

Space Partnership Opportunity Delegation
July 9th, 2025
Opening Remarks by KAZEKI Jun,
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Government of Japan

1. Opening

Good morning, everyone. I am Jun KAZEKI from the National Space Policy Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. It is a great honor to be here this important event—the Space Partnership Opportunity Delegation—hosted here at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our colleagues for their continued commitment to strengthening the U.S-Japan space partnership. Today's assembly of key players from both nations' public and private sectors is a powerful signal of our shared commitment.

As we navigate a transformative phase in global space development, it is more important than ever that we deepen our collaboration, share our visions, and identify concrete opportunities for joint action.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly talk about the importance of Japan-U.S. collaboration.

2. Japan's Space Policy: Recent efforts

Japan has been continuously advancing its space policy with a clear and strategic vision. At the heart of this effort is the Basic Plan on Space Policy, which serves as our national roadmap. One of its central pillars is the strengthening of our industrial base, ensuring that Japan remains competitive and resilient in the global space arena.

To support this, the combined annual space budget across ministries has reached approximately 1 trillion yen or about 6 billion dollars. We have also formulated a Space Technology Strategy and launched the Space Strategy Fund, which is set to allocate 1 trillion yen over the next decade and has already begun distributing funding to key projects.

In addition, the Ministry of Defense is implementing a major enhancement of Japan's defense capabilities, with a total budget of 43 trillion yen over five years. Of this, around 1 trillion yen is dedicated to space-related programs, reflecting the strategic importance of space in national security.

What is especially important is that the execution of the Space Programs is led by private companies and universities. The government plays a vital role as an anchor tenant, providing environments and directions, while enabling the private sector to take the lead in innovation. Therefore, the collaboration among private companies gathered here today is highly welcomed and strongly encouraged.

In June 2025, Japan's Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform—commonly known as the “honebuto” policy—was approved by the Cabinet. This policy clearly states the government's commitment to strengthening space policy. In line with this direction, we remain firmly committed to advancing our space initiatives.

3. The Importance of Japan-U.S. Cooperation

Japan and the United States are long-standing and trusted partners—especially in the field of space. Our collaboration ranges across civil, commercial, and security domains, as confirmed during the

recent Japan-U.S. summit.

To give a concrete example, we are particularly proud of our joint efforts in lunar exploration, including Japan's contribution of a pressurized rover and the opportunity for Japanese astronauts to participate in future Artemis missions.

While we understand that budget discussions are currently ongoing in the U.S., we sincerely hope that the commitments made so far will be upheld moving forward. Japan continues to be a strong and reliable partner to the United States and other like-minded nations in the Artemis program.

4. Looking Ahead: Expectations for the Comp. Dial.

Looking ahead to the future, I would like to emphasize the importance of continuing and deepening the U.S.-Japan Comprehensive Dialogue on Space.

The 9th Meeting of the U.S.-Japan Comprehensive Dialogue on Space was held in Washington D.C. in August 2024. I co-chaired the meeting with Ambassador KUMAGAI Naoki of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the U.S. side was co-chaired by Mr. Chirag Parikh, then- Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary, National Space Council and Mr. Jason Israel, then- Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense at the National Security Council.

The comprehensive dialogue included not only government-to-government discussions (Track 1.0) but also Track 1.5 dialogue involving industries around 40 companies from both countries. We had extensive discussions on a wide range of agenda, including security,

civil, and commercial aspects. The comprehensive dialogue is a valuable opportunity for in-depth discussions between Japan and the U.S., and it is essential to continue these discussions in the future.

We strongly hope to host the next round of this dialogue here in Tokyo within this year. We understand that the future direction of the U.S. National Space Council remains under consideration. However, we believe that strong engagement from the private sector—from both countries—can help maintain momentum and ensure continuity.

5. Conclusion

In closing, I would like to say a few words. This event is not just a meeting—it is a platform for action. Let us use this opportunity to deepen our partnerships, explore new ventures, and build a more resilient and innovative space ecosystem together. As I often say, “Action, action, and action.” Let us move forward with purpose and determination.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to the discussions ahead.

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