Ambassador's interview scenario (additional proposal)

The delegation of the Cross-Party Parliamentary League for the Promotion of Disaster Medical Ship Utilization, of which I am the chairman, visited the United States on August 26th and 27th of this year, led by Secretary General Jun Tsushima They visited Austal Shipyard in Mobile Alabama where the US Navy plans to introduce "Next Generation Expedition Medical Ship (Expedition Medical Ship, EMS)" builds the department of the Navy in DC. We could exchange opinions with the Department of the Navy the Pentagon, which made this a very meaningful visit for our country, I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude. Today, I am away from my title duties as Minister of Finance, but as the chairman of the Cross-Party Parliamentary League, I want to express my sincere gratitude. Thank you very much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to see me.

Topic record related to us

1. We created a public relations effect by showing the "World's Largest US Navy Hospital Ship Mercy" to the public who were unfamiliar with hospital ships, and in order to change the political current we had the first Japan-US Hospital Ship Symposium, port call at Tokyo Port at the first time since the WWⅡ.
2. As a result of this, a bipartisan parliamentary group was established to promote the use of shipboard medical services in times of disaster, and the "Act on the Promotion of the Development of a System for Providing Medical Care by Ships in Times of Disaster (Hospital Ship Promotion Act)" was passed in the Diet in June 2021. It came into effect on June 1, 2024.
3. Expectations for the use of ships are rising in the wake of the Noto Peninsula earthquake

that occurred in January 2024.

Japan is surrounded on all sides by the see, thus in the event of a disaster, the medical care approach from the sea is quite effective. From now, implementing shipboard medical services, it is urgent to create a draft maintenance promotion plan, secure the necessary budget, and improve the skills of disaster response specialists.

Meeting topic (Japan-US military-civilian joint training and international standardization rules making for the disaster)

1. From a geopolitical perspective, Japan's medical ships also need to consider how to respond to earthquake disasters in East Asia, where the Philippine Plate (seismic zone) and the Pacific Plate (seismic zone) intersect, and we would like to aim for the activities of medical ships to be internationally standardized. During our team visited to the Pentagon, we exchanged opinions with the Department of the Navy, and were told that cooperation between the military and the civilian sectors is important for joint training, which would involve in a convoy of civilian ferries, mainly medical ships, to simulate activities in disaster areas. If joint training between our non-military organization and the U.S. Navy is possible, I would like to see it happens. The next few years until implementation of Japanese medical ship operations, we would use the time as a period to improve the skills of our personnel.
2. We have heard that training may be provided only miliary but the join training between USN and Japan medical ships should bring benefits to both the United States and Japan in the creation of new international standard rules for disaster situations.

That's all.