

2. International Cooperation in Fighting Transnational Crimes

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 and Agreements (MLAT/MLAA) with its international partners. To date, Japan has concluded MLATs/MLAA 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 and entered into force in 2019. This agreement allows 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.

In December 2019, a Working Arrangement between the NPA and Europol on establishing cooperative relations was signed. This arrangement enables the NPA to second a liaison officer to Europol which not only facilitates cooperation between the NPA and Europol but also deepens bilateral relationships with the member states of the European Union.

C. AMMTC+3, AMMTC+JAPAN

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

At the meeting, the ministers responsible for public safety from the 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, human trafficking and money laundering.

Since then, the meeting has been convened every two years hosted by the ASEAN Member States. In 2013, the 40th anniversary of the Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation, the First ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + Japan) and the 6th AMMTC+3 were held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In November 2019, Thailand hosted the 10th AMMTC+3 and the 5th AMMTC + Japan. The agenda of the meetings included measures against terrorism and cybercrime. Other topics such as the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea were also discussed.

D. G7 Interior Ministers' Meeting

Following the G7 Taormina Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism (May 2017), the G7 Interior Ministers' Meeting was held in Italy in October 2017. At the meeting, the ministers responsible for public security from the G7 countries shared their views on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) and ICTs (information and communications technologies) exploited by terrorists.

In April 2018, the G7 Security Ministers' Meeting was held in Canada and in April 2019, the G7 Interior Ministers' Meeting was held in France where smuggling of migrants, the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, FTF and environmental crime were discussed.

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. The G7 Roma-Lyon Group consists of the Heads of Delegations 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 particularly in the first three sub-groups.

The G7 Roma-Lyon Group meeting is held biannually and sub-groups work on various projects. In 2019, a number of NPA officers participated in the meetings hosted by France.