

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

U.S. Japan Seapower Alliance for Bringing Peace and Prosperity in the World-

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As oceans cover seventy-one percent of the surface of the planet on which we live, it may be more appropriately called the “Water Planet” rather than the “Earth”.

In the future as in the past, the sea lanes will continue to bring prosperity to human society. Unexploited resources beneath the seabed have also been confirmed, including oil, natural gas, manganese nodules, and methane hydrate. Advanced exploration and exploitation technologies are also being developed.

When we look at social conditions on the ocean however, we find the sea lanes being threatened by piracy and maritime terrorism, overt tensions existing between States over marine jurisdictional areas and rights to ocean resources, and extreme instability in the security environment due to a lack of transparency in the rapid build-up of naval force by certain emerging powers. Should global shortages of resources and energy arise in the future, armed conflicts could erupt between States over maritime rights and freedoms.

At the same time, indiscriminate development and pollution are endangering marine ecosystems and environments, further aggravating climate change. Global warming leads to the problem of sea level rise, which threatens island States and areas at low sea levels. In addition, it is feared that climate change will lead to new security problems.

While oceans have the potential to aid mankind’s development and prosperity, they also present many problems in areas such as security, development, and the environment.

Should not the United States and Japan, the two major seapowers, build a “Seapower Alliance” for securing the oceans in comprehensive manner, and then offer it to the world as a global commons, thereby contributing to peace and prosperity ?

Motivated by these ideas, the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, in conjunction with the Center for a New American Security and some other institutes, organized the “U.S.-Japan

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Seapower Dialogue”, at which experts from both countries came together at a series of three meetings in 2008 and 2009. As a result of the dialogue, a proposal entitled *United States-Japan Seapower Alliance for Stability and Prosperity on the Oceans* was announced and presented to the both governments.

This proposal addresses Ocean Based Defense and Security, Sustainable Development of the Ocean, and Establishment of an International Regime based on UNCLOS and Related Conventions.

Ocean Based Defense and Security includes Promotion of a Global Maritime Partnership in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Establishment of Joint Response Readiness for Situations of Armed Conflict and Consortium of Seafaring Nations Concept. Sustainable Development of the Ocean covers Development of Marine Resources, Marine Technology and Research Study, and Conservation of the Marine Environment and Response to Climate Change.

(<http://www.sof.or.jp/en/report/index/php>)

The United States and Japan should strengthen “U.S.-Japan Allied Seapower” and orient its application towards stabilizing the maritime security environment, promoting marine technology, revitalizing marine industry, advancing sustainable development, and establishing international order on the seas.

The proposal *United States-Japan Seapower Alliance for Stability and Prosperity on the Oceans* can be used as a guideline to promote such an ambition.