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I will just look back to a few years ago. Only three years ago, the new Government of Japan, led by Prime Minister Abe, was seen by some quarters of the region, and the world, as revisionist, trying to change the historical status quo. Now there are no such voices, as far as I know, and Japan is seen as one of the countries bringing stability to the region. This is because our relations with countries around us have changed very drastically. Starting from the north, with Russia, Mr Putin is coming to Japan in the middle of December to discuss our territorial issue, which has been lingering on for years. The reason the Japanese Government thinks this is the right time is because we have a strong prime minister, they have a strong president, and also because Russia is not in a strong position in the international arena. However, the Japanese Government has repeatedly said that it will not change its attitude regarding sanctions, but will go along with the other countries.

Regarding China, our relations have become a lot better in the last two years. The leaders are meeting, they are accepting our huge economic delegations, and high-level people are meeting. There are issues, of course. Japan, like other countries, is concerned about the South China Sea and the East China Sea as well, so the Law of the Sea issue is already a concern. It is not only about Japan and about China, but it is more of a legal issue. One thing that bothers me, as someone who respects and is a friend to China, is that the very negative words that are sometimes used regarding the arbitration of the court by high-level officials are words that are not usually used by large powers, so we are a bit concerned about that. However, all in all, Japan-China relations are getting a lot better.

Relations with Korea are getting better as well. We have not totally solved the so-called 'comfort women' issue, and Korea-Japan relations are a lot better than before. Regarding India, Mr Modi was there, the President of the Philippines, Mr Duterte, was there, so all in all, relations have become a lot better.

The most important issue is the US, a country which is far from us, but one with which we have our only alliance. Some people were concerned about what Mr Trump had been saying during the campaign, but that tone has changed with Korea, with NATO, and with Japan as well, and he is now saying that US-Japan relations are the basis of his policy. Maybe there could be discussions with allies on burden sharing, but I think he will know that we have already done a lot of that.

Regarding TPP and the new policies on COP 21, these may not come through right away, so what is the most important thing is the alliance, and that if this alliance is confirmed, we do not have to change our security policy. That is key. However, if this does not happen, that is a very different story. This is the issue, and we are now being assured about this, we think. We will wait to see how it will be implemented in the years to come, but this is where we are now.