



PRESS RELEASE

Office for Public Affairs – Department of National Defense

DND-OPA, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, 1110 Metro Manila, Philippines

Web: www.dnd.gov.ph | E-Mail: dnd.opa@gmail.com

Tel: (+63+2) 982.56.79 | Fax. No.: (+63.2) 911.71.13 911.60.01 to 31 ext. 8229

Date Released: Sept 5, 2013

Releasing Officer: DR. PETER PAUL REUBEN G. GALVEZ, MNSA, CESE
CS to SND / DND Spokesperson

Philippines and Japan Deepen Partnership on Regional Affairs

On an official visit to the Philippines, Japanese Minister Ichita Yamamoto, Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, met with Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin on 05 September 2013. Following the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last July 2013, the Minister's visit to the Philippines aimed to further reiterate Japan's position and views under the administration of Prime Minister Abe on regional security issues especially on the East China Sea.

During their bilateral meeting, both ministers acknowledged the growing partnership of the Philippines and Japan specifically in maritime security. The two sides welcomed the robust cooperation between the two countries.

The two ministers further acknowledged that the issues of common concern of the Philippines and Japan are issues related to maritime security. Secretary Gazmin emphasized the Philippines' position of addressing the West Philippine Sea issue in accordance with international law, hence, the arbitral proceedings under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Minister Yamamoto expressed support for the position of the Philippines and stressed that Japan likewise adheres to the resolution of disputes through international law.

Minister Yamamoto, likewise, shared Japan's view on the East China Sea. He disclosed that Japan has been continuously advocating the peaceful resolution of disputes within the area and engages with other concerned countries to ensure regional peace and stability.

Secretary Gazmin stressed the need for all involved parties, whether on the East China Sea or the West Philippine Sea, to exercise strategic restraint.

The meeting between the two ministers allowed both countries to have a better appreciation of each of our countries' views on regional issues and concerns. Their discussions brought about a common position and approach to jointly address prevailing security issues in the region.