

New Japan-made radar in Philippines watches disputed waters



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20231115201216949/>

One item on the agenda of that US China summit is a series of disputes in the South China sea between Beijing and some of its neighbors, they include the Philippines. The country has started using a Japan made air surveillance radar system to monitor maritime activities off its coast. NHK World's Sakai Noriyuki reports.

Five hours out of Manila, we can see the radar system at an air force base facing the South China sea. It can monitor the air space down to the sea surface in an area where the Philippines has territorial disputes with countries including China. A commander said the system can monitor movements that were not detected before.

West Philippines sea is one of the priority areas of our government in terms of national security.

Let us introduce some of the FPS-3ME's notable features.

A major Japanese maker of electronics and electric equipment delivered a system. It was developed at the request of the Philippine military. The company was able to export it under a set of policy principles established by the Japanese government in 2014 on the transfer of defense equipment and technology.

We request you stay clear of our passage, a Philippine exclusive economic zone.

China's maritime activities are the main reason why the Philippines wanted the new radar. Beijing claims jurisdiction over almost all of the South China sea. Its ships are stepping up their activity there. China has been building artificial islands one after another in the disputed waters and militarizing the area. In the face of such assertiveness, Manila wants a stronger military and is looking to other countries for support. At the same time, Japan wants to boost cooperation with countries worried about China's growing military

influence. Based on these shared strategic interests, the two countries are expected to deepen their security cooperation.

His visit marks another important milestone in the strategic partnership between our two countries. We must note with appreciation, Japan's commitment to the Philippines.

The Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio stresses that his countries exports of defense equipment will contribute to regional peace and stability, but some analysts worry that expanding the transfers could lead to armed conflict. Japan will need to debate and decide its level of involvement in the security of other countries.

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea for Japan to export defense equipment? Why?
2. How do you think Japan should respond to China's growing military influence?
3. Do you know or can you imagine any other Japanese defense technology/equipment?
4. Do you know any other things that were discussed in the US China summit?
5. What are the risks if Japan gets involved in the security of other countries?