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# **On the Foundation and Guarantee for Building A China-Japan Maritime Community with Shared Future**

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## **Introduction**

**1. Basic principles**

**2. Platforms' role**

**3. Enhance cooperation**

**Conclusion**

There are a few tasks and suspensions between China and Japan, among which new and old issues related to the sea emerge by turns and seriously influence the stability and development of China-Japan relations, thus constituting important issues requiring cooperative treatment of such two countries.

Leaders of both China and Japan believe that “without the peace and stability in the East China Sea, there is no stability and development of China-Japan relations”, and such consensus has been proved in the practice. Therefore, to properly handle marine issues including issues over East China Sea is an important task and core challenge.

# 1. Basic principles

China and Japan should resolve new and old marine issues according to facts and international law, especially comply with and apply the principles and spirits contained in four political instruments concluding by China and Japan, several consensuses reach by them.

The most important principles are the two as follows:

- (1) The principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.
- (2) The principle of cooperation.

# 1. Basic principles

Regarding marine issues including those over East China Sea, there are a lot of consensuses between China and Japan, such as China-Japan Principled Consensus on the East China Sea Issues of June 2008, China-Japan Four-point Principled Agreement on Handling and Improving Bilateral Relations of November 2014, etc.

Such agreed contents should be important principles in handling China-Japan marine issues, because such agreed contents are consistent with the features and reality of marine issues including those over East China Sea and have played important roles in developing China-Japan relations.

## 2. Platforms' role

China and Japan have established many platforms which has contributed a lot in order to resolve marine issues.

The most important platform is China-Japan High-level Consultation Mechanism on Maritime Affairs.

Till November 2023, 16 Rounds of consultations have been held, achieving not bad effects, especially promoting the conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding on Chinese and Japanese Defense Department Maritime and Air Liaison Mechanism, formulating China-Japan Agreement on Maritime Search and Rescue.

## 2. Platforms' role

However, it is necessary to point out that there has been no consultation under the High-level Consultation on Maritime Affairs conducted on core disputes between China and Japan, i.e. issue over Diaoyu Dao and its surrounding island and islets/Senkaku Islands, and relevant contents under consultation were only limited to respective expressions of standpoints and propositions.

The foundation for including the topic on Diaoyu Dao into such consultation mechanism is the Point III in the China-Japan Four-point Principled Agreement on Handling and Improving Bilateral Relations.



### 3. Enhance cooperation

China and Japan should enhance cooperation on marine issues.

China and Japan may carry out cooperation in the maritime field in the following three aspects.

- (1) On the issue of Fukushima nuclear waste water release into the sea.
- (2) On the development of resources in East China Sea.
- (3) On emerging and frontier marine fields.

# Conclusion

There are a lot of suspensions and tasks in urgent need of settlement between China and Japan, thus each side should pay reasonable attention to the other side's concerns, take various measures including cooperation to earnestly resolve existing problems, make contribution to the realization of constructive and stable China-Japan relations, thus realizing the objective of building a China-Japan maritime community with shared future.

Thank you for your attentions.

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