



## **India-Japan Relations: The Way Forward**

### **FSI-ICRIER-JIIA Track-II Dialogue**

#### **Joint Statement**

1. The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo, led by Amb. Yoshiji Nogami; the Forum for Strategic Initiatives (FSI), New Delhi, led by Amb. Lalit Mansingh; and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi, led by Amb. H.K.Singh, held their first Track-II dialogue on April 25, 2014, in New Delhi.
2. The agenda for the meeting covered political developments and economic prospects in India and Japan, the regional outlook in Asia, global trends and measures to enhance the historically close ties between the two countries.
3. Participants recalled that India-Japan relations are grounded on universal values of freedom and democracy and a shared interest in a rules-based international order. They welcomed initiatives taken by both Governments to enhance the India-Japan strategic and global partnership and called for greater Track II engagement to supplement these initiatives with research-based policy recommendations.
4. Affirming the confluence of geo-political interests of the two nations in the evolving regional security dynamics of Asia, participants stressed that India and Japan should work towards an open, inclusive and balanced security architecture in East Asia.

5. Recognising that India and Japan have significant maritime interests in the Indo-Pacific, participants expressed their hope that both countries would make concerted efforts towards ensuring “open and stable seas” in accordance with the established norms of international law. They highlighted the need for ensuring the freedom of the global commons and called for greater maritime security cooperation between the two countries.
6. Welcoming recent changes in the policy framework in Japan, participants recommended that the India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue should further facilitate defence trade and technology exchanges and consider the early conclusion of a joint declaration on defence trade and technology cooperation on the lines of the India-US agreement of September 2013.
7. Welcoming the positive trends in bilateral economic relations since the conclusion of the CEPA in 2011, participants called for the further intensification of investment flows and partnerships, in areas such as infrastructure development, knowledge based industries and services.
8. The delegations called for greater cooperation in the energy sector, specifically reaffirming the strategic importance of concluding an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, based on the Joint Statements of the May 29, 2013 and January 25, 2014 bilateral Summits.
9. The participating institutions expressed their desire to institutionalise the FSI-ICRIER-JIIA Track II Dialogue through regular meetings and collaborative research, thereby providing a basis for the sustained development of economic, political and security ties between India and Japan. The JIIA delegation thanked FSI and ICRIER for organising the meeting and looked forward to hosting the second session of this new dialogue forum in Tokyo by early 2015.

***Amb. Lalit Mansingh***  
***FSI***

***Amb. Yoshiji Nogami***  
***JIIA***

***Amb. H.K. Singh***  
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