



Mr. Takakazu Ito
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Triangular partnerships are now part of the backbone of United Nations peacekeeping. This was Mr. Ito’s central message during his participation at a recent GPAJ seminar “Japan’s International Peace Cooperation: Past, Present, and Future.” His remarks focused on the growth and benefits of the UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP), as well as Japan’s contributions to peacekeeping operations through TPP.

The TPP, which brings together the UN Secretariat, Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), and Member States with needed expertise and resources, started out as an engineering training project in East Africa in 2015. Now, seven years later, it has evolved and expanded into a comprehensive training and capacity-building programme, diverse in its themes and regions of operation. This shift is largely due to the growing recognition that TPP is much more than “investments” in the potential deployment of T/PCCs. Rather, they are “enablers” that support T/PCCs to deploy better-trained units and maximize impact in missions.



Mr. Ito described the programme's objectives as such: to strengthen peacekeeping through T/PCC training that addresses capability gaps and refines required skills; to provide a framework for partnership initiatives that improve the capabilities of peacekeepers and operational support in peace operations; and to contribute to peacekeeping priorities. Mr. Ito explained how these objectives allow the UN to leverage advantages and areas of expertise of partner nations to build capacity for effective and sustainable UN peacekeeping operations.

This highly versatile nature, according to Mr. Ito, grants the TPP a built-in ability to adapt to changing peacekeeping challenges and capability gaps, making the programme even more appealing to UN Member States. While the TPP began with the generous financial contribution of Japan, it now enjoys the support of an ever-expanding list of partner countries providing funding and in-kind contributions, hosting or participating in training courses, and offering their former trainees as assistant trainers in turn. The initiative is recognized by regional organizations like ASEAN, the European Union, and the African Union as one of the UN's "innovative approaches" to better prepare, train and equip uniformed personnel.

Mr. Ito highlighted that, thanks to the increasing participation of Member States, the TPP now offers both remote and in-situ trainings in the areas of engineering (Heavy Engineering Equipment operator and maintenance, and engineering project management), medical, C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C4), Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)), environmental management, and others. The initiative delivers courses in Africa, Southeast Asia, and surrounding regions and has launched a telemedicine project to benefit four of the UN's most high-risk missions.



(↑ Field Medical Assistants Course (FMAC) 2nd Pilot (June 2022))

Mr. Ito recalled that Japan was amongst the first supporters of the TPP, with then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announcing his support at the First Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in 2014. Since its early days of support, Japan has played a key role in promoting the triangular partnership framework by regularly dispatching instructors to train in fields such as engineering and medical. In fact, since 2015, Japan has conducted 15 training sessions targeting both African and Asian countries and trained almost 400 personnel from various countries.

Even so, the evolving challenges of peace operations must be continually addressed and overcome. A collective effort is necessary to do so. Mr. Ito expressed hope that Japan would contribute to the strengthening of UN peacekeeping by taking the lead in the training and capacity-building work of TPP. Deploying the best possibly trained and equipped personnel is of paramount importance for missions to fulfil their mandates.

Currently, Japan has dispatched 26 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) personnel and a coordinator from the Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office, as part of the HEE training team in Indonesia. The course is taking place from August 8 and is the first of its kind to be held in the country. As is the case with all TPP trainings, its graduates are expected to be deployed to peacekeeping missions and contribute to the swift and smooth implementation of missions' mandates.



(↑ Opening Ceremony of the ongoing HEE Basic in Indonesia (August 2022))

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最近の国連PKOでは、PKO要員の能力不足、装備品不足によって、展開したPKO部隊が、宿営地や周辺の道路の整備に手間取り、また、要員の安全確保に問題が生じています。

そこで日本は、2015年から国連の三角パートナーシッププロジェクト(国連が支援提供国と連携して、要員派遣予定国の要員に訓練を実施するプロジェクト)に参加し、アフリカのPKO要員に対して、重機の操作訓練を実施してきました。

これまでのべ172名の自衛官等が276名にのぼるアフリカ諸国の工兵要員に対して訓練をしてきました。

また、PKO要員の30%以上がアジアの国々から派遣されていることを踏まえて、2018年に国連は工兵要員に対する重機操作訓練をアジア及びその周辺地域にも拡大することを決定し、当時の河野太郎外務大臣がA4P(Action for Peacekeeping)に関するハイレベルイベントでこのプロジェクトのアジアへの拡大に対する支援を表明しました。

2018年11月にベトナムのハノイ近郊で、アジア9カ国16名の訓練生に対して陸上自衛官が試行訓練を実施しました。

今回、ベトナムでこのプロジェクトの第一回目の本格訓練が行われます。陸上自衛隊第6施設群の19名が教官として、6週間派遣されます。今後、ベトナム、インドネシア、タイ、カンボジアの順で、二年間隔のローテーション方式で、このプロジェクトが行われます。国連PKOに工兵部隊を派遣する意思を表明した国の施設要員が参加することができます。

(衆議院議員 河野太郎公式サイト)

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