

Japan's measures to deal with assertive actions in maritime, economic and cognitive domains

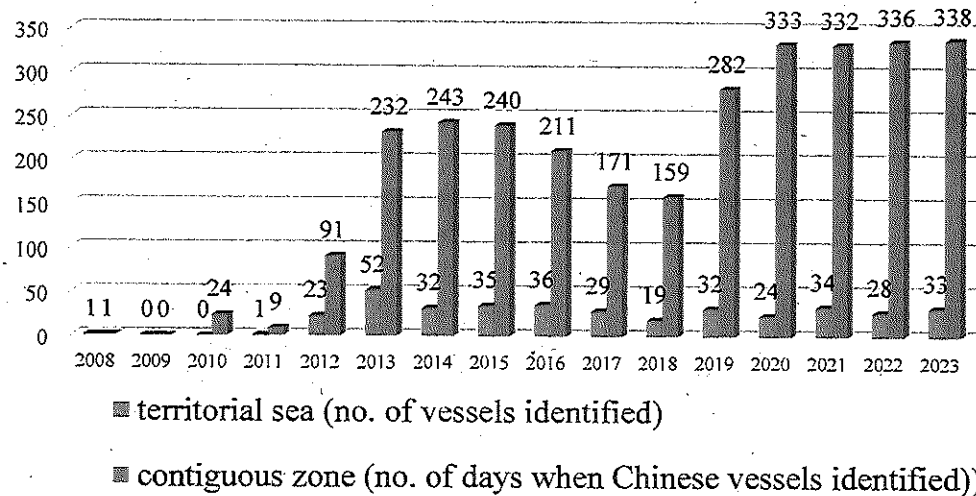
FUJIMOTO Kentaro

Ambassador, Deputy Director-General,
Foreign Policy Bureau, MOFA, Japan

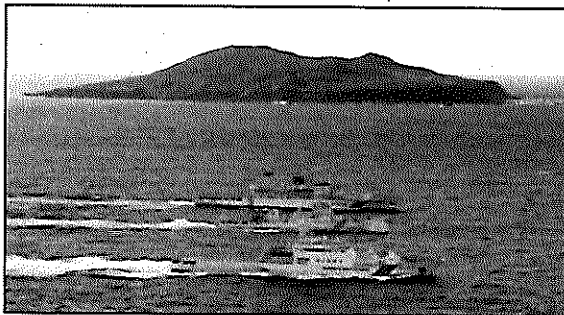
1(1) Situation in maritime domain

- ◆ In East China Sea, Chinese government vessels began intruding into the territorial sea around Senkaku Islands since December 2008. China Coast Guard vessels continue to intrude into the Japanese territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands.

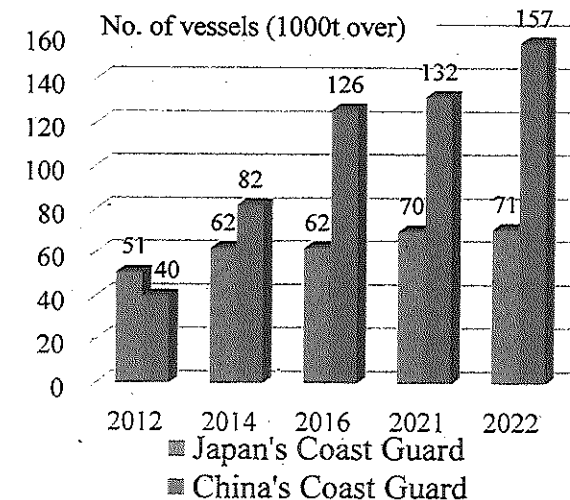
The number of vessels identified around Senkaku islands



- ◆ Furthermore, there are repeated occurrences of China Coast Guard vessels intruding into the territorial sea and approaching Japanese fishing vessels, and the situation is becoming increasingly severe.



Japan's coast guard vessels are monitoring a Chinese government vessel

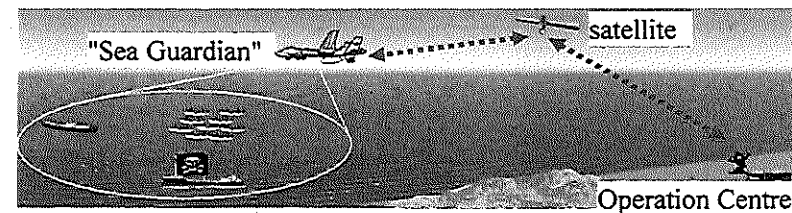
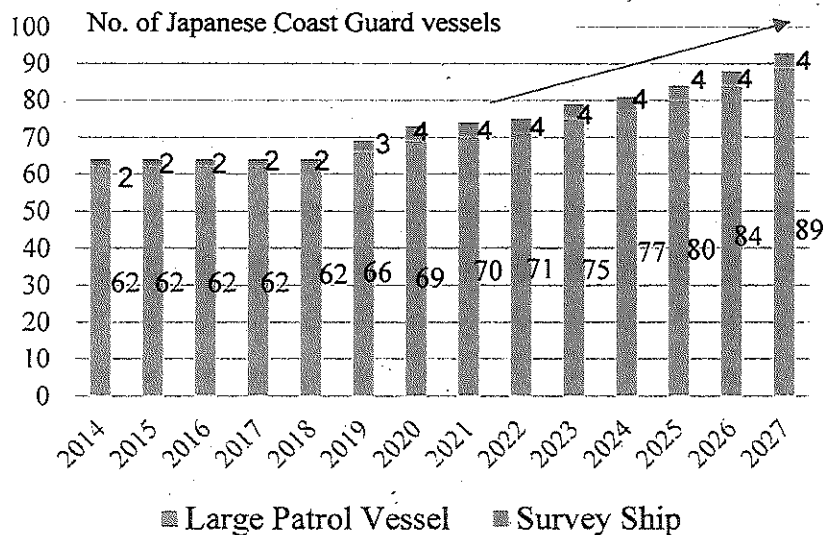


1(2) Japan's measure in maritime domain (1/2)

Strengthen Japan's maritime law enforcement capabilities

◆ National Security Strategy (2022)

“In order to ensure the security of Japan’s territory, including the areas surrounding the Senkaku Islands, and to respond effectively in the event of multiple major incidents, Japan's maritime law enforcement capabilities will be significantly reinforced, in conjunction with efforts to strengthen its organization. Specifically, in accordance with the new policy on strengthening maritime law enforcement capabilities, the JCG (Japan’s Coast Guard) will promptly increase assets and introduce new technologies, secure sufficient operational expenses, renew degraded vessels, and secure and train personnel.”

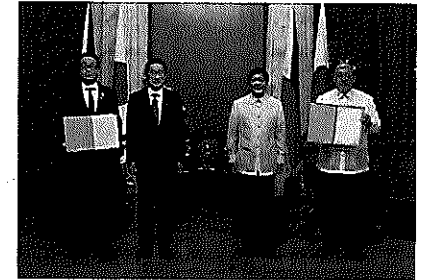


Utilization of new technology such as pilotless aircraft

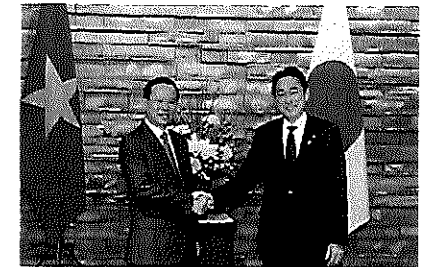
1(2) Japan's measure in maritime domain (2/2)

International Cooperation

- ◆ The newly established “Official Security Assistance (OSA)” identifies maritime security as one of its priority areas and seeks to strengthen security capabilities and deterrence through the provision of materials and equipment as well as assistance for infrastructures development to armed forces and other related organizations of like-minded countries. In 2023, we signed and exchanged notes to provide the Republic of the Philippines with coastal radar systems.



- ◆ At Japan-Viet Nam Summit Meeting in November 2023, both sides welcomed the recent provision of training-related equipment to the Viet Nam Coast Guard Education and Training Center and concurred in proceeding with cooperation through such programs as the “Official Security Assistance (OSA)”.



- ◆ Statement by Foreign Minister (12 July, 2023)
“Upholding and reinforcing the free and open international order based on the rule of law will be the benefit of all countries, large and small. Based on this recognition, Japan highly appreciates the Government of the Philippines for having consistently complied with the (Arbital Tribunal's) award, and shown its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea”

2(1) Situation in economic domain

What is “economic coercion”?

- ◆ While there is no firm definition of economic coercion, it can be described as an activity that “weaponizes” economic dependencies to achieve its own political objectives.

Examples reported as economic coercion

Need to deal with economic coercion

- ◆ Japan will promote effective efforts against economic coercion by foreign countries as is written in its National Security Strategy, and is taking measures to strengthen its domestic economic resilience and international cooperation.

2(2) Japan's measure in economic domain (1/2)

Strengthening Japan's domestic economic resilience

- ◆ It is essential to make efforts in a peace time, and to strengthen the resilience of our own economy, such as by building supply chains that are not overly dependent on specific countries.
- ◆ In order to strengthen supply chains, 12 specified critical commodities, including semiconductors, storage batteries, antimicrobial preparations, fertilizers, and ship parts, have been designated and support measures have been implemented.

International cooperation to enhance resilience of supply chain

- ◆ Supply chains are already globalized, and sometimes, as in the case of minerals, the locations of reserves are dispersed, making it impossible for any country to complete the supply chain end-to-end only within its own borders. Therefore, it is essential to work with countries that share certain values and norms to strengthen the supply chain.
- ◆ It is important that "principles on resilient and reliable supply chains" are widely shared among trusted countries, and they have already been confirmed with Vietnam at the Leaders' level.
- ◆ Another priority for Japan is to support other countries enhance their supply chain resilience. In Development Cooperation Charter, Japan emphasizes its support to enhance resilience and diversification of supply chains to strengthen socioeconomic autonomy and resilience of recipient countries.

2(2) Japan's measure in economic domain (2/2)

International Cooperation to enhance supply chain resilience

- ◆ It is important for like-minded countries to cooperate firmly in both early warning and rapid information sharing before and after coercion occurs, and in responding to the coercion occurred.
- ◆ We have had a series of high-level exchanges of views and recognition on economic coercion with Vietnam and the Philippines. But we believe there is much room for further strengthening of cooperation.

Cooperation for economic and supply chain resilience

- ◆ Reviewing supply chains that are overly dependent on certain countries and strengthening supply chains for strategically important goods is an urgent issue. On the other hand, no country can complete its supply chain on its own, and supply chain resilience cannot be achieved immediately.
- ◆ In building a resilient supply chain, Japan places the highest priority on trustworthiness and reliability. What this means is that it is essential to work with trusted partners who share the principles of (1) compliance with international law, (2) promotion of free, fair, and mutually beneficial economic and trade relations, and (3) opposition to the weaponization of economic dependencies.

Wrap up

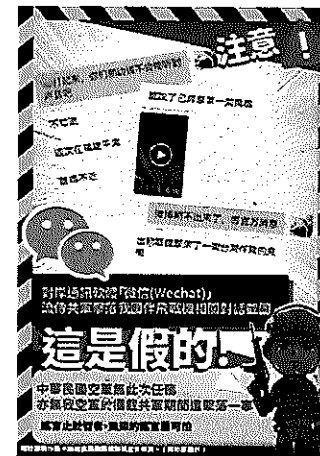
- ◆ We find it important to strengthen mutual economies and supply chains through cooperation among trusted partner countries and to reduce dependencies on specific countries, thereby increasing resilience and cooperating in efforts to deter economic coercion. We would like to continue to cooperate closely with your countries.

3(1) Situation in cognitive domain

- ◆ Disinformation exists as a threat in the cognitive domain.
- ◆ Disinformation is generally recognized as information that is spread with the intent to harm the recipient of the information (including not only information that is not true, but also information that is not false but has been arbitrarily processed through exaggeration, cropping, etc.).
It is different from misinformation that is spread without intent.
- ◆ It is becoming increasingly important to take measures against disinformation in order to counter the spread of unjustified claims against one's country and to maintain good speech space in society.



Russian UN Ambassador claimed that Ukraine was developing biological and chemical weapons with U.S. support.



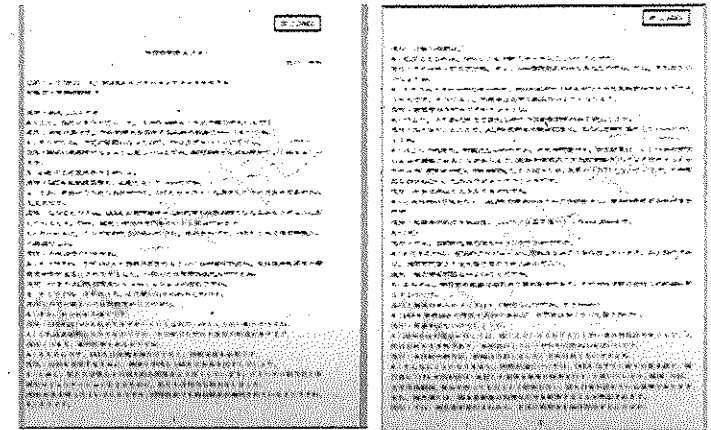
Taiwanese government alert regarding disinformation that "a Taiwanese fighter jet was shot down by a Chinese plane.

3(2) Japan's measure in cognitive domain (ALPS treated water)(1/2)

Observed disinformation activities

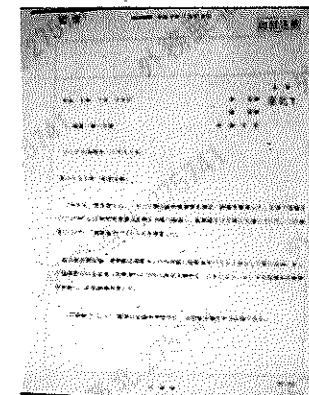
- ◆ There are forged documents, reporting by state media outlets, contribution to local newspapers and retweets by influencers and bots on social media.

- ◆ On 21 June 2023, some foreign media reported about a document of unknown origin, which states that an alleged senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Government of Japan had made a political donation of more than 1 million euros to the IAEA in order to resolve differences of opinion between the IAEA and third country experts conducting a review of the ALPS treated water.



[forged documents reported by foreign media]

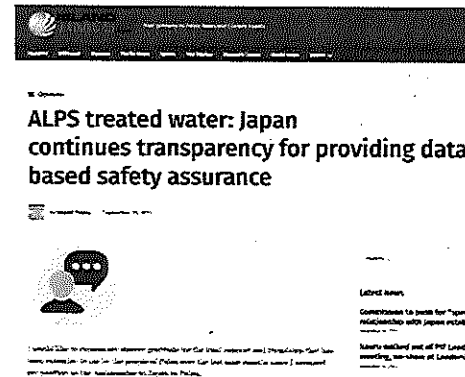
- ◆ On 14 August 2023, a foreign self-proclaimed “media” reported about a document alleged to be an official telegram of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which states that TEPCO's July 8 measurement of treated water tanks showed that radiation levels significantly exceeded standards, and therefore it was being considered to meet safety standards by replacing ballast water and accelerating dilution of ALPS treated water.



3(2) Japan's measure in cognitive domain (ALPS treated water)(2/2)

Counter-disinformation efforts

- ◆ Press Release by the Japanese MOFA (23 June, 2023)
“the above report has no basis in fact, and the Government of Japan strongly opposes the irresponsible dissemination of such false information.”
- ◆ Rebuttal articles on foreign media
33+ Articles in 17 countries (Palau, the Philippines, Spain, Fiji, Pakistan, Cameroon, Kenya, Colombia, Belgium, Indonesia, Ireland, Serbia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Samoa, Aouth Africa, the US)



- ◆ A series of review was conducted by the IAEA. On July 4th, IAEA Director General handed over the Comprehensive Report to PM Kishida and the report was published accordingly.
 - Based on its comprehensive assessment, the IAEA has concluded that the approach to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea, and the associated activities by TEPCO, NRA, and the Government of Japan, are consistent with relevant international safety standards.