

Dear friends,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

Trilateral cooperation between Japan, the US, and Australia is very important for maintaining peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and wider global community.

Over the years, our three countries have been promoting cooperation--especially in the security field--and a recent development has opened up a new chapter in our security arrangements.

On 27 October, defence officials from all three countries met in Honolulu, Hawaii, together with respective diplomatic authorities for the 8<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Security and Defence Cooperation Forum.



At this event, representatives from the Australian Department of Defence, the Japan Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence signed a Trilateral Information Sharing Agreement (TISA) to further strengthen defence cooperation.

There are currently a number of bilateral agreements between each country dealing with information sharing. However the increased importance of cooperation between Japan, the US and Australia in the area of security means there is now more than ever a greater imperative to strengthen information sharing between the partners. There are also more opportunities for joint training between all three countries.

The TISA was created to facilitate information sharing between our countries during cooperative activities such as joint exercises and transportation.

We expect that trilateral exercises between Japan, the US and Australia such as COPE NORTH GUAM and SOUTHERN JACKAROO will increase the closeness between our countries. Other areas of cooperative operations such as international humanitarian aid and large scale disaster relief will also underscore our ties.

I look forward to seeing the benefits of this cooperation for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia