

## List of cooperation projects in the Indo-Pacific between Japan and France

Through discussions in the 1<sup>st</sup> Japan-France Comprehensive Maritime Dialogue in September 2019, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Japan-France Working Group on the Indo-Pacific in October 2020 and in other meetings, Japan and France confirmed progress in the following concrete projects:

### **I – Defense and Security**

- **Bilateral/trilateral/multilateral exercises:** coordination and interaction between the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the French Armed Forces has been reinforced especially through the following military exercises.

#### **Bilateral exercises Japan – France**

- *August 2019* : bilateral training between JMSDF Special forces and French Special forces at Djibouti
- *January 2020* : bilateral training between JMSDF destroyer JS Harusame and French Air Force Helicopter Puma in Gulf of Aden
- *February 2020* : bilateral exercise between JMSDF destroyer JS Harusame and French Navy destroyer FS Forbin in Gulf of Aden
- *March 2020* : bilateral exercise between JMSDF destroyer JS Harusame and French Navy amphibious helicopter carrier FS Mistral in Gulf of Aden

#### **Trilateral exercises Japan – France – the United States:**

- *December 2020:* trilateral exercise conducted among JMSDF destroyer JS Hyuga, French Navy nuclear attack submarine FS Émeraude and U.S. Navy destroyer USS John S. McCain;
- *February 2021:* trilateral exercise conducted among JMSDF replenishment ship JS Hamana, French Navy frigate FS Prairial and U.S. Navy destroyer Curtis Wilbur;
- *May 2021:* trilateral exercise conducted among JMSDF destroyer JS Setogiri, French Navy aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle and destroyer FS Chevalier Paul and U.S. Navy destroyer Mahan;

### **Multilateral exercises:**

- *September 2019*: multilateral exercise organized by Royal Australian Navy and conducted by JMSDF training ship JS Kashima, destroyer JS Inazuma, French Navy frigate FS Vendemiaire, RAN frigates HMAS Stuart and HMAS Hobart
- *September and October 2019*: multilateral exercise “EQUATEUR 19” organized by French Forces in New Caledonia with JSDF participation
- *August 2020*: multilateral exercise “RIMPAC 20” organized by U.S.-Pacific Fleet with participation of JMSDF destroyer JS Ise, destroyer JS Ashigara and French Navy support ship FS Bougainville
- *March 2021*: multilateral exercise “GASWEX 21” conducted among JMSDF destroyer JS Ariake, French Navy aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle, destroyers FS Provence and FS Chevalier Paul and replenishment ship FS Var, U.S. Navy guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal and amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island and Belgium Navy frigate BNS Leopold I;
- *April 2021*: multilateral exercise “Laperouse 21” organized by French Navy with JMSDF destroyer JS Akebono, French Navy amphibious helicopter carrier FS Tonnerre and frigate FS Surcouf, U.S. Navy amphibious transport dock USS Somerset, Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Anzac and replenishment ship Sirius and Indian Navy frigate INS Satpura, corvette INS Kiltan and P-8I;
- *May 2021*: multilateral exercise among Japan, France, U.S., and Australia (ARC21).

-In the naval part, JMSDF destroyer JS Ise, JS Ashigara, JS Asahi and JS Kongo, landing ship JS Osumi, missile boat JS Otaka and JS Shirataka, Patrol aircraft and submarine, French Navy amphibious helicopter carrier FS Tonnerre and frigate FS Surcouf, U.S. Navy USS amphibious transport dock ship New Orleans, P-8A and MV-22 and Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Parramatta.

-In the Ground part, JGSDF, French Army and U.S. Marine Corps conducted amphibious exercise in Kyushu.

- **Information-sharing:** the Japan Coast Guard and Secretariat General for the Sea of the French Republic finalized the Roadmap for Deeper Cooperation to promote the information-sharing in the field of maritime security including Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) (2021).
- **STS Surveillance Operations:** in 2019 and in 2021, the French Armed Forces

engaged in monitoring and surveillance activities against illicit maritime activities, including “ship-to-ship” transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels in waters surrounding Japan including the South China Sea.

- **Cooperation on disaster relief.** In August 2020, French and Japanese relevant authorities cooperated in responding to the oil leakage caused by the wreckage of MV Wakashio off Mauritius island.
- **Cooperation in maritime security in the Gulf of Aden and the Middle East.** JMSDF and French Navy have continuously cooperated together to ensure maritime security in the Gulf of Aden and the Middle East, through JMSDF’s contribution to counter-piracy operations under CTG 151 and through French Navy’s contribution to maritime security under CTG 150 and Atalanta. JSDF deployed forces could continuously rely on the medical support of French Forces stationed in Djibouti.
- **Cooperation in medical evacuation at sea.** In November 2020, JMSDF destroyer JS Ariake and French Navy destroyer FS Jean Bart worked together to evacuate a sailor embarked on MV Lourdes.

## **II - Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity**

- **Deep-Sea Observation in the South Pacific (JAMSTEC/Ifremer):** following the discussion in the workshop held in September 2019 in Nouméa in the margins of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the global maritime dialogue between France and Japan, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer) have made progress on the project of a Deep-Sea observation laboratory in New Caledonia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This project aims to contribute to conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem as well as geohazards in the area.
- **Ocean development:** ocean development cooperation between Japan and France has been enhanced especially through Japanese-French Ocean Development Sub-Committee, co-chaired biennially by Ifremer and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) . Through the Sub-Committee, over 30 research cooperation projects have been carried out in the

fields of ocean research, marine technology and research infrastructure, marine resources, marine biotechnology, deep sea ecosystem, coastal ecosystems and socio-ecosystem management including the above-mentioned Deep-Sea Observation in the South Pacific. Ifremer will organize the next meeting in order to update these projects.

- **Fisheries cooperation:** cooperations have been undertaken jointly by Ifremer and the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA), including in the fields of fisheries-related issues and shells' diseases. In 2015, a cooperation agreement was signed between Ifremer and the FRA, notably addressing coastal ecosystems in relation to maritime cultures in a comprehensive perspective of management. Projects have been carried through both in French (Thau lagoon) and Japanese territories (Hiroshima Bay). The cooperation agreement, signed between Ifremer and the FRA in 2015, expired in April 2020 but it is intended to be renewed by the both organizations in order to address coastal ecosystem issues.
- **Researchers' mobility:** JAMSTEC and Ifremer facilitated exchange of French and Japanese researchers in order to strengthen marine research and related cooperation. Since October 2020, former Ifremer researcher has been employed by JAMSTEC through its early-career professional employment scheme in the field of the advanced science technology research.
- **Natural disasters risk management:** JICA and AFD have been co-financing Indonesia's « Disaster Resilience Enhancement And Management Program» (DREAM) through a policy loan which seeks to enhance the country's capacity to deal with natural disasters. JICA was the sole donor for the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche (2020), while AFD joined JICA for the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche for 2021. A 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche is under preparation by both JICA and AFD. The two agencies have been also discussing a potential coordination in Fiji (Nadi), under a flood alleviation project in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and other partners based on the Master Plan for Flood Risk Management developed by JICA.
- **Workshops:** in March 2021, Japanese and French Embassies in Thailand co-organized a series of side events on climate change and environment in the «Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2021», including on air pollution, carbon neutrality, marine plastic pollution, in line with actions taken by

the both Embassies since December 2019 onwards to implement the bilateral cooperation roadmap in Thailand. In November 2019, the French Embassy in Madagascar, in collaboration with the Institut Français de Madagascar (IFM), French NGOs, JICA and AFD, organized a symposium on waste management.

- **PCCC (Pacific Climate Change Center):** JICA and AFD have been seeking possible cooperation including organization of workshops at the PCCC as well as potential information sharing by AFD/Meteo France to the PCCC regarding climate data produced for the Pacific Region.

### **III - Infrastructure**

- **Water management:** after completion of AFD funding to the French NGO "Teuk Saat 1001" which aims at enhancing access to safe and inexpensive water as well as improving water management and sanitary conditions in Cambodia, the Embassy of Japan provided Grant Assistance to this NGO for a water supply project in January 2020.
- **French-Japanese business cooperation in third countries:** The French embassy in Japan and the France-Japan Chamber of commerce and industry, in cooperation with JBIC, JICA and AFD, organized in June, 2021 a seminar on bilateral business cooperation in third countries to illustrate notably the various joint projects already put forward by Japanese and French companies in the Indo-Pacific area.

### **IV – Others**

- **Bolstering health cooperation:** France and Japan intend to cooperate on health-related issues, specifically aiming at fostering cooperation in the field of infectious diseases, including through the promotion of the One Health Approach and in international frameworks such as the ACT Accelerator including the COVAX facility, which contribute to improving COVID-19 situation in the World including in the Indo-Pacific, where France and Japan share an interest in strengthening their health cooperation, by drawing on their experience of cooperation at the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), the leading institute for infectious

diseases including COVID-19 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. France founded the INRB in collaboration with the local Government, while Japan provided facilities and equipment to the Institute with the aim of improving the diagnostic capability to deal with infectious diseases and to promote the development of the medical professionals and researchers.

- **India-France-Japan Workshop:** In January 2021, Embassies of both countries in India, together with the Ministry of External affairs of India and an Indian think-tank, jointly organized the “India-France-Japan Workshop on the Indo-Pacific”, presenting their vision of the Indo-Pacific region and more specifically, with regard to Maritime Security and Digital Connectivity.
- **People-to-people exchanges:** JICA and AFD decided to resume discussion over the short-term personnel exchange, suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to enhance development of human resource and to strengthen their cooperation relationship.