

JIIA-DPG
2nd JAPAN-INDIA INDO-PACIFIC FORUM
5th Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue

Tokyo
October 3-4, 2019

Joint Statement

The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) organised the 2nd Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum in Tokyo on October 3-4, 2019. This was the 5th edition of the Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue, co-organised by JIIA and DPG. The event was hosted by JIIA with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan. The DPG delegation was supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The JIIA and the DPG delegations were led respectively by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae, President of JIIA and Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh, Director General of DPG.

Ms. Asako Omi, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, hosted a pre-conference reception on October 2, 2019.

Since the inception of this series of Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogues five years ago, JIIA and DPG have aspired to grow and transform this Dialogue into the premier forum of strategic communication between the two countries, bringing together think-tanks, strategic experts, academics and senior officials from both sides. This determination has been strengthened by the Prime Ministers of Japan and India, who at their annual summit “encouraged interaction among senior officials, strategists and experts in leading think tanks and universities on wide ranging issues in the Indo-Pacific region”, with a view to achieving greater policy coordination and deepening intellectual exchanges between our two countries. JIIA and DPG had accordingly worked to develop an updated concept and agenda for an expanded Track 1.5 Dialogue, which was aptly renamed the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum in 2018.

The 2nd India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum focused on Navigating the New Great Power Rivalry and strengthening the contributions of India and Japan to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. The Forum also deliberated on making concrete proposals for enhanced India-Japan Security Cooperation and assess prospects for Third Country cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Finally, there was also focus on promoting Digital Connectivity between India and Japan in the midst of an ongoing digital hegemonic competition.

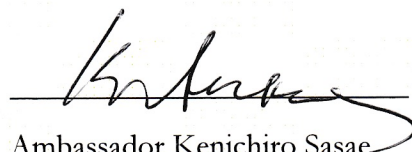
On the Japanese side, 19 expert delegates and 13 representatives from the Government of Japan participated in the Forum. The 10 expert Indian delegates also included a functionary from the Government of India.

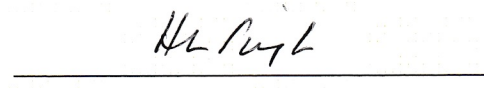
Participants at the Forum observed that at the heart of global power rebalancing, lies the Indo-Pacific. It is an interconnected geostrategic space which encompasses many of the world's fastest growing economies as well as the vital maritime connectors. This Forum provides a timely and relevant platform to exchange assessments regarding the scenarios in the Indo-Pacific region, which is a principal arena for the Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership. To make this partnership relevant, Japan and India must work more on unifying visions and specifying action plans for collaboration in all areas including security, economy, connectivity, developmental infrastructure as well as technology. Subsequently, Japan-India cooperation must also assume a greater and more effective regional role as the two large maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

The 2nd Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum was followed by a Public Forum at The Tokai University Club, Tokyo. The widely-attended panel discussion at the Public Forum delivered the key findings of the Dialogue and contributed to an increase in public awareness on the importance of Japan-India cooperation.

Finally, in advance of the forthcoming first 2+2 ministerial meeting which will be followed by the Japan-India bilateral summit, the delegates identified specific areas of strategic collaboration that will advance the shared interests of Japan and India across the Indo-Pacific in the near future.

The members of the DPG delegation led by Ambassador H.K. Singh expressed their deep gratitude to the JIIA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, for their excellent arrangements and hospitality in hosting the Forum. DPG will host the next edition of the Japan-India Indo-Pacific Forum/ 6th India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue in New Delhi during the course of 2020, suitable dates for which will be decided through mutual consultations.


Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae
President, JIIA


Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh
Director General, DPG

Tokyo,
October 4, 2019