

U.S.-ROK-Japan Defense Ministers Meeting Joint Press Statement

U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Republic of Korea (ROK) Minister of National Defense Han Min-koo, and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani held trilateral defense ministerial talks in Singapore on May 30 on the margins of the Shangri-La Dialogue to discuss the North Korean threat, the regional security situation, and trilateral defense cooperation.

The three ministers seriously assessed the North Korean threat and agreed to closely coordinate with the international community to deter North Korean provocations. The three ministers reemphasized their immutable opposition to North Korea's possession and continued development of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, noting that these programs are contrary to North Korea's commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and represent a clear violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

The three ministers applauded the Trilateral Information Sharing Arrangement, noting that the Arrangement serves to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation among the three sides on the growing nuclear and missile threats posed by North Korea.

The three ministers complimented the new Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation and reaffirmed the importance of promoting this initiative in a manner that contributes to regional peace and stability, and in accordance with international law, including respect for the sovereignty of third countries.

The three ministers decided to continue holding consultations on trilateral security issues, and affirmed their commitment to promoting trilateral security cooperation based on democracy and shared security interests in order to contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the globe.