation for ensuring the peace and stability of the world.

U.S.-Japan Symposium
150 Years of Amity & 50 Years of Alliance
June 18-19, 2010, Washington, D.C.

5 The current controversy over the Futenma Air Station relocation is critical for the Alliance and should be resolved in a sophisticated and timely manner. We must now take into account a new political situation in Japan, in which Okinawan residents have become very concerned about the heavy burden of US military bases. At the same time, we realize that it is important to maintain the current functions of the US military stationed in Japan, as it plays an essential role in maintaining security for Japan as well as the Asia Pacific region and the world. Japan and the US security authorities should therefore find a solution that meets these conditions as soon as possible, a difficult task that can only be accomplished by setting aside obstinate attitudes and urging flexibility on the part of all related sectors.