
JAPAN WILL STEP UP DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH ITALY AS ROME SEEKS A GREATER INDO-PACIFIC ROLE

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The leaders of Japan and Italy said Monday they will bolster their cooperation in security and defense, including their joint next-generation fighter jet development with Britain, as Tokyo welcomed the European nations shift toward playing a greater role in the Indo-Pacific.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, after meeting his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, welcomed Italys move to increase its presence in the Indo-Pacific region, where several visits by Italys warships, including its strike group, and joint exercises are planned this year.

Japan and Italy are valuable strategic partners that share values and principles such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, Kishida said.

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