

Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

As you may have witnessed over the weekend, Japan's national rugby union team coached by Australian Eddie Jones produced arguably the biggest upset in rugby history by beating two-time champion South Africa in a pool match of the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The Cherry Blossoms' last victory was in 1991 and are currently ranked 13th in the world. The results of this match have been widely covered by the media as it is a historic win for Japan.



Mr Eddie Jones  
Photo courtesy of the Japan Rugby  
Football Union

In another historic moment, the Japanese government's legislation for peace and security passed the Japanese Diet. In my email in May I shared with you information about this new legislation, which the Japanese government submitted to the Diet on 15 May. The legislation passed the Japanese Diet on 19 September following a long discussion in the Diet. We are grateful for the Australian government's kind support for the legislation as recently expressed by Prime Minister Turnbull during his phone call with Prime Minister Abe last week, as well as the welcoming statements issued by Foreign Minister Bishop and by then Defence Minister Andrews on 19 September.

The government explained about the legislation for 116 hours in the House of Representatives and 100 hours in the House of Councillors as it is a very important matter for the peace and security of Japan and its people. I would like to draw your attention once again to the significance of the legislation.

Firstly, the exercise of the right of collective self-defense will be permitted under strict conditions compared to international standards. This will most certainly enhance the deterrence provided by the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Although there was much debate about whether or not the right of collective self-defense is constitutional

among the Japanese public, the stance of the Government is very clear that Japan is not prohibited under the constitution from exercising the necessary defense measures within a minimum scope.

Secondly, how to better cope with situations which have an important influence on Japan's peace and security is another significant aspect of the legislation. The legislation will enable the provision of necessary support activities not only to the U.S. but also other countries' armed forces who are engaged in international efforts (such as providing logistics support).

Thirdly, Japan will be able to participate in a wider range of UN PKOs and other internationally coordinated efforts under the legislation. When Japan sought to deploy its Self Defense Forces (SDF) to operations other than UN PKOs, each time it had to enact a special law with a fixed period for every single mission (and such special law had to be extended in the Diet when they expired). Furthermore, the scope of activities that the SDF could engage in was limited. Under the new legislation, Japan will be able to participate in multilateral operations other than UN PKOs and will be able to expand our current roles (such as the protection of civilians). What Japan is trying to achieve via this legislation is simply to better contribute to internationally coordinated peace and security operations with wider scope of activities.

The attached document will provide you with an understanding of the overall nature of the new legislation.

Lastly, Japan has clearly and transparently explained about the legislation to other countries and has stressed that there will be no change whatsoever to Japan's basic posture and orientation as a country committed to peace for the past 70 years. Japan will continue to uphold a basic policy of maintaining an exclusively national defense-oriented policy, not becoming a military power that poses a threat to other countries, and observing the Three Non-Nuclear Principles of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons. This legislation will only increase the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, reduce the risk of attacks, and will enable Japan to further contribute to the peace and stability of international community which is facing increasing challenges today.

Yours sincerely,

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Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[Japan's Security Policy](#)