

## **Japan and U.S. vow to strengthen alliance at APEC Summit**

November 13, 2010

Japan Prime Minister Naoto Kan and U.S. President Barack Obama met in Yokohama, the site of the current APEC Summit, to discuss Japan-U.S. relations. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and the recent row between Japan and China put a spotlight on the treaty and current negotiations between Japan and the U.S.

Prime Minister Kan and President Obama recognized the importance of strengthening the bilateral security alliance, vowing to increase deliberations as well as issue a joint declaration on security in 2011, a year after originally planned.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Kan expressed his appreciation to President Obama for the unwavering support of the U.S. during the dispute with China. Kan recognized the vital role the U.S. plays for regional stability in East Asia, and both leaders agreed to cooperate in their negotiations with China.

Kan announced that Japan will begin consultations with Asia-Pacific nations regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which has drawn much attention during this APEC Summit. Again, both leaders agreed to cooperate in promoting economic discussions with concerned countries.

President Obama offered his support for Japan's permanent inclusion in the UN Security Council. Obama also recognized Kan's efforts to resolve the controversial relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa.

Japan has not yet acted on the U.S. request for reconstruction aid for Afghanistan, though Kan did mention the likelihood of dispatching Self-Defense Force doctors.