
JAPAN REJECTS 'NEW MILITARISM', ACCUSES CHINA OF RAPIDLY ARMING

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Japan's Defence Minister [Shigeru](#) Koizumi on Sunday rejected accusations of "new militarism" by Tokyo and criticised China for rapidly expanding its military with [poor](#) transparency, underscoring mounting tensions between the two countries.

China continues to increase its defence spending at a high level, Koizumi said at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, adding: "China's external approach and military activities are matters of serious concern for Japan and the international community at the same time."

Rebutting criticism that Japan was embracing new militarism, he said: "Think about it. [China](#) a country that has a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and strategic bombers. Japan [lacks](#) neither of such weapons, and yet Japan is labelled 'new militarism'?"

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