



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Royal Netherlands Navy Frigate HNLMS De Ruyter (F804) Arrives in Tokyo Visit by Minister of Defence Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius Marks a New Stage in Japan– Netherlands Security Cooperation

On Monday, 15 June 2026, the Royal Netherlands Navy frigate HNLMS De Ruyter (F804) will arrive at the Tokyo Cruise Terminal under commanding officer Roger de Wit. This deployment marks the third dispatch of a Royal Netherlands Navy vessel to the Indo-Pacific since the Dutch Government published its Indo-Pacific Guidelines in November 2020. It is also the first such deployment in two years, following the visit of the frigate HNLMS Tromp in 2024.

Against the backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific, this deployment demonstrates the Netherlands' commitment to upholding the right to freedom of navigation in international waters. It also aims to support the rules-based maritime order, contribute to regional stability, and strengthen cooperation with like-minded partners.

Coinciding with the frigate's visit to Japan, Minister of Defence Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius and commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy Vice Admiral Harold Liebregts will travel to Tokyo and emphasize the importance of closer cooperation between Europe and the Indo-Pacific region. "In today's security environment, regional tensions are no longer merely regional. Our security is interconnected. Japan is an important partner for the Netherlands, and this port visit demonstrates our shared commitment to strengthening defence cooperation and contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Minister Yeşilgöz-Zegerius. The Minister further noted that the visit of HNLMS De Ruyter reflects the long-standing friendship between the Netherlands and Japan, as well as the strong foundation of bilateral defence cooperation. HNLMS De Ruyter is scheduled to remain in Tokyo until Wednesday, 17 June 2026.

【HNLMS De Ruyter F804】

HNLMS De Ruyter is a Royal Netherlands Navy air-defence and command frigate equipped with advanced radar systems and long-range air-defence capabilities.

Departing Den Helder on 12 April 2026, the vessel is conducting a global deployment via the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Indo-Pacific, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic Ocean. Throughout the deployment, the ship and its NH90 helicopter will conduct training and exercises with partner nations across Europe, NATO, the Indo-Pacific, Asia, and the Caribbean, strengthening interoperability and defence cooperation.



【Netherlands and the Indo-Pacific】

As a maritime trading nation, the Netherlands places great importance on maintaining a free and open maritime order. Sea lines of communication that underpin the global economy have become increasingly significant amid growing geopolitical tensions and the growing complexity of security challenges.

Based on its Indo-Pacific Guidelines, the Netherlands is strengthening cooperation with partners in the region across a wide range of fields, including economics, security, and climate change. On the basis of shared values such as the rule of law, freedom of navigation, and an open international order, the Netherlands seeks to contribute to peace and stability in the region.

Japan and the Netherlands share more than 400 years of historical ties and are today strategic partners cooperating across a broad range of fields, including security, the economy, science and technology, and culture. This port call underscores the long-standing friendship between the two countries and their growing defence cooperation, marking another important step in the development of Japan–Netherlands relations.

【Japan–Netherlands Security and Defence Cooperation】

This joint exercise is conducted as part of the Japan–Netherlands Action Plan 2025, which was agreed in April 2025 by the then Prime Ministers of both countries under the Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Peace and Prosperity.

It contributes to one of the priority areas of the Action Plan, namely addressing Tackling global challenges to peace and development.

* <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100833295.pdf>