



RUSI-AFJ CONFERENCE ON JAPAN-UK SECURITY  
COOPERATION

3 APRIL 2008

The Ambassador's Residence, British Embassy Tokyo

[www.rusi.org/japan](http://www.rusi.org/japan)

<http://asianforum.jp/english/index.html>

## Objectives

In a year celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the establishment of formal relations between the UK and Japan, the RUSI and AFJ have joined forces to hold an event on 3 April 2008 with the kind permission of the British Ambassador at his residence in Tokyo designed to strengthen collaboration, interaction and liaison between Japanese and British defence and security experts from government, academia and industry.

Many questions remain relating to the future role of Japan's military power and its interaction with Europe during a time of shifting security scenarios. In particular, interaction between the UK and Japan and implications for alliance management with the United States requires urgent consideration, not only in the light of Japan's strategic security concerns but also in view of new operational procurement requirements to meet Japan's national security goals for the next twenty years.

In April 2008, RUSI and AFJ propose to examine Japanese-UK security relations in the light of continuing uncertainty for the global security environment and the nascent security debate in Japan, with the following objectives:

- To provide an applied forum for the analysis of Japan's role in international security and the role the UK can play within Japanese security initiatives.
- To bring together the defence and security communities of Japan and Europe in a way that encourages strategic dialogue.
- To analyse and inform strategic and tactical policymaking in the UK and Japan in order to optimise the delivery of mid to long-term international and regional security.

A panel of Japanese and British security experts will deliver addresses aimed at stimulating debate on issues of crucial importance to the defence and security communities in East Asia and Europe. The symposium will tackle a number of emerging and vitally important issues for the UK and Japan including:

- Collaboration between the UK and Japan in countering threats from trans-national terrorism and non-state actors
- Peace Support Operations - cooperation between the UK and Japan in multinational peace and stability missions
- UK-Japanese security cooperation - understanding Japanese domestic security concerns and where the UK fits in
- Alliance management: the United States, Japan and the UK
- New regional threats and the balance of power in East Asia
- Conflict prevention and global security - expanding ties and next steps

RUSI also intends to launch and distribute a bilingual publication at the event examining both the Japanese and UK defence procurement environments with recommendations for the enhancement and strengthening of cooperation in this field.

The symposium will attract up to 100 delegates from the UK and Japan including key authorities from the international defence and security community, senior government leaders, academic experts and senior industry figures

## **Background**

Japan's military forces are becoming more flexible, capable of expeditionary and joint operations. This has implications for the regional balance of power in East Asia, but also ramifications for collaboration with Japan's allies in Europe. For the first time in its post-WWII history and 90 years since the Japanese Navy supported allied landing operations during the Dardanelles Campaign, Japan's leaders are considering their foreign policy within the context of international security.

The latest national defence guidelines specify that Japan must be able to address its security concerns at the source of the threat. In the last three years, changing geopolitical alignments have brought Japan's role as a potential global player in international security into much sharper focus, with calls for Japan's role in international security to be more assertive or 'normalised'. To this end, the Japanese Government has successfully completed deployments to Iraq and the Gulf region in support of coalition missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The threat of trans-national terrorism and non-state actors against coalition allies has not diminished. The nuclear test by North Korea, inconclusive six party talks and concerns over the containment of proliferation activities by the DPRK are of grave concern to the international community. With the emergence of China as a major developing power and the modernisation of China's armed forces commensurate with double-digit national economic growth, Japan's emergence as a country with global security responsibilities must be considered.

While the United States remains at the core of Japan's security goals, there is an acknowledged role for Europe, particularly in multinational operations and in satisfying Japan's defence procurement requirements. With increasing calls in Japan for moves towards greater self-determination in regional and global security, the need for maintaining momentum in the promotion of intellectual exchange and consultation between Japanese and European security and defence experts remains highly relevant.