

**Framing Comments by H.E Ambassador YAMAGAMI
Shingo for the ADI Webinar on the Australia-Japan
Defence and Security Relationship 26 April 2022 14:00-
15:30**

- Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, Emeritus Professor Paul Dibb, Mr Peter Jennings, Air Commodore Dr Peter McDermott, Professor Bec Strating, Professor Danielle Chubb, and ladies and gentlemen of the on-line viewing audience.
- It is a pleasure to join with you all this afternoon for this online seminar to mark the launch of Dr McDermott's study into the history of the defence and security relationship between Japan and Australia.
- Such an illustrious line-up joining us today speaks volumes about the degree of interest and importance placed in our bilateral defence and strategic relationship, a relationship

that continues to evolve as our geostrategic environment changes and our challenges grow.

- And coming one day after ANZAC Day, the timing of today's webinar could not be more apt.
- I should note as part of my opening comments that much of the post-World War II development in our defence and strategic relationship owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Professor Dibb, with whom I have shared many a conversation about the region and our shared place in it.
- One might point to the formation of the Dibb-Beaumont talks back in 1990 as the spark that ignited a recognition that as economic partners, perhaps our interests would also extend to shared security concerns.
- This was certainly the belief of SATOH Yukio, the former

Director-General of the Information Analysis, Research and Planning Bureau in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan, and my predecessor both in that role and as Ambassador of Japan to Australia.

- I myself have been the recipient of many words of advice from my *senpai* and mentor Ambassador SATOH, and indeed it was he that introduced me to Paul and to the finer points of the Japan-Australia security relationship.
- Perhaps that makes me a disciple of the SATOH school of thought, but it is a philosophy of bilateral relationships with which I wholeheartedly agree.
- The combined efforts of Ambassador SATOH and Professor Dibb led in turn to our cooperation in peacekeeping activities in Cambodia, and later force protection measures in Iraq.
- From there, we continued to work together in

international missions, notably to East Timor, in Sinai and the Golan Heights, and in HADR operations in Indonesia, the Philippines, and across the South Pacific.

- Concurrently we also began to upgrade our legal and regulatory frameworks, from technology sharing, to information and equipment sharing, all the way up to the Reciprocal Access Agreement signed by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio and Prime Minister Scott Morrison in January this year.
- I have made mention on many occasions of the milestone that this represents in our bilateral security and defence relationship, and it is already bearing fruit.
- I can report that there has already been a considerable up-tick in visits by SDF and MOD staff to Australia.

- This year has also seen a JGSDF liaison officer entrenched with 1 Division Headquarters, an historic first and one that compliments the liaison officers from the MOD who have worked in and with the DOD over many years. Last week also saw the visit to Japan by Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Michael Noonan for talks with JMSDF.
- All this has taken place as the scale of our mutual involvement in exercises and training missions has increased. All three of our services regularly engage in skills and capability-building tasks together and with likeminded partners.
- This cooperation will be enhanced as we move ahead, and in new areas of mutual interest including space security and cyber security.
- This brings us to where we are today, partners in a

mutually supportive security and defence relationship with healthy prospects for much greater growth.

- This has been a steadily built relationship, reinforced by both our close economic ties, our common values and our strategic interests.
- That serves us in good stead, as the region faces even more severe challenges to the status quo posed by China's belligerence in the South China and East China Seas.
- Our mutual involvement in the Quad and Japan's strong support for AUKUS means that we will be operating together more often to reinforce freedom of navigation and to counteract threats to regional stability.
- This will be our greatest challenge but will also provide the greatest opportunity for building closer ties. What is certain is that in the years ahead, Australia will see a lot

more of the JSDF.

- Through their physical presence here, they will reinforce the message of Japan as a strong, dependable and highly capable defence partner, a true-blue mate who'll back you up when things get rough.
- We are both stronger because of our special strategic partnership, and we are better for the way it has brought our defence and political establishments closer together.
- Through the course of conversations today I expect that many potential areas for greater cooperation will be explored, as well as how together we might best protect our mutual interests.
- Ladies and gentlemen, you are in for a real treat, so strap yourselves in for what I expect will be the rip-roaring discussion to follow.

- Thank you.

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