

**Japan To Contribute More To Peacekeeping Efforts: PM
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OMITAMA, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has pledged that Japan's determination to play a greater role in international peacekeeping efforts as a way to repay the world for its support following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

In a speech at an air review, while delivering an address at the United Nations General Assembly last month, Noda said his country is also determine to contribute more to peace in South Sudan as well as in the fight against piracy off Somalia, Jiji Press reported.

Referring specifically to South Sudan, Noda said his government is in the final stages of examining what contributions Japan can make.

The government is reportedly considering sending Ground SDF engineers to help rebuild infrastructure in the war-torn African country.

Noda also said Japan urgently needs to build a flexible and efficient defense capability because the security situation surrounding the country is becoming increasingly uncertain given the activities of North Korea and China.

Noda has expressed his gratitude for extensive disaster relief efforts that involved more than 100,000 SDF troops.

In the review, F-15 fighter jets were not allowed to participate in flight demonstrations after a fuel tank fell off an F-15 during a training mission last week.

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