

自衛隊記念日レセプションの開催

6月10日(火)、大使公邸にて自衛隊記念日レセプションが開催されました。同レセプションは、ポーランドの安全保障関係者に対し、日本の自衛隊及び防衛政策に関する理解と信頼を深めて頂くため、1954年7月1日の陸・海・空自衛隊発足を記念して毎年行われているものです。今回はポーランド上・下院議員、外務省及び国防省、陸海空各軍の幹部、当地外交団、有識者等、約130名に参加頂きました。

レセプションの冒頭では、山中大使より、我が国自衛隊の役割及び活動、昨年3月のシェモニャク国防相訪日や6月の安倍総理訪問の際に合意された両国間防衛協力の強化、8月の海上自衛隊練習艦隊のグディニア訪問等、両国間防衛協力の進展状況を説明するとともに、我が国の防衛政策を紹介するスピーチを行い、来訪されたゲストの皆さんに理解を深めていただきました。



山中大使による挨拶



軍楽隊演奏

歓談の様子

Speech for the JSDF Anniversary
Ambassador of Japan Makoto Yamanaka
at his Official Residence on 10th June 2014

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon and welcome to the Japan Self-Defense Forces Anniversary Reception. Today, we have the pleasure of having with us the Warsaw Military Orchestra. Thank you very much for your brilliant performance.

For the last sixty years, the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) has served its nation to defend the homeland, its people and territory. At the same time, responding to the changing global environment, JSDF has made notable contributions to the international peace and stability in such fields as UN peace-keeping, counter-terrorism, anti-piracy and disaster relief. For such contributions, more than 50,000 members of the JSDF have been deployed in Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Haiti, South Sudan, and the Indian Ocean. Japan is proud of these contributions by the JSDF working shoulder to shoulder with its allies and friends.

We are also proud of the great strides that Poland and Japan have made for the closer bilateral defense cooperation. Prime Minister Abe's visit to Poland and Defense Minister Siemoniak's visit to Japan last year strengthened the defense and security ties between our two countries. We witnessed the first port call of the Maritime Self-Defense Force training squadron to Gdynia last August. Soon we will be holding a bilateral defense talks in Tokyo.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of democracy in Poland, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a message of congratulation, in which he stresses that Poland plays an important role in the international community after it regained fundamental values, such as democracy, freedom, human rights and rule of law through the "solidarnosc" movement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These fundamental values have been the driving force for Japan when it has followed the path of a peace-loving nation over the last 69 years. Japan has carried out to date more than \$300 billion dollars of ODA in total to 190 countries and regions. Japan is the second largest contributor to the United Nation's PKO budget.

As G7 leaders agreed in Brussels last week, we oppose any unilateral attempt by any party to assert its territorial claims through the use of intimidation, coercion or force. This is the global principle that should prevail in Europe, Asia, and elsewhere in the world. We do not accept any violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, nor do we accept "changes to the status quo by force or coercion". Working closely with allies and friends in the spirit of solidarity, Japan commits itself ever more strongly and proactively to fostering global peace and prosperity.

Before I conclude my remarks, there is a piece of information. Col. Toshiaki Mori, our Defense Attaché, will be completing his mission and leaving Poland at the end of this month. I would like to take this opportunity to invite him to say a few words.

Thank you very much.