2. International Cooperation in the Fight against Transnational Crime

A. Cooperation with INTERPOL

The NPA works closely with overseas law enforcement agencies to prevent and investigate transnational crimes and to arrest fugitives abroad, functioning as Japan’s National Central Bureau (NCB) for International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)-INTERPOL.

The NPA joined the International Criminal Police Commission (predecessor of INTERPOL) in 1952. Since then, the Japanese police have been closely working together with other INTERPOL member countries in the field of international criminal investigation.

Many NPA officers have been actively involved in the management of INTERPOL by serving as elected delegates to the Executive Committee and core members of various working groups. The NPA is also contributing to the activities of INTERPOL by seconding its officers to the General Secretariat.

B. Treaties on International Investigative Cooperation

In order to facilitate efficient and effective international investigation cooperation, Japan is promoting the conclusion of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with its international partners. To date, Japan concluded MLATs with the U.S. (2006), the Republic of Korea (2007), the People’s Republic of China (2008), Hong Kong (2009), EU (2011), and Russia (2011).

In February 2014, the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime was signed. This agreement will allow for the exchange of fingerprint and biographic data of suspected criminals between the two countries to bolster counterterrorism and law enforcement efforts while further facilitating secure international travel under their respective visa waiver programs.

C. AMMTC+3, AMMTC+JAPAN

In 2004, the First ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) was held in Thailand.

Here, the ministers responsible for public safety from ASEAN member states, Japan, the People’s Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea shared their views on the importance of international cooperation in combating terrorism as well as transnational crime, such as illicit drug and human trafficking, and money laundering.

Since then, the meeting has been convened every two years hosted by ASEAN member states. In 2013, the 40th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation, the First ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + Japan) was held back to back with the 6th AMMTC+3 in the Lao PDR. In September 2017, the Philippines hosted the 8th AMMTC+3 and the 3rd AMMTC + Japan. The agenda of the meetings included measures against international terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime. Other topics such as the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea were also discussed.

D. G7 Security Minister’s Meeting

Following the G7 Taormina Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism (May 2017), the G7 Interior Minister’s Meeting was held in Italy in October 2017. Here, the ministers responsible for public security in G7 countries shared their views on foreign fighters and ICTs exploited by terrorists.

In April 2018, the G7 Security Minister’s Meeting was held in Canada and the ministers discussed topics including counter-terrorism.
E. G7 Roma-Lyon Group
After the September 11 attacks in 2001, the G8 Counter-Terrorism Experts Group (Roma Group) and the G8 Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime (Lyon Group) were merged. This group has been held as the G7 Roma-Lyon Group since 2015. It is consisted of Heads of Delegation and 6 sub-groups (Law Enforcement Projects, Counter-Terrorism Practitioners, High Tech Crime, Criminal Legal Affairs, Migration Experts, and Transportation Security). The NPA plays an important role especially in the above first three sub-groups.

The G7 Roma-Lyon Group is held twice a year and sub-groups work on various projects. In 2018, a number of NPA officers participated in the meetings hosted by Canada.