



At a joint press conference following the Japan-U.S. Summit meeting, the two leaders indicated their intention to strengthen the bilateral partnership in various fields such as economic security and space.

# PM KISHIDA'S OFFICIAL VISIT BRINGS ABOUT STRONGER JAPAN-U.S. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

*During his official visit to the United States in April 2024, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his intention to advance cooperation between Japan and the U.S. as global partners both at the Japan-U.S. Summit meeting and in his address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress. At the Japan-U.S.-Philippines Summit, he also affirmed the further strengthening of trilateral cooperation for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.*

Prime Minister Kishida made an official visit to the United States from April 8 to 14, the first such trip there by a Japanese prime minister in nine years. In addition to attending both the Japan-U.S. Summit meeting and the Japan-U.S.-Philippines Summit, the prime minister addressed a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress and had a luncheon meeting with U.S. business leaders. During these and other events in his busy schedule, the prime minister delivered an emphatic global message asserting the kind of world Japan and the United States, as global partners bound by a deep relationship of trust, should leave for the future and for the next generations to come.

On April 10, Prime Minister Kishida attended an arrival ceremony, followed by a Japan-U.S. Summit meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden. The two leaders shared the recognition that division of the international

society is deepening and facing an unprecedented level of challenges and the view to jointly uphold and bolster the free and open international order based on the rule of law. Prime Minister Kishida stated that with a strong determination he has been making efforts to reinforce Japan's defense capabilities, including its plans to increase the budget for its defense capabilities and complementary initiatives to 2% of the GDP in Japanese fiscal 2027 in accordance with Japan's National Security Strategy, as well as its decision to possess counterstrike capabilities. In response, President Biden reiterated his strong support for the prime minister's initiatives. The two leaders shared the view to expand and deepen security and defense cooperation, including their upgrade of respective command and control frameworks in order to enhance interoperability between the U.S. forces and the Japan



U.S. President Joe Biden and the First Lady Jill Biden welcomed the prime minister and Mrs. KISHIDA Yuko.

Self-Defense Forces.

While exchanging views on regional issues, the two leaders reaffirmed that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion are totally unacceptable and that they will resolutely respond to them, in coordination with allies and like-minded countries. Regarding support for Ukraine, the two leaders shared the view that their countries will continue to closely cooperate with like-minded countries, including the G7 members.

On economic security, Prime Minister Kishida explained that Japanese companies have made tremendous contributions to the U.S. economy through investments and job creation. With a view to maintaining and strengthening competitiveness in advanced technologies, including semiconductors, AI, and quantum technology, the two leaders welcomed the materialization of ongoing research and development cooperation and confirmed their intention to accelerate bilateral collaboration on establishing start-up environments that promote innovation and human resource development exchanges. Furthermore, the two leaders announced the shared goal for a Japanese national to be the first non-American astronaut to land on the Moon on a future Artemis mission.

Manifesting the unwavering determination to uphold and bolster the free and open international order based on the rule of law, which is the basis of global peace and prosperity, the two leaders issued a Joint Leaders' Statement titled "Global Partners for the Future" as a guideline of their determination. At the beginning of the joint press conference that followed their meeting, President Biden said, "Over the last three years, the partnership between Japan and the United States has been transformed into a truly global partnership." Speaking on the historical turning point for the international community, Prime Minister Kishida stated, "I again conveyed to President Biden that now is the time for Japan and the United States

to demonstrate their true value as global partners." The two leaders thus emphasized the strong relationship between Japan and the U.S. (Full text: United States-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement "Global Partners for the Future"\*)

On April 11, in his address entitled "For the Future: Our Global Partnership," before a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his respect for the United States for shaping the international order in the postwar world. In his conclusion, the prime minister stated his belief that Japan and the United States "are essential to peace... vital to freedom...and fundamental to prosperity," adding that Japan is "your global partner today, and we will be your global partner in the years ahead." The address was attended by many members of both chambers of the U.S. Congress, who gave the prime minister warm applause and standing ovations from the floor on numerous occasions. (See next page for an excerpt of the speech)

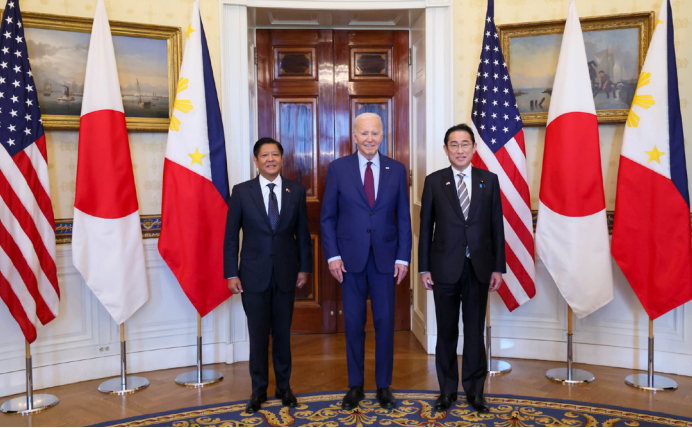
That same day, Japan, the United States, and the Philippines convened their first trilateral Summit meeting. Cooperation among the three maritime nations in the Pacific Ocean is indispensable to bringing about peace, security, and economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. The three leaders discussed a concrete way forward on trilateral cooperation in various fields, mainly in security and the economy, to further strengthen trilateral cooperation. Prime Minister Kishida, President Biden, and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos confirmed that the Japan-U.S. Alliance and the U.S.-Philippines Alliance have protected peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and that the three countries would oppose and resolutely respond to any attempts by the People's Republic of China to unilaterally change the status quo by force in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. The three leaders included in their Joint Vision Statement

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) will provide a manned pressurized rover for the crewed Artemis missions to the Moon by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Preparations are underway for the opportunity for Japanese astronauts to land on the Moon.



\*<https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100652147.pdf>





Prime Minister Kishida held a Summit meeting with U.S. President Biden and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, where they agreed to strengthen cooperation in the areas of security and the economy.

a commitment to conduct an at-sea trilateral exercise and other maritime activities in the Indo-Pacific within the next year.

\*\* <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100652855.pdf>

Regarding economic security, the Luzon Economic Corridor will be launched under the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), a G7-led framework that supports the building of infrastructure in developing countries, and the three countries will strengthen cooperation towards enhancing the resilience of supply chains for critical materials such as semiconductors and critical minerals. The three leaders also confirmed that they will seek to expand their partnership on safe and secure civil-nuclear capacity building for the sake of promoting clean energy. (Full text: Joint Vision Statement from the Leaders of Japan, the Philippines, and the United States\*\*)

After his visit to Washington, D.C., Prime Minister Kishida headed to North Carolina to visit a plant that Toyota Motor Corporation is building to produce automotive batteries. The plant, which is slated to become fully operational next year, will be a center for enhancing the company's battery production capacity for electric and hybrid vehicles. Toyota has thus far invested 13.9 billion dollars in the plant, which the company expects to create more than 5,000 jobs. The prime minister also visited a plant operated by Honda Aircraft Company, a subsidiary of Honda Motor Co., Ltd., where he was briefed on plans for a business jet that the company will develop and manufacture. In the previous Japan-U.S. Summit meeting, the two

countries had shared a recognition that facilitating private sector-led two-way investment is crucial to together lead global economic growth.

Japan and the United States have strengthened their alliance as global partners for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The latest official visit by Prime Minister Kishida has once again highlighted the strength of the two countries' alliance. As President Biden said during the joint press conference, "And now, the U.S.-Japan alliance is a beacon to the entire world." Japan is with the United States as the two countries continue their relentless efforts to ensure that their global partnership drives future peace and prosperity for generations to come. ●

## ADDRESS TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE U.S. CONGRESS KISHIDA FUMIO, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN FOR THE FUTURE: OUR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

AN EXCERPT

APRIL 11, 2024

Full Text: [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101\\_kishida/statement/202404/11speech.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202404/11speech.html)

### 1. Introduction

I am truly honored to speak here in this citadel of democracy and before you, the representatives of the American people.

Since childhood, I have felt a connection to the United States, perhaps because I spent my first three years of elementary school at PS 20 and PS 13 in Queens, New York.

After 60 years, I have a message for the good people of Queens. Thank you for making my family and me feel so welcome.

So, I speak to you today as a long and close friend of the United States.

### 2. The leadership of the United States

The U.S. shaped the international order in the postwar world through economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power. It championed freedom and democracy.

The world needs the United States to continue playing this pivotal role in the affairs of nations.

And yet, as we meet here today, I detect an undercurrent of self-doubt among some Americans about what your role in the world should be.

### 3. New Challenges

This self-doubt is arising at a time when our world is at history's

turning point. The post-Cold War era is already behind us, and we are now at an inflection point that will define the next stage of human history.

Freedom and democracy are currently under threat around the globe.

Climate change has caused natural disasters, poverty, and displacement on a global scale. In the COVID-19 pandemic, all humanity suffered.

Rapid advances in AI technology have resulted in a battle over the soul of AI that is raging between its promise and its perils.

The balance of economic power is shifting. The Global South plays a greater role in responding to challenges and opportunities and calls for a larger voice.

Turning to Japan's own neighborhood, China's current external stance and military actions present an unprecedented and the greatest strategic challenge.

As a Hiroshima native, I have devoted my political career to bringing about a world without nuclear weapons. But there exists an imminent danger of nuclear weapons proliferation in East Asia. North Korea's nuclear and missile program is a direct threat. The issue of abductions by North Korea remains a critical issue.

Russia's unprovoked, unjust, and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine has entered its third year. As I often say, the

Ukraine of today may be the East Asia of tomorrow.

Facing such rapidly changing pressures, how do we continue to safeguard our common values?

### 4. Global Partners

I want to address those Americans who feel the loneliness and exhaustion of being the country that has upheld the international order almost singlehandedly.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the United States' closest friend, *tomodachi*, the people of Japan are with you, side by side, to assure the survival of liberty. Not just for our people, but for all people.

You are not alone.

We are with you.

Japan has changed over the years. We have transformed ourselves from a reticent ally, recovering from the devastation of World War II, to a strong, committed ally, looking outward to the world.

Japan has transformed its national security strategy. Uncertainty about the future stability of the Indo-Pacific region caused us to change our policies and our very mindset.

We first became a regional partner of the United States, and now we have become your global partner. Never has our relationship been so close, our vision and approach so united.

Today, our partnership goes beyond the bilateral. Examples include trilateral and quadrilateral cooperation among the U.S., Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, India, and the Philippines, as well as cooperation through the G7 and with ASEAN.

From these various endeavors emerges a multi-layered regional framework where our Alliance serves as a force multiplier. And, together with these like-minded countries, we are working to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Here in this chamber, we should have strong bipartisan support for these efforts.

Japan believes in U.S. leadership, and we also believe in the U.S. economy.

Japan is the number one foreign direct investor in the United States. Japanese companies have invested around 800 billion dollars, creating almost one million American jobs.

Just yesterday, President Biden and I demonstrated our commitment to leading the world on the development of the next generation of emerging technologies, such as AI, quantum, semiconductors, biotechnology, and clean energy.

And the scope of our bilateral cooperation expands to space as well. Yesterday, President Biden and I announced that a Japanese national will be the first non-American astronaut to land on the Moon on a future Artemis mission.

### 5. Conclusion

I want you to know how seriously Japan takes its role as the United States' closest ally.

Bonded by our beliefs, I pledge to you Japan's firm alliance and enduring friendship.

"Global Partners for the Future."—We are your global partner today, and we will be your global partner in the years ahead.

Prime Minister Kishida addresses a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress. Behind him on the left is U.S. Vice President (and President of the Senate) Kamala Harris and on the right is Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson.

