



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK, NTV, TBS, and Fuji TV led with reports on the trilateral summit between Japan, China, and South Korea held this morning. Saying that this was their first trilateral summit in about two and a half years, the networks reported that the three leaders confirmed close cooperation in realizing North Korea's denuclearization. The leaders will reportedly hold separate bilateral meetings in the afternoon. TV Asahi led with a report on the murder of a 7-year-old girl in Niigata.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Secretary Pompeo arrives in Pyongyang

NHK reported this morning that Secretary of State Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang to prepare for the first-ever U.S.-DPRK summit, saying that his visit is attracting attention as to whether it will lead to the release of the three American detainees and the confirmation of the date and location of the U.S.-DPRK summit. Noting that the Secretary also visited Pyongyang last month as the CIA chief and met with Chairman Kim Jong Un, the network said he may directly exchange views with the North Korean leader again.

### PM Abe, President Moon hold summit

NHK reported this afternoon that Prime Minister Abe and ROK President Moon held a summit this afternoon, speculating that the two leaders agreed to work closely to realize North Korea's denuclearization and the early resolution of the abduction issue. PM Abe was quoted as saying at the beginning of the summit: "While there are various developments regarding North Korea, Japan would like to work closely with South Korea to have North Korea take concrete actions in the lead-up to the U.S.-DPRK summit." In response, President Moon reportedly said: "Although we agree on the overarching principle of North Korea's denuclearization, how to specifically achieve it is a difficult

issue. I ask for Japan's support throughout the process to make the U.S.-DPRK summit a success." The network also speculated that the two leaders also exchanged views on resuming "shuttle diplomacy" between them.

- [Japan, S. Korea leaders meet to discuss closer cooperation on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

### **Leaders of Japan, South Korea, China hold joint press conference**

NHK reported at noon on the trilateral summit between Japan, China, and South Korea held in Tokyo this morning, saying that Prime Minister Abe disclosed at a joint press conference that the three leaders agreed to work closely to have North Korea take concrete actions toward denuclearization, fully implement the UNSC resolutions, and resolve various issues. Abe was quoted as saying: "The three of us held intense discussions on how to respond to the Korean Peninsula situation. Workers' Party of Korea Chairman Kim Jong Un visited China again this week. We must work more closely with the international community so that the momentum toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and peace and stability of Northeast Asia will pave the way for North Korea to take concrete actions." "It is our shared position that the UNSC resolutions must be completely implemented. The three nations will continue to cooperate to resolve various issues," Abe added.

In addition, the network said Abe called for support and cooperation from the two leaders toward resolving the abduction issue and reiterated his intention to comprehensively resolve the abduction, nuclear, and missile issues and seek to normalize diplomatic relations with North Korea based on the Pyongyang Declaration.

- [Gist of trilateral summit talks between Japan, China and S. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

### **Chinese premier expresses support for Japan-DPRK dialogue**

Fuji TV reported at noon that Chinese Premier Li expressed support for dialogue between Japan and North Korea during a joint press conference held after the trilateral summit between Japan, China, and South Korea this morning. Li also reportedly announced that China will play an active role in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

### **FM Kono says Japan supports Iran nuclear deal**

NHK reported this morning that following President Trump's announcement that the U.S. will withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, Foreign Minister Kono released a statement this morning saying that Japan supports the deal. Kono reportedly said in the statement: "It will be regrettable if the announcement has a major impact, such as making it difficult to maintain the nuclear deal. Japan supports the nuclear deal as it is conducive to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation system and stabilizing the Middle East, and hopes that relevant nations will continue to respond constructively. We will continue to hold close discussions with other nations in order to maintain the

nuclear deal." Kono also reportedly said Japan will carefully analyze the impact of the U.S. announcement and closely monitor developments.

- [Japan expresses regret over U.S. pullout from Iran nuclear deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of Xinhua News Agency's report on Xi-Kim summit talks on May 7, 8](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Congressional group backs efforts by Trump, Japan for peace in Asia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Mizuho Bank apologizes for illegal DPRK remittances, goes unpunished for violating sanctions](#) (Sentaku)

## ECONOMY

- [Editorial: Don't miss opportunity for early effectuation of TPP](#) (Sankei)
- [METI to introduce "ESG"-oriented firms to institutional investors](#) (Nikkei)
- [More Okinawa companies trying to make stock market debuts](#) (Asahi)
- [Hard Rock emerging in Japan's casino market as a dark-horse](#) (FACTA)
- [Japan Airlines may set up budget carrier, vice chairwoman says](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan imported auto sales up 4.9 percent in April](#) (The Japan Times)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 8, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: How long will Finance Minister Aso continue to make outrageous remarks?](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Strength of in-house groups in House of Representatives and House of Councillors](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Eleven Diet members join CDPJ](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opposition realignment benefits CDPJ](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP member ranked first in public opinion polls has edge in party presidential election](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe planning to raise spectrum user fees as next step in broadcasting reform](#) (Sentaku)
- [Editorial: New opposition party far from ready to take the reins of government](#) (The Japan News)
- [Yomiuri boss invites Abe, U.S. envoy to baseball game, resists plan to revise Broadcast Law](#) (THEMIS)
- [Cartoon: Opposition lawmakers end their boycott](#) (Asahi)
- [Bureaucracy rises in revolt against Abe](#) (FACTA)

## SCIENCE

### China designing cities for self-driving cars

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on China's plan to design cities for self-driving cars, saying that China now has projects underway in six cities including Shanghai. According to the program, cameras and sensors are installed in traffic lights and signs for the transmission of such information as the times traffic lights change needed for autonomous driving. The program said China is planning to export its technology for building "self-driving cities."

## SECURITY

- [JGSDF, JASDF likely to battle fiercely over Kawano's successor](#) (Sentaku)

<b>OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS</b>
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**[Okinawa government to post on website information about SOFAs with other nations](#)**

Okinawa Times wrote that the Okinawa Prefectural Government is planning to set up a portal on its official website by the end of this month to disseminate the results of its fact-finding research on the U.S. military's status of forces agreements (SOFAs) with other nations. The prefectural government will post such information as the text and Japanese translations of the U.S. military's SOFAs with Germany and Italy to point out the differences between them and the SOFA with Japan. The local government also plans to add information about the U.S. military's SOFAs with South Korea, the Philippines, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

- [Okinawa municipalities to protest release of firefighting foam on Kadena Air Base](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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