

Japan-China Discussions on Maritime Confidence-Building and Communication Mechanisms

National Defense University

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	Japan-China Maritime Communications Mechanism (JCMCM)	Japan-China Maritime Search & Rescue Cooperation Agreement (SAR Agreement)	High-Level Consultations on Maritime Affairs (High-level Maritime Consultations)
Japanese Participants	MOD Director of International Policy Division lead. Support from Joint Staff Officer, Maritime Staff Office, and Air Staff Office.	MOFA lead for negotiations. Japan Coast Guard as implementing agency.	MOFA Deputy Director General for Asian & Oceanic Affairs head of delegation including representatives from 9 ministries and agencies.
Chinese Participants	MND Director for Asian Affairs lead. Supported by staff officers from PLA, PLA(N), and PLA(AF).	MFA lead for negotiations. Maritime Safety Agency as implementing agency.	MFA DDG of Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs head of delegation including representatives from 8 ministries and agencies.
1977-1998		Irregular meetings to establish a Japan-China SAR Agreement. In 1998 the project was put on hold.	
21 Apr 2008	1 st Joint Working Group negotiating mtg. in Beijing.		
01 Mar 2009		Foreign Minister (FM) mtg. in Beijing. FMs agree to start early studies for conclusion of SAR Agreement.	
27 Nov 2009	Defense Minister (DM) mtg. in Tokyo. DMs agreed to have 2 nd working-level conference at an early date.		
26 July 2010	2nd Joint Working Group negotiation mtg. in Tokyo.		
11 Oct 2010	DM mtg. in Hanoi. Agree to swiftly establish a maritime communication mechanism between defense authorities.		
April 2011		Shanghai Maritime Search and Rescue Center and Hiroshima Branch of the Japan Coast Guard hold a maritime search and rescue simulation.	
4 June 2011	DM mtg. in Singapore. DM Kitazawa requested that the Chinese Navy prevent the recurrence of incidents in which Chinese naval aircraft approach MSDF vessels, and the two agree to hold the 3rd Working-Level Talks in the near future.		
22 Sept 2011	FM Gemba and FM Yang agree to work closely at the administrative level to develop a mechanism for maritime crisis management.	FM Gemba and FM Yang meet in New York and agree to accelerate discussions toward early conclusion of SAR Agreement.	
			FM Gemba and FM Yang meet in Beijing and agree to communicate to establish a dialogue framework for confidence building measures between maritime-related agencies.
23 Dec 2011		4 th mtg. for negotiation of SAR Agreement in Beijing. Both sides reach agreement in principle.	
25 Dec 2011		Prime Minister (PM) Summit in Beijing. PM Noda and PM Wen confirm an agreement in principle on the SAR Agreement text. Mandates both countries to share information regarding distress calls and planned emergency courses of action and closely coordinate to effectively conduct SAR operations.	PM Summit in Beijing. PM Noda and PM Wen agree to establish "High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs."
15-16 May 2012			1 st mtg. of High-Level Maritime Consultation in Hangzhou. Primarily

			confidence building.
28-29 Jun 2012	3 rd Joint Working Group mtg. for negotiations in Beijing. Both sides concur in principle that the JCMCM will be composed of: (1) Annual mtgs. and working-level mtg., (2) A hotline (location, level, encryption still being discussed), (3) Agreement that during unalerted encounters PLA(N) & JMSDF unit would communicate via VHF channel 16 or international signal flags.		
Late 2012/Early 2013			2 nd mtg. planned to be held in Japan. Discussion of scheduling appears stalled.
April 26 2013	Hideshi Tokuchi, Director-General of the Japanese MOD's Defense Policy Bureau, met Guan Youfei, director of Foreign Affairs Office of China's MND in Beijing. DM Onodera stated that the purpose of the mtg. was to exchange opinions on the JCMCM and the regional situation.		

Source: Compiled by James Przystup, John Bradford, and James Manicom from Chinese and Japanese government publications and private interviews with knowledgeable individuals within the Japanese government.