

The Weekly Observer

Special Edition: Ukraine

March 20, 2022

This special edition of the weekly newsletter covers Japanese news reports on the situation in Ukraine. Special focus will go to the Government of Japan's latest information regarding sanctions targeting Russia, the G7 meetings, a timeline of the events related to Ukraine this week, and a summary of the statements made this week by GOJ members as well as other Japanese politicians and important figures.

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I. Government Measures

1. Contents

❖ Assistance

- Provide **bulletproof vests, helmets, winter battle dress uniform, tents, cameras, medical supply, hygiene products, emergency rations and generators**
 - First round of provisions left for a neighboring country near Ukraine on **March 8**
Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/08b.html>
 - Second round left on **March 10**
Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/10c.html>
 - Third round left on a U.S. military aircraft on **March 16**
Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/16e.html>
- Provide **emergency humanitarian assistance of \$100 million** in such areas as **health and medical care, food, protection of people** in Ukraine and neighboring countries through international organizations and others
 - **\$25.6 million** through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (shelter, non-food items, protection)
 - **\$15.1 million** through the International Committee of the Red Cross (health and medical care, non-food items, water and habitat, protection)
 - **\$14.2 million** through the UN Children's Fund (child protection, health and medical care, WASH, education)
 - **\$14 million** through the UN World Food Programme (food, logistics)
 - **\$12 million** through the International Organization for Migration (shelter, non-food items, health and medical care)
 - **\$5 million** through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (inter-agency coordination, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund)
 - **\$14.1 million** through Japanese NGOs (health and medical care, food, non-food items, WASH, shelter, protection)
Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003097.html
- Provide **loans** to Ukraine of **at least \$100 million**
- Offer **visa extensions** to any Ukrainians in Japan who wish to receive one
- Promote **accepting evacuees** from Ukraine into Japan
 - As of Monday, Japan has accepted **54 Ukrainians** to the country.
Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220316/k10013534221000.html>

❖ Financial measures

- **(NEW)** Prevent financing to Russia from leading multilateral financial institutions, including IMF, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **(NEW)** Respond to sanctions evasion by Russia, including through digital assets
- Restrictions on transactions with **Russia's central bank**
- Sanctions that include **freezing of assets of 56 people related to the Government of Russia**, including **President Putin** and business oligarchs
 - The GOJ added **15 individuals (lawmakers, oligarchs, foreign ministry and defense officials) and 9 organizations** on March 18
Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001089.html
 - The GOJ added **17 individuals** on March 15
Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001082.html
 - The GOJ added **20 individuals and 2 organizations** on March 8
Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000748.html
- **Freezing of assets of 7 Russian banks in Japan** (VEB. RF, Promsvyazbank, Bank Rossiya, VTB Bank, Sovcombank, Novicombank and Bank Otkritie)
- Join in efforts to isolate Russia from the international financial system and the global economy such as by **excluding the 7 Russian banks from the SWIFT messaging system**
- **Prohibit the issuance and transaction of new Russian sovereign debt** in the primary and secondary market
 - **Sanctions on securities** having a shorter fixed maturity for certain designated banks already prohibited from issuing or offering securities in Japan

❖ Export control

- **(NEW)** Revoke Russia's "most-favored nation" status
- **(NEW)** Prohibit imports of certain goods
 - *Jiji* reported Saturday that the **GOJ decided against banning imports of Russian crab and salmon** due to concern a ban would cripple regional fishery processing businesses that sell Russian goods.
 - Japan could also **ban imports of Russian vodka**, while **crude oil and LNG are likely to remain off the list**.
Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031800798&g=eco>
- **(NEW)** Prohibit exports of luxury goods
- **Sanctions on exports to 49 Russian military-related entities**, on exports of **controlled items** listed on the internationally agreed list and of **other dual-use goods such as semiconductors**, on exports to Russia of equipment for refining petroleum, etc.
- **Ban exports of oil refining equipment** to Russia
Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000748.html

❖ **Suspension of visa issuance**

- Suspension of the issuance of **entry visas to Japan** for designated individuals related to Russia

❖ **Belarus**

- **Suspend visa issuance to Japan** for designated individuals related to Belarus
- Sanctions on designated individuals and entities including **President Lukashenko**

- The GOJ added **12 individuals and 10 organizations** on March 8

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000748.html

- **Restrict payments through and limit capital transactions** (pre-vetting) through **3 Belarusian banks** (Belagroprombank, Bank Dabrabyt and the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus)

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_009301.html

- Impose sanctions on **exports to Belarusian military-related entities and on exports of controlled items** listed on the internationally agreed list and of **other dual-use goods** such as semiconductors

❖ **“Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic”**

- Suspend **entry visa issuance to Japan** for 30 individuals from the two breakaway republics and freeze assets held by these individuals in Japan
- **Prohibit imports from and exports to** the two breakaway republics

Source: https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/jp_stands_with_ukraine_eng.pdf;
https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/20220308_Response_following_Russian_aggression_against_Ukraine.pdf

II. G7 Meetings

1. G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

- ❖ The G7 foreign ministers met online on Thursday to discuss the situation in Ukraine.
- ❖ The ministers reaffirmed that the **G7 strongly condemns Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and Belarus’s involvement in the matter**. The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to **continue pressuring Russia to cease its aggression**.
- ❖ The ministers agreed on the **need to strengthen support for Ukraine’s neighboring countries, especially Moldova**, that are facing a difficult situation as more Ukrainians flee to their countries for humanitarian assistance.
- ❖ The ministers agreed that the G7 and other international actors (institutions and states) should establish a **“Moldova assistance group”**.

- ❖ **Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa** explained Japan's new sanctions announced yesterday by **Prime Minister Kishida Fumio**, as well as the \$100 million in emergency humanitarian assistance, defense equipment transfer and Japan's proactive acceptance of Ukrainian evacuees.
- ❖ Japan will continue to work closely with the G7 and others in the international community.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001088.html

2. G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group Meeting

- ❖ On Tuesday, the **G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group** released a statement on a **Nuclear Safety and Security Framework for Ukraine**.
- ❖ G7 leaders and ministers are **profoundly concerned by Russian attacks at and in the direct vicinity of nuclear facilities in Ukraine**, and **condemn any acts compromising the safety of nuclear installations** devoted to peaceful purposes.
- ❖ G7 leaders and ministers are “mindful that the risk to civilians from damage to a nuclear site during armed conflict has the potential to increase dramatically and that the **radiological risk to civilians and the environment from a nuclear accident go beyond the borders of any country.**”
- ❖ The **G7 strongly endorses seven pillars** outlined by **IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi**:
 - **Physical integrity of nuclear facilities** must be maintained
 - **All safety and security systems and equipment** must be fully functional at all times
 - **Operating staff** must be able to fulfill their respective safety and security duties, with appropriate staff rotation, and have the capacity to make safety and security-related decisions free of undue pressure
 - **Secure off-site power supply** from the grid for all nuclear sites
 - **Uninterrupted logistical supply chains and transportation** to and from the sites
 - **Effective on-site and off-site** radiation monitoring systems and emergency preparedness and response measures
 - **Reliable communications** of the sites with the regulator

Source: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100316325.pdf>

III. Timeline of Other Developments

❖ Saturday

➤ Japan-India Summit

- Prime Minister Kishida is traveling to **India and Cambodia** between March 19-21. On the trip, he met **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on March 19.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/s_sa/sw/page1_001117.html

- This is the **first time in four and a half years** that a prime minister has visited India.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220319-OYT1T50210/>

- In the joint statement, the prime ministers “**expressed their serious concern about the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine** and assessed its broader implications, particularly to the **Indo-Pacific region.**”
 - The prime ministers “emphasized that the contemporary global order has been built on the **UN Charter, international law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.**”
 - The prime ministers “underscored the **importance of safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine** and acknowledged active efforts of the IAEA towards it.”
 - The prime ministers “reiterated their call for an **immediate cessation of violence** and noted that there was no other choice but the path of dialogue and diplomacy for resolution of the conflict.”
 - The prime ministers “affirmed that they would undertake appropriate steps to address the **humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.**”

Source:

<https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34991/IndiaJapan+Summit+Joint+Statement+Partnership+for+a+Peaceful+Stable+and+Prosperous+PostCOVID+World>

- At a press conference after the meeting, Kishida said he informed Modi that **Russia’s aggression is a serious situation that shakes the foundation of world order, and that it is necessary to deal with it appropriately.**

Source:

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220319/k10013542341000.html>

- Kishida said he and Modi reaffirmed that **unilateral changes to the status quo in any region are unacceptable**, and that there is a need to **peacefully resolve conflict based on international law.**
- Kishida also said **Japan would like to work with India to foster an environment for dialogue to cease battle and provide humanitarian assistance** to Ukraine and its neighboring countries.

- *Nikkei Asia* reports that Kishida may opt to **propose restricting the UN Security Council's permanent members from vetoing resolutions on conflicts in which they are involved**, or resolutions related to **grave human rights violations**.

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Japan-PM-to-propose-limits-on-U.N.-Security-Council-vetoes>

- Japan-Turkey Foreign Ministers' Meeting
 - Foreign Minister Hayashi met **Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu** during his visit to Turkey.
 - The ministers concurred that **Russia's aggression against Ukraine infringed upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and was a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force**.
 - The ministers also shared the view that this aggression was totally unacceptable and **shakes the foundation of the international order**.
 - The ministers confirmed that the **two countries will continue to closely cooperate and coordinate their efforts** in the international arena in order to protect the foundation of international order.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me1/page3e_001183.html

- Sources say **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** will deliver a **virtual address to the Diet next Wednesday**.
 - Zelenskyy's speech is slated to begin at **6 p.m.**, and is expected to last around 10 minutes.
 - Japan decided **not to organize his address in one of the chambers within the Diet by setting up a huge screen**, as there was no precedent.
 - Both houses of the Diet requested the address take place **Tuesday**, but it was set for **Wednesday** at the request of Ukraine.
 - Lawmakers argued that having a live address during the day would **hinder progress on voting on the FY 2022 budget**, while others said holding it in the chambers of the Diet would be **difficult given space**.
 - An alternative plan calls for the address to be held in the **representatives' office building** on the other side of the street from the Diet. Since space is limited, **only leadership are likely to attend in person**.

Sources:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Zelenskyy-to-virtually-address-Japan-parliament-on-Wednesday>;

<https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220318-OYT1T50306/>

❖ Friday

- The German government announces the **leaders of the G7 will meet in Brussels next Thursday** alongside an emergency NATO summit to discuss measures against Russia.

- Prime Minister Kishida is expected to travel to Brussels.

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/G-7-leaders-to-meet-in-Brussels-on-Thursday-to-discuss-Ukraine>

- MOFA announces the travel schedule for **Foreign Minister Hayashi's trip to Turkey and the UAE between March 18-21.**

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press3_000759.html

- The **LDP and CDP Diet affairs chairpersons** meet and agree to arrange for President Zelenskyy's address to take place next week.

- **CDP leader Izumi Kenta** was forced to revise a tweet he made, which seemingly indicated **Zelenskyy would have to agree to a summit and joint statement before addressing the nation.**
- Izumi later said **he had no intention of opposing the address** and that he merely meant he **hoped** there would be a summit and joint statement before the address.

Sources: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220318/k10013539191000.html>;

<https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031800856&g=pol>

- *Nikkei* reports that **Japan's Ocean Network Express Holdings**, the top container shipper, has **stopped accepting reservations for new maritime container shipments to Vladivostok.**

- Ocean Network Express, **owned jointly by Japanese shippers Nippon Yusen, Kawasaki Kisen and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines**, is the country's largest container ship operator.
- This essentially **pauses all services to and from Russia**, as ONE ceased booking to St. Petersburg and other key ports at the end of Feb.
- **Vladivostok accounted for around 20 percent** of ONE's shipments to Russia.
- Meanwhile, **rail freight volumes from Shanghai to Russia have increased 20 percent** since the invasion according to Chinese media.

Sources:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/Japan-s-top-container-shipper-halts-new-bookings-to-Russia>

❖ Thursday

- **Russia rejects ICJ ruling to halt military action in Ukraine.**

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031701411&g=int>

- **Prime Minister Kishida** holds a phone conference with **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia.**

- Kishida stated **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an outrageous action which constitutes a serious violation of international law**, and

pointed out the importance of making efforts in cooperation with the international community.

- Kishida expressed his intention to **strengthen coordination with Saudi Arabia as a strategic partner**, as it plays a leading role among Arab and Islamic countries.
- Both leaders had an **“intense discussion” on countermeasures against rising oil prices**. Kishida expressed his strong hopes for Saudi Arabia to show leadership in **stabilizing the international oil market**.
- According to reports, Kishida requested that **Saudi Arabia increase its output of crude oil** to relieve pressure on increasing oil prices.

Sources: https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/sa/page3e_001179.html;
<https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031701414&g=pol>

➤ Japan-Kenya Summit Phone Conference

- Kishida spoke with **Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta**.
- Kishida stated that **Russia’s aggression against Ukraine constitutes a serious violation of international law, and are outrageous actions which shake the foundations of the international order**, not only for Europe but also Africa and Asia.
- Kishida stated that **Japan wishes to closely collaborate with Kenya**, serving as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, and to **work together for SC reform**.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/page3e_001180.html

➤ **Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi** meets with the **ambassadors of Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland** (the V4).

- **Hayashi paid tribute to the V4 countries for their great contributions**, including the acceptance of evacuees, and thanked them for their support for smooth entry for Japanese citizens fleeing Ukraine.
- Hayashi **strongly condemned Russia’s aggression**, which violates Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and constitutes a serious violation of international law.
- Hayashi explained that **Japan will provide \$100 million in emergency humanitarian assistance** to support citizens fleeing to neighboring countries Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and other countries.
- The minister and ambassadors agreed that **Japan and the V4 will continue to work closely together to revitalize “V4 + Japan” cooperation**.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_009311.html

➤ **Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Sergiy Korsunsky** officially requests the Diet allow President Zelenskyy to address the nation.

- In a meeting with the speakers of both Houses, Ambassador Korsunsky requested that the **Diet give Zelenskyy time to address the Diet.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220317/k10013538371000.html>

- *Nikkei* reports that **Ukraine has asked the GOJ and Japanese satellite operators for satellite imagery** to fend off invading Russian troops.
 - Ukraine is believed to be seeking **high-resolution ground imagery** to get a better grasp of Russian troop movement.
 - Japan operates satellites with **synthetic aperture radar (SAR)** that can capture images day and night, and through clouds and other obstructions in the atmosphere.
 - Use of Japanese satellite data is governed by the **remote sensing law**, which **allows sales of imagery to overseas customers under certain conditions** including encryption to prevent usage by hostile groups.

Source:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Ukraine-asks-Japan-for-satellite-data-amid-Russian-invasion>

❖ Wednesday

- **Minister of Defense Kishi Nobuo** holds his first video conference with **Ukrainian Minister of Defense Oleksii Reznikov.**
 - Kishi gave his **heartfelt condolences** to the Ukrainian soldiers who have died in their homeland and the Ukrainian people who have fallen into despair, and **paid deep respect** to the soldiers and people still fighting to protect the homeland and their families.
 - Kishi also stated that **Russia's aggression is a serious violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as international law, which prohibits the use of force, and the UN Charter.**
 - Kishi reiterated that **unilateral changes to the status quo are unacceptable, and condemned Russia with the strongest words possible.**
 - MOD commits to **supporting Ukraine as much as possible** in coordination with the rest of the international community.

Source:

https://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/exchange/area/2022/20220316_ukr-j.html

- Japan-Moldova Foreign Ministers' Meeting
 - Hayashi held a phone conference with **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nicu Popescu.**
 - The ministers **strongly condemned Russia's aggression**, which violates Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and constitutes a serious violation of international law.

- Hayashi stated that it is **absolutely unacceptable that Russia is killing and injuring many civilians in Ukraine**, and that **Japan cannot tolerate the threat or use of nuclear weapons** as the only country exposed to the atomic bomb.
- **Hayashi praised Moldova for accepting many Ukrainian refugees** and said the emergency provision of \$100 million in humanitarian assistance is intended for Ukrainians in Moldova too.
- Hayashi also communicated that a **research mission of JICA experts will be dispatched this weekend to survey the needs of emergency humanitarian assistance** focusing on health care for Ukrainians in Moldova.
- **Hayashi thanked Moldova for supporting the smooth entry of Japanese citizens fleeing from Ukraine to the country**, and requested that it continue to cooperate in this area.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001085.html

➤ Japan-Lithuania Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- Hayashi held a phone conference with **Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabrielius Landsbergis**.
- The ministers **strongly condemned Russia's aggression**, which violates Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and constitutes a serious violation of international law.
- Hayashi stated that it is **absolutely unacceptable that Russia is killing and injuring many civilians in Ukraine**, and that **Japan cannot tolerate the threat or use of nuclear weapons** as the only country exposed to the atomic bomb.
- Hayashi also explained Japan's measures against Russia and Belarus, that the GOJ referred the situation in Ukraine to the ICC, as well as the defense equipment transfer and humanitarian assistance.
- The ministers agreed that **unilateral changes to the status quo are unacceptable in any part of the world**.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_001084.html

➤ **JSDF equipment, bound for Ukraine, leaves Yokota Air Base on U.S. military aircraft.**

- The delivery was witnessed by Vice Defense Minister Oniki, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel and Minister Counselor of the Ukrainian Embassy Oleksandr Semenyuk.
- **Defense Minister Kishi** said on Tuesday that a U.S. aircraft would be carrying the equipment as **a sign of solidarity between Japan and the U.S. with Ukraine**.

Sources: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2022/03/16e.html>;
https://mobile.twitter.com/modjapan_en/status/1504036822896504832;
<https://mainichi.jp/articles/20220315/k00/00m/010/047000c>

- **Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Korsunsky** delivers a rare speech on the floor of the **Ibaraki Prefectural Assembly**.
 - Korsunsky thanked the assembly for being **one of the first in the country to pass a resolution** protesting Russia's actions and providing donations.
 - Korsunsky requested that **Ibaraki focus its support for Ukraine in Mariupol**, which has been devastated by Russian attacks.
 - The assembly unanimously passed a **resolution “strongly protesting Russia's invasion of Ukraine”** on Feb. 25, and **donated ¥1 million from assembly members** on March 3.
 - On March 7, the prefecture also announced that it would be **accepting evacuees**.
 - This was the **first visit to the assembly by an ambassador-level official** since U.S. Ambassador to Japan Edwin O. Reischauer came in 1964.

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220316-UD2U7A2RYVPH7G3M2NUOZROKZY/>;
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/19/europe/mariupol-shelter-commander-ukraine-intl/index.html>

- A group of 25 experts working with the think tank “Digital Policy Forum” issue **recommendations on responding to disinformation and cyber attacks amid Russia's aggression against Ukraine**.
 - The recommendations include:
 - **Reconsidering the defense structure** in an age when cyber attacks happen before a conflict begins;
 - **Considering a government mechanism to cut off disinformation** suspected of originating from foreign governments;
 - **Considering a government system to analyze disinformation** from a security perspective;
 - **Supporting the development of private sector technology** such as the utilization of AI to distinguish disinformation;
 - Examining the **dilemma of Russians shifting assets** from SWIFT to digital assets

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220315-JB7SSTSPMNM23DUMSMFC2UHX4Y/>

❖ Tuesday

➤ Japan-UAE Summit Phone Conference

- Kishida held a phone conference with **Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**.
- The two leaders confirmed that **Japan and the UAE will continue to closely coordinate their responses on Ukraine**, as the UAE is currently serving as a non-permanent member of the UNSC.
- The two leaders also exchanged views on the **soaring crude oil prices in the wake of the situation in Ukraine**.
- Kishida called for the **UAE's further proactive contribution to the stabilization of the crude oil market** as a member of the OPEC, and the two leaders confirmed that the **UAE and Japan will cooperate towards the stabilization of the international oil market**.
- Kishida requested the **UAE's support in securing safe means for Japanese citizens in Russia to return to Japan**.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ae/page4e_001209.html

➤ *Nikkei* reports that the **Financial Services Agency will introduce new capital requirements for large banks**, known as **Basel III**, two years later than originally planned.

- Basel III refers to a **set of international capital adequacy requirements for banks** that was established in response to the global financial crisis in 2008.
- The rules aim to **raise banks' quantity and quality of capital, enabling them to absorb greater losses** by requiring them to accumulate more capital and to strictly assess the risk of losses associated with their investments and lending.
- The new requirements will be introduced at the **end of the FY ending March 2024**.
- The **top three megabanks** (UFJ, Sumitomo Mitsui, Mizuho) will be subject to the rules in **FY ending March 2023**, while **smaller regional banks, shinkin banks and credit unions** will begin the **FY ending March 2024**.
- The FSA delayed implementation of the regulation by a year to ensure **it would not hinder the GOJ's fiscal support during the pandemic**.
- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused turmoil in financial markets**, prompting the FSA to postpone the regulation another year.

Sources:

<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUB1545Y0V10C22A3000000/>;

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Finance/Japan-delays-introduction-of-Basel-III-capital-rules-for-megabanks>

➤ LDP divisions meet to discuss how to refer to Kyiv.

- Lawmakers of the LDP stated that **Japan should not use the Russian term for the Ukrainian capital (*kiefu*) and should instead use the Ukrainian term (*keeu*).**
- At the meeting, a lawmaker mentioned that the **former Ukrainian ambassador to Japan had requested in 2015 that MOFA use the Ukrainian term for Kyiv.**
- However, **Chief Cabinet Secretary Matsuno Hirokazu** said that the use of the Ukrainian term has not been established among Japanese citizens, and that the **Ukrainian government has not requested a change in the way Japan refers to the country's capital.**
- He added that **while the GOJ sees no reason to change the way it refers to Kyiv, it will consider it constantly.**
- On Friday, Foreign Minister Hayashi reiterated Matsuno's point that the **former ambassador's request had not been confirmed**, and that therefore the Ukrainian government had not requested a change.

Sources: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220315/k10013532151000.html>;
https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken24_000101.html

❖ Monday

➤ **Six Russian navy vessels pass westward through the Soya Strait between Hokkaido and Sakhalin.**

- The Joint Staff's Office said the six vessels are part of the **24 vessel group that conducted a large-scale exercise in the Sea of Japan and the southern part of the Sea of Okhotsk in February.**
- The six vessels included a **destroyer, missile observation support ships and three submarines.**
- Another **ten vessels passed the Tsugaru Strait between Hokkaido and Aomori** on March 10-11.
- At a press conference on Tuesday, **CCS Matsuno** said that Japan informed Russia that it is paying serious attention to the fact that **Russian activities around Japan are increasing amid the situation in Ukraine.**

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220314-OSLIZ4JQCZIYLEFMHXUUXYJQJQ/>; <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031500452&g=pol>

➤ **Nikkei reports that the GOJ is considering deploying the SDF to ensure the safety of Japan's nuclear power plants.**

- So far, Japan's nuclear safety measures have focused on **preparing for and responding to natural disasters, as well as counterterrorism**, but Russia's attack in Ukraine has led to new concerns that **invading militaries may target nuclear facilities.**

- Measures being considered include the **deployment of interceptor missiles and using the SDF to secure nuclear power plants during peacetime.**
- SDF will be deployed **only in the event of an attack by heavily armed forces that the police are unable to handle.**
- However, **security mobilization requires national and prefectural governments to carry out certain protocols**, which may have to be disregarded during times of emergency.
- Two decades ago, **current LDP Policy Research Council Chair Takaichi Sanae** and others in the LDP unsuccessfully proposed deploying the SDF in counterterrorism operations to protect nuclear power plants.
- The measures are expected to be **reflected in the NSS** to be revised by the end of the year.
- **Prime Minister Kishida** said Monday that **Japan will consider creating a police unit to protect nuclear power plants.** Fukui prefecture already operates a police unit to guard nuclear power plants.

Sources:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Japan-weighs-deploying-Self-Defense-Forces-to-guard-nuclear-plants>;

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Japan-to-consider-new-police-unit-for-guarding-nuclear-plants-PM>

- Reports state that the **Immigration Services Agency will provide necessary information to local authorities and firms** considering supporting Ukrainians fleeing to Japan.
 - In particular, the ISA is calling on local governments and firms that are considering **housing and employment support** to indicate specifically what support they intend to provide.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220314/k10013531661000.html>

IV. Statements by Japanese Lawmakers

1. Government of Japan

- ❖ Prime Minister Kishida Fumio
 - At a press conference on Saturday, **Prime Minister Kishida** said **Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a reckless act of violation of international law**, and that **unilateral changes to the status quo must not be allowed in the Indo-Pacific.**
 - Kishida said he would like to exchange opinions with the leaders of **India and Cambodia** and confirm the unity of the international community.

- He added that he would like to emphasize (during the trip to India) the importance of **unity in the international community**, and confirm **Japan and India will work together on various issues**.

Source: https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101_kishida/statement/2022/0319kaiken.html

- In an article contributed to the *Indian Express*, Kishida writes that the world faces a situation that is **“undermining the very foundation of the global order.”**
 - He writes that “Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of international law as well as an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, and it is **totally unacceptable**.”
 - He adds that **“upholding the core principles of the international order is indispensable from the perspective of diplomacy and security in the Indo-Pacific**, where the situation has been rapidly worsening.”
 - He writes that the Quad leaders concurred that **“any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, such as this time, must not be tolerated in the Indo-Pacific region**, and that it is precisely because of this situation that it is critical to further promote efforts toward the realization of a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific.’”

Source: https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202203/_00019.html

- At an Upper House Budget Committee meeting on Thursday, Kishida said **Russia’s occupation of the Northern Territories has no legal basis and that the GOJ maintains its position that Russia “illegally occupies” the territory**.
 - Kishida added that **Japan’s efforts to resolve the Northern Territories issue and sign a peace treaty have not yielded results**.
 - The last use of **“illegal occupation”** (不法占拠/*fuhō senkyo*) by a prime minister was in 2009 by Aso Taro.
 - Kishida also said that the **GOJ has no plans to reorganize its budget for the 8-point economic cooperation plan with Russia**, as it includes funds allocated for **energy security and humanitarian assistance**.
 - Kishida said the **GOJ plans to match Ukrainians fleeing to Japan with localities** that can provide education, employment, housing and other amenities.
 - Kishida stated his intention to work on **UN reform, UNSC reform and reforming the veto system**.
 - Kishida said **he hoped the Diet considered President Zelenskyy’s request to address both Houses**.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220317/k10013537341000.html>;
<https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031701325&g=pol>;
<https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220314-OYT1T50142/>

- At a press conference on Wednesday, Kishida stated that **Russia’s reckless actions constitute outrageous behavior that will be engraved in history**. He

said **Japan firmly condemns this in order to preserve universal values such as freedom, human rights and the rule of law.**

- Kishida reiterated that the **GOJ will align with the G7 and others to flexibly take strict measures against Russia.**
- Kishida named 3 measures: **1) bolstering sanctions against Russia, 2) supporting Ukrainians, and 3) preparing to accept Ukrainians fleeing to Japan.**
- On 1), Kishida mentioned 5 provisions: **1) revoking Russia's MFN status; 2) bolstering export control measures; 3) preventing Russia from receiving loans from international institutions like the IMF; 4) expanding the list of elites and oligarchs close to Putin targeted by asset freezes; and 5) bolstering financial sanctions to deny Russians the ability to evade sanctions via digital currencies.**
- Kishida announced the establishment of a **"Conference for Liaison and Coordination on Measures to Respond to Ukrainian Evacuees"** to be chaired by CCS Matsuno.
 - The conference is tasked with **interagency coordination to match Ukrainians with localities** and smooth acceptance of evacuees, as well as financial support for their transition to life in Japan.
- Kishida stated that Japan will utilize **dialogue with China to urge that it take responsible action to stabilize the world order**, including on the situation in Ukraine.

Source: https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101_kishida/statement/2022/0316kaiken.html

- At the GOJ-ruling party liaison meeting on Tuesday, Kishida said **Japan stands with the Ukrainian people**, and will work with the G7 and the rest of the international community to provide **prompt and reliable support and acceptance of Ukrainian people.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220315/k10013532241000.html>

- In a video message delivered at the Tokyo Conference 2022 on Monday, Kishida stated that the **foundation of international order is now threatened by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.**
 - He said that this **"attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force is an act that undermines the very foundation of not Europe alone, but rather the entire international order, including Asia."**
 - He stated that it is **"no exaggeration to say that the fate of democracy and multilateralism, the theme of today's conference, ties in with how we respond to Russia's aggression towards Ukraine."**
 - He stated that the **"touchstone foretelling the era to succeed the post-Cold War era is the matter of whether or not the international community**

will respond resolutely to Russia's aggression towards Ukraine and fully defend the foundations of the international order."

- He said that Russia's aggression against Ukraine has led to the need to revise the NSS and **fundamentally reinforce Japan's own defense capabilities.**

Sources: https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202203/_00013.html;
https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101_kishida/discourse/20220314message.html

- At an Upper House Budget Committee meeting on Monday, Kishida stated his intention to work on **UN and UNSC reform.**
 - Kishida said that UNSC permanent member **Russia's reckless actions indicate the need for a new framework for international order.**
 - He added that **Japan has traditionally believed that the exercise of veto rights should be restricted as much as possible.**
 - Kishida also said that Japan would like to work with **France and other reform-minded countries to continue efforts for UNSC and UN reform.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220314/k10013530271000.html>

❖ Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa

- At a press conference on Friday, Hayashi said that it is necessary for the **international community to unite and resolutely respond to Russia's aggression against Ukraine in order to protect the foundation of international order.**
 - Hayashi added that it is important to **urge China to act responsibly.**
 - Hayashi said he is **deeply concerned and condemns restrictions on freedom of the press and expression in Russia.**
 - Hayashi said that the GOJ believes Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an **illegal use of force prohibited by international law and Article 2.4 of the UN Charter.**
 - Hayashi said that the GOJ believes we must act resolutely to protect the foundations of international order, and show Russia that its **reckless actions come at a high price.**

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken24_000101.html

- At a press conference on Thursday, Hayashi said the G7 will support **Moldova** in particular because the **small country is accepting a large number of refugees.**

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken6_000095.html

- In a statement issued on Thursday, Hayashi said that **Japan supports the provisional measures order by the ICJ and strongly demands that Russia immediately comply with the order.**
 - Hayashi reiterated that **Japan has condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the strongest terms**, as it clearly infringes upon

Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, constitutes a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force, and is a grave breach of the UN Charter.

- He added that **Japan has also strongly urged Russia to cease the attack and withdraw its forces back to Russian territory immediately.**

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003100.html

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Hayashi said Japan will coordinate with the U.S. and other like-minded countries to **urge China to take responsible actions to show unity in the international community.**

- Hayashi said the Kishida Cabinet will continue to work tirelessly on **UNSC reform and toward Japan's permanent membership in the UNSC.**

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken6_000094.html

❖ Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo

- At a press conference on Friday, Kishi stated that MOD believes **Russian vessels may have passed the Tsugaru Strait as part of the country's mobilization effort in its aggression against Ukraine.**

Source: <https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/kisha/2022/0318a.html>

❖ Chief Cabinet Secretary Matsuno Hirokazu

- At a press conference on Friday, Matsuno said that given the current situation in Ukraine, the **GOJ is not in a position to promote economic cooperation with Russia.**

- Matsuno said that government projects related to economic cooperation will **mainly be postponed for the time being**, but with attention to energy security and humanitarian considerations.
- He said that **decisions on the budget will be made with consideration of the latest developments in Ukraine** and how energy security and domestic firms will be affected.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220318/k10013540321000.html>

- At a press conference on Thursday, Matsuno said the **four Russian vessels passing the Tsugaru Strait may be transporting troops and vehicles to Ukraine.**

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220317-OYT1T50233/>

❖ Minister of Justice Furukawa Yoshihisa

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Furukawa said that the **GOJ plans to permit employment for Ukrainian evacuees desiring to work in Japan.**
 - Under current regulations, evacuees on **90-day short-term visas cannot work.**

- The new measures will allow evacuees to live in Japan for **up to a year for “designated activities”** (status) authorized by the justice minister (work). The GOJ is also considering extensions by request.
- The **ministry of education, culture, sports, science and technology** has already begun preparations to **provide accommodation facilities and support Japanese-language education** through independent administrative agencies under its jurisdiction.
- The **Tokyo Metropolitan Government** also announced that it will secure **100 metropolitan housing units and provide up to 700 units**.
- According to reports, the **GOJ is also considering accepting Ukrainians without family or friends in Japan**. Currently, the GOJ is preparing to accept evacuees that are either friends or family members of the 1,900 Ukrainians living with residency status in Japan.

Source: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220315-OYT1T50145/>;
<https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/20220315-OYT1T50236/>;
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220315/k10013531771000.html>

- ❖ Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi
 - At a press conference on Friday, Hagiuda said he instructed METI to **urgently put together measures to deal with the supply instability of strategic supplies from Russia and Ukraine**.
 - He also said that the ministry will hold interagency discussions to **eliminate vulnerabilities in the supply of energy and indispensable supplies to the people’s lives and economy and industry**.
 - There are concerns that **tightening sanctions will disrupt supply of Russian LNG, gas, energy and rare metals such as palladium**.
 - METI has established the **“Strategic Materials and Energy Supply Chain Countermeasures Headquarters”** to study ways for the stable procurement of important materials such as energy and rare materials.
 - The team will coordinate interagency cooperation to **consider procurement from regions outside Russia and analyze the supply chain of critical supplies from a security perspective**.

Source:
https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220318/k10013539201000.html?utm_int=news-new_contents_latest_001

- At a press conference on Tuesday, Hagiuda said **Japan plans to lower dependence on Russian energy going forward**.
 - Japan currently obtains **roughly 10 percent of LNG supply** from Russia.
 - Hagiuda said Japan can rely on **renewable energy and nuclear energy** as alternatives.

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220315-R6PBNG3NUNOVFISRFNOMYMGFRU/>

- At an Upper House Budget Committee meeting on Monday, Hagiuda stated that **Japan will diversify its energy supply** in order to maintain a stable energy supply.
 - Regarding **methane hydrate**, Hagiuda said **Japan must reconsider the conventional concept of energy supply** given COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine. He said **METI looks to support research for practical use of methane hydrate** as an energy source.

Sources: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220314/k10013531371000.html>;
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220314/k10013530271000.html>

2. Other Notable Lawmakers

❖ LDP Policy Research Council Chair Takaichi Sanae

- In a lecture delivered in Tokyo on March 10, Takaichi said **negotiating a peace treaty and resolving the Northern Territories issue with the Putin administration is impossible.**
 - Takaichi said that this situation has made her remember **how unreliable Russia is**. She added that the **Japan-Russia dynamic over the territorial issue and the peace treaty has changed.**

Source: <https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOUA10DR20Q2A310C2000000/>

❖ LDP Foreign Affairs Division Director Sato Masahisa

- At an LDP meeting about Ukraine on Friday, Sato criticized the GOJ's response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, stating that **it is prioritizing "money over lives."**
 - Sato added that **"words and actions must add up,"** and that **"weak diplomacy should never happen."**
 - Sato praised the decision to cut off shipping routes from Vladivostok to Japan.

Source: <https://www.fnn.jp/articles/-/333522>

- At an LDP meeting on Tuesday, Sato emphasized that **Japan's reluctance to take additional measures is providing a loophole Russia can exploit.**
 - Sato said that the **"GOJ doesn't see the reality of the loopholes it's creating.** It doesn't listen to what the party is discussing. It doesn't explain why it isn't imposing additional sanctions. **The GOJ must break away from diplomacy of not listening, hearing, saying or acting."**

Source:

<https://www.sankei.com/article/20220315-NJR6JTMLSBPEFNVWETQ7M6QAFY/>

- ❖ Ishin co-leader and Osaka City Mayor Matsui Ichiro
 - At a press conference on Thursday, Matsui said **Japan should prepare properly so that Zelenskyy can deliver a speech virtually to the Diet.**
 - He added that **out-of-touch comments, like the one Izumi made**, are the biggest problem hindering it from happening.
 - He also said that **Putin holds full responsibility for the situation in Ukraine**, not Ukraine.
 - He added that **Rep. Suzuki Muneo, who made a comment about Ukraine shouldering some responsibility for the crisis, is not pro-Russia** but has personal feelings about the country.

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031701354&g=pol>

- ❖ DPP leader Tamaki Yuichiro
 - At a press conference on Tuesday, Tamaki said the **GOJ should prepare a ¥20 trillion economic package and lower the consumption tax** in order to respond to a potential economic downturn resulting from the situation in Ukraine.

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220315/k10013533141000.html>

- ❖ JCP Secretariat Head Koike Akira
 - At a press conference on Monday, Koike said that the **GOJ should cancel all economic cooperation with Russia and remove the cabinet position for economic cooperation with Russia** (Hagiuda).
 - Koike said the GOJ has included **¥2.1 billion in the FY 2022 budget** for the eight-point economic cooperation plan with Russia, and that **promoting cooperation now is unrealistic and the budget should be revised at the least.**

Source: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20220314/k10013531181000.html>

- ❖ Japan Association of Corporate Executives (*Dōyukai*) Chairman Sakurada Kengo
 - At a press conference on Tuesday, Sakurada said Russia's invasion of Ukraine is an **outrageous violation of international law that should not have happened.**
 - Sakurada emphasized that **it is important to unite with the West with a strong will and never lose the battle of patience to win.**
 - He added that the **rise in energy prices, as well as food staples like corn and wheat have heightened the risk of stagflation.**

Source: <https://www.jiji.com/jc/article?k=2022031500946&g=eco>