



U.S.-Japan Joint Vision Statement

by Pacific Forum Young Leaders

The following is a collaborative statement written by American and Japanese Pacific Forum Young Leaders who attended the 17th U.S.-Japan Security Seminar in San Francisco, in March 2011. An official Joint Vision statement is long overdue.

The United States government and its people wish to express our deepest sympathies and send our heartfelt condolences to the Japanese people and to all of those who have been affected by the devastating Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami.

1) Overview

Over the past sixty years the U.S.-Japan Alliance has been the cornerstone of peace and stability in East Asia. In the past two decades the United States and Japan have worked to strengthen and redefine their Alliance, encourage a stable and secure region, and promote a peaceful and prosperous world.

The foundation of our enduring friendship and active cooperation is our common values, mutual respect and trust, which stem from our globalized, transparent and tolerant societies, our commitment to liberal democracy, and our determination to meet all challenges to our mutual security.

The Alliance confronts an increasingly complex strategic environment. Although growing interdependency has reduced the likelihood of interstate war, tensions among states persist and the possibility of conflict in the region remains. At the same time, nontraditional security challenges such as natural disasters, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, maritime piracy, transnational crime, and infectious diseases increasingly threaten to unravel the fabric of the regional and global system.

We pledge to sustain the conventional force necessary to deter aggression and help shape our shared strategic environment in the years ahead. We recognize that U.S. extended deterrence - both conventional and nuclear - will continue to underpin Japan's security. At the same time, we will take steps necessary to mitigate non-traditional security threats.

The bedrock of our Alliance is the support of the Japanese and American people. To ensure this support continues, our governments will enhance public diplomacy, particularly with regard to Okinawa, a strategically situated prefecture that has sacrificed disproportionately for the Alliance by hosting the majority of U.S. forces stationed in Japan. We commit to move forward with a resolution of basing issues in Okinawa that is both equitable to the island's people and enables the Alliance to maintain peace and stability in the region. Given the common values and shared interests that underpin our

Alliance, we are confident that it will surmount current and future frictions over basing issues.

The Alliance has contributed greatly to building a more stable strategic environment. Some noteworthy recent accomplishments include:

- The establishment of a bilateral joint operations coordination center and new links between Japan's Air Defense Command and the U.S. Air Operation Center at Yokota Air Base.
- The improved interoperability of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the U.S. military.
- Joint research and development of ballistic missile defense (BMD) capabilities.
- The JSDF's humanitarian and reconstruction activities in Kuwait and Samawah, Iraq.
- Japanese support for stabilization efforts in Afghanistan.
- Participation of Japan in counter-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden.
- Refueling operations by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in the Indian Ocean.
- Japanese leadership in the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Coast Guard Forum initiative.
- Collaboration on humanitarian and disaster relief operations, including in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2008 Pakistan earthquake, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.
- The U.S. Operation Tomodachi following the March 2011 Japan earthquake.

2) The following strategic objectives advance the interests of our countries:

- Ensure the security of Japanese territory, including its offshore islands, by maintaining the capabilities necessary to respond to a range of traditional and non-traditional contingencies.
- Endeavor, in cooperation with other partners, to ensure uninterrupted access to the global commons—the maritime, air, space, and cyber domains that provide the backbone for transportation, commerce and the free flow of information worldwide.
- Encourage China to continue to play a constructive role in regional and global affairs in accordance with acceptable norms of state behavior, identify new avenues for cooperation, and improve military transparency. We will continue to insist that China maintain consistency between its stated policies and actions.

- Welcome reduced tensions across the Taiwan Strait and oppose unilateral departures from the status quo. We urge the two sides to maintain their commitment to peacefully resolving related issues through dialogue.
- Condemn North Korea's continuing provocative behavior and rhetoric, including recent violations of the 1953 armistice, nuclear weapons development, ballistic missile tests, and abduction of Japanese nationals.
- Intend to deepen trilateral cooperation with South Korea to prepare for sudden change on the Korean peninsula and to expand military exercises. We support peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula in a manner that will lead to the creation of democratic, market-economy state.
- Continue to encourage the recent expansion of security dialogues among ASEAN and its neighbors, such as the ADMM+ conference. We will work toward creating inclusive regional security architecture.
- Enhance minilateral and multilateral security dialogue and cooperation with states in the region, such as the Republic of Korea, Australia, India, and ASEAN members.
- Work together to realize Japan's bid for permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council.
- Call for a peaceful resolution of the Northern Territories dispute at an early date and urge Russia to discontinue its increasingly assertive behavior.
- Promote safe nuclear energy including the next generation of nuclear reactors. We recognize that nuclear power remains essential to Japan and the United States even while the recent earthquake has underscored potential dangers.

3) Roles, Missions, and Capabilities

- We pledge to continue our cooperation on BMD technology, research, and development. We will work to ensure that the products of our collaboration will be available to other U.S. allies.
- We will seek to enhance intelligence cooperation and improve readiness and interoperability of U.S. and Japanese forces.
- We will engage other countries in the Indo-Pacific rim to develop a common network of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets.
- We reaffirm support for one another's security and defense policies, as outlined in the Japanese government's 2010 National Defense Program Guidelines and the U.S. government's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.
- We will advance and when necessary expand planning for various regional contingencies. In particular, the United States pledges to work with Japan to help improve its ability to deter and defend aggression in its Nansei Island chain.

4) A Common Vision for the U.S.-Japan Alliance

Our Alliance will remain a cornerstone of regional and global security in the decades to come. While maintaining a robust defense posture, we will respond to state-based threats and cooperate to address the challenges of terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, piracy, transnational crime, energy insecurity, and epidemic diseases. We will use our collective capabilities to maintain open access to the global commons while closely engaging other countries to participate in this effort. We will also promote the norm of military transparency to prevent destabilizing arms races and to foster strategic trust. Our alliance will function as a building block for partnerships to respond to natural disasters and other contingencies in the region.

As two of the world's leading democratic powers, Japan and the United States will continue to promote universal values such as respect for human rights, rule of law, and good governance, both in the region, and globally. We will partner with other Asian democracies and like-minded states, engage emerging civil societies, and continue to leverage regional institutions.

We will continue to deepen our strong economic and investment relations through renewed bilateral and multilateral efforts to enhance free trade and international financial coordination. We endeavor to make low-carbon green growth the fuel for sustainable economic prosperity. And we commit to reinforce the economic strength that underpins our Alliance by restoring fiscal health and realizing necessary structural reforms.

We pledge to muster the will and resources necessary to realize this vision and to promote enduring public support and understanding which provide the foundation for our Alliance. Together, we will work to meet and surmount the many challenges facing our nations. This is the vision and the charge of the next generation of Japanese and Americans.

We thank the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Luce Foundation for making this effort possible.

The Pacific Forum is accepting applications for the 2011 SPF Fellowship position. Details, including an application form, can be found at the Pacific Forum web site [<http://csis.org/program/spf-fellowship>].