

The Philippines and Japan Team Up to Counter China Threat

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's trip to boost security ties with the Philippines led to a number of agreements, as both countries push back against ever more assertive behavior by China's maritime forces.

Japan chose the Philippines as the first recipient of the new Official Security Assistance program for what it deems to be like-minded partners. Both countries enjoy mutual defense treaties with the U.S., and both are locked in high-profile territorial disputes with Beijing—Tokyo in the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands and Manila in the waters in the South China Sea, especially the Scarborough Shoal and Second Thomas Shoal.

During a meeting with his Filipino counterpart, Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., Kishida pledged a \$4 million coastal radar system to augment the Philippines' detection capabilities.

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