

## **Japan-Australia Defence Ministers Meeting on June 4**

Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa, who was in Singapore to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Shangri-La Dialogue, met with Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith for around 30 minutes on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

1. At the beginning of the meeting Minister Kitazawa expressed his gratitude for the tremendous assistance provided by Australia in relation to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami which included a C-17 airlift. He explained the current SDF disaster relief activities and the situation surrounding the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Minister Smith in response said that the cooperation among Japan, Australian and the US during the disaster was a good manifestation of the trilateral cooperation that had been pursued and practiced.
2. The two ministers agreed to closely cooperate for the success of the next round of the Foreign and Defence Ministers meeting, or 2+2, between Japan and Australia. More specifically, they agreed to engage in discussions on the vision for future security and defence cooperation, cooperation in disaster management and stronger Japan-Australia-US cooperation.
3. Both ministers also agreed to accelerate negotiation on the bilateral Information Security Agreement with a view to signing it at the next 2+2 meeting, as agreed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries in April.
4. Both Ministers agreed on the importance of deepening defence ties among Japan, Australia and the US, noting that trilateral cooperation contributed to regional security.