



Leaders of Japan and the U.S. at the summit meeting. From left: Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi, Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru, U.S. President Donald J. Trump, and U.S. Vice President JD Vance.

ELEVATING THE JAPAN-U.S. ALLIANCE TO NEW HEIGHTS: PM ISHIBA'S FIRST IN-PERSON MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP

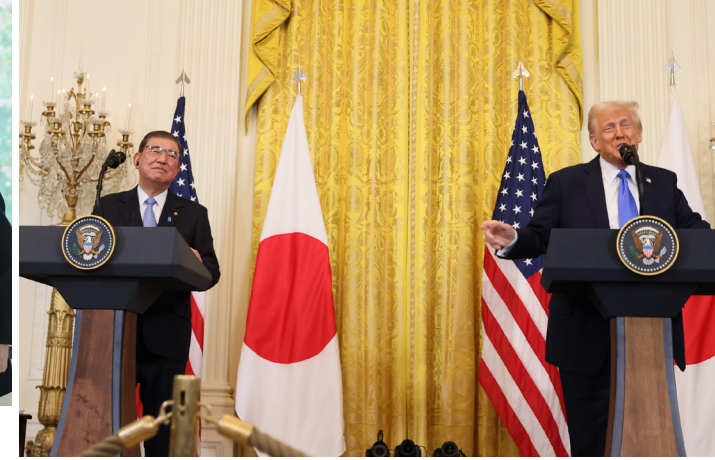
In February 2025, Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru held his first in-person meeting with President Donald J. Trump of the United States. The two leaders reaffirmed their close cooperation toward the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and their commitment to strengthening the strong and unwavering Japan-U.S. alliance.

During his visit to Washington, D.C., in February 2025, Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru held a summit meeting with President Donald J. Trump of the United States. The two leaders shared the views on the severe and complex security environment and concurred to work closely to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and to elevate the Japan-U.S. Alliance to new heights. They also concurred to strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and to work closely to address strategic challenges in the region that both countries are facing.

Prime Minister Ishiba reiterated Japan's unwavering commitment to fundamentally reinforcing its defense capabilities and President Trump welcomed such commitment. President Trump underscored the unwavering commitment by the U.S. to the defense of Japan, using its full range of capabilities, including nuclear. The two leaders once again reaffirmed that Article V of the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security applies to the Senkaku Islands. The two leaders confirmed their commitment to the steady implementation of the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan in accordance



Above and right: After the summit meeting, the two leaders held a joint press conference.



with the Okinawa Consolidation Plan, including the construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility at Henoko and the return of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma.

Furthermore, they affirmed that Japan and the U.S. are close partners in the economic field as well, with Japan being the world's largest investor in the U.S. for five consecutive years. Prime Minister Ishiba conveyed his willingness to cooperate together to elevate Japan's investment in the U.S. to an unprecedented amount of 1 trillion dollars, and President Trump strongly welcomed such investments by Japanese companies.

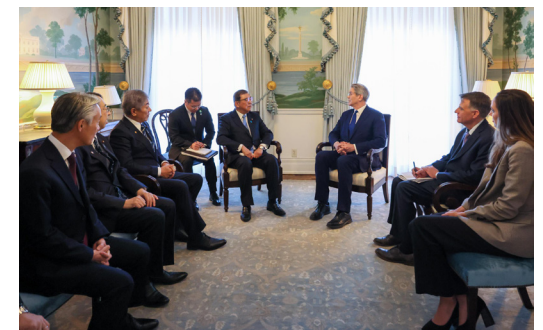
The two leaders then concurred to elevate the Japan-U.S. partnership to an even higher level through improving business environment and increasing bilateral investment and employment, strengthening each other's industries and leading the world in development in the field of technologies such as AI and leading-edge semiconductors, and strongly promoting efforts to harness the energy of the growing market in the Indo-Pacific region. They also confirmed that they will cooperate to strengthen energy security between the two countries, including increasing exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas to Japan, in a mutually beneficial manner.

In addition, they shared the view on issues related to China and confirmed their opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion including in the East and South China Seas. The two leaders reiterated the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. They also shared the views on the situation regarding North Korea, and affirmed the need to address its nuclear and missile issues together, as well as their resolute commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea. Prime Minister Ishiba asked for

continued understanding and cooperation of the U.S. for the immediate resolution of the abductions issue, and gained full support from President Trump.

The two leaders concurred on the importance of further developing coordination of like-minded countries, including Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan-Australia-India-U.S., and Japan-U.S.-Philippines. They concurred to maintain close partnership to further uphold and bolster the Japan-U.S. relations, which have become stronger than ever, and they issued a joint statement. At the end of the meeting, Prime Minister Ishiba invited President Trump to the official visit to Japan at an early timing.

At the joint press conference held after the meeting, the Prime Minister summarized the results of the summit as follows: "While this was the first time for President Trump and I to speak face to face, I believe we had an extremely fruitful meeting covering topics of great substance, and we engaged in a very candid and forthright exchange of views. [...] Based on these outcomes, I intend to forge a new golden age for the Japan-U.S. bilateral relationship together with President Trump." ●



Prime Minister Ishiba received a courtesy call from U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent.