

**Remarks by His Excellency Ambassador SUZUKI Kazuhiro on the occasion of the commemoration
ceremony for the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea
9 May 2025**

Mr Brenton Philp,
Ms Erika Olson,
Mr Michael Pettersson,
Representatives of the Chiefs of Army, Navy, and Air Force,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Over two days in early May 1942, Japanese, U.S. and Australian forces engaged in a ferocious battle in the Coral Sea, marking the first clash between carrier forces in naval history.

This battle on the open seas came at a heavy cost, with approximately 1,600 lives lost to the waves.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, Japan resolved to never again embark on the path to conflict.

In keeping with the will of its people, Japan has striven to unequivocally support a world founded on the rule of law, on the peaceful resolution of disputes, and on representative democracy.

The end of the Second World War led to reconciliation between former foes, accompanied by greater economic prosperity through trade and the expansion of people-to-people ties.

Eighty years after the end of a war that tore our region apart, we – Japan, Australia, and the United States of America – are united in our determination to secure a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

This was made clear during the Trilateral Defence Ministers' Meeting held in Darwin last year, and this is the distinct commitment that the three countries still uphold today.

A prominent feature of this determination is expanded trilateral defence cooperation.

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 will see the commencement of annual trilateral amphibious training among the ADF, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, and the United States Marine Corps.

This is in addition to increased trilateral interoperability, information sharing, and building advanced capabilities and planning together.

The lessons so painfully learned 80 years ago cannot and must not be so easily forgotten. It is incumbent

upon us, the heirs of the legacy of the Second World War, and the educators of generations to come, to ensure that peace and the rule of law prevails.

Yet it is a task made that much lighter in the company of such stalwart allies and partners as Australia and the United States, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Thank you.

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