

Proposal to Take Stronger Measures to Control Piracy (Summary)

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KEIDANREN

Damage caused by Somali pirates to ships is increasing rapidly, and the sphere of their activity is expanding

→ This presents a major threat to Japan's industry and economy. The following is a summary of KEIDANREN's proposal to take stronger measures to control these pirates.

Effects of Piracy on Marine Transport

- Japan relies on marine transport for 99% of its international trade (tonnage of imports and exports combined)
→ Ensuring the security of sea lanes is vital to the country's economic security and growth.
- Each year, 2,000 ships to/from Japan sail through the Gulf of Aden, and 3,400 through the Persian Gulf. Piracy presents a threat to crude oil tankers, car carriers, and other ships.
→ Detours around the Cape of Good Hope increase fuel costs and delay product delivery. The Gulf of Aden route also incurs additional costs such as insurance premiums and security guards.

Piracy Problems Becoming Increasingly Serious

- Actual state of piracy
Heavily armed Somali pirates attack ships and demand ransoms of several hundred million yen. They are expanding the scale of their activity using the ships they seized as mother ships, presenting a major threat to international trade.
- Present condition of waters off Somalia, the Gulf of Aden, and the Indian Ocean
 - With its provisional government remaining weak, Somalia is in a state of anarchy.
→ It is difficult to solve these piracy problems early, and there is concern that it will take long to reach a solution.
 - The Gulf of Aden is a vast stretch of waters, occupying an area of 280,000 km² and extending for 900 km. The sphere of pirates' activity covers all areas from waters off Somalia and the Gulf of Aden to the Indian Ocean.
→ It is difficult to completely contain pirates' operations only by patrolling these vast areas using warships, and Somali piracy prevents commercial ships from taking the shortest route when they sail in these waters.
 - The number of cases of piracy started to grow rapidly in 2008, and in 2011, it is increasing by 1.5 times compared to the previous year.
→ The home countries of crew members are about to avoid sailing the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean if countries of the ship operators do not actively deploy anti-piracy countermeasures.
Japanese shipping companies are concerned that it will become difficult to secure crew members.

Importance of International Cooperation

- Initiatives by international organizations, etc.
Following the U.N. Security Council's resolutions, NATO, the EU, the multinational forces mainly composed of the U.S. Navy, and each country are working to control Somali pirates.
- Japan's initiatives
Since 2009, the Japanese government has dispatched two escort ships and two P-3C patrol planes in accordance with the Self-Defense Forces Act and the Anti-Piracy Law.
Maritime Self-Defense Force units are highly rated for high security they provide.

Specific Stronger Actions to be Taken Against Piracy

- Dispatch of more Self-Defense Force units
Dispatch of more escort ships, patrol planes, and additionally, supply ships, with new laws to enable oil supply to foreign warships
- Stronger defense with Japan Self-Defense Force officials and Japan Coast Guard officers on board of Japan-flagged ships
- Support for Somalia and neighboring coastal countries
Greater contributions to the U.N. from Japan in order to continue support for Somalia's provisional government
Provision of patrol boats to Yemen as an exception to Japan's 3 principles on arms exports, etc.
- Establishment of international rules
Approach the U.N. Security Council to establish rules of trials for pirates and their imprisonment