

North Korea fires submarine-launched ballistic missile towards Japan

- 1) SEOUL North Korea fired a submarine-launched missile on Wednesday that flew about 500 km (311 miles) towards Japan, a show of improving technological capability for the isolated country that has conducted a series of launches in defiance of UN sanctions. (*in defiance of* ~を無視して)
- 2) Having the ability to fire a missile from a submarine could help North Korea evade a new anti-missile system planned for South Korea and pose a threat even if nuclear-armed North Korea's land-based arsenal was destroyed, experts said. (*evade* ~を逃れる、うまく切り抜ける、*arsenal* 貯蔵武器庫)
- 3) The ballistic missile was fired at around 5:30 a.m. (2030 GMT) from near the coastal city of Sinpo, where a submarine base is located, officials at South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defence Ministry told Reuters. (*Joint Chiefs of Staff* 統合参謀本部)
- 4) The projectile reached Japan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) for the first time, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a briefing, referring to an area of control designated by countries to help maintain air security. (*projectile* 投射物、発射体)
- 5) The missile was fired at a high angle, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported, an indication that its full range would be 1,000 km (620 miles) at an ordinary trajectory. The distance indicated the North's push to develop a submarine-launched missile system was paying off, officials and experts said. (*trajectory* 軌道)
- 6) North Korea's "SLBM (submarine-launched ballistic missile) technology appears to have progressed," a South Korean military official told Reuters.
- 7) Jeffrey Lewis of the California-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies said the test appeared to be a success.
- 8) "We don't know the full range, but 500 km is either full range or a full range on a lofted trajectory. Either way, that missile works." (*lofted* 複数階から成る)
- 9) The launch came two days after rival South Korea and the United States began annual military exercises in the South that North Korea condemns as a preparation for invasion, and has threatened retaliation. (*retaliation* 報復)
- 10) Beijing is Pyongyang's main ally but has joined past U.N. Security Council resolutions against the North. It has been angered by what it views as provocative moves by the United States and South Korea, including their July decision to base the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) anti-missile system in South Korea. (*provocative* 挑発的な、*base* [V] 配置する)
- 11) China opposes North Korea's nuclear and missile programme as well as any words or deeds that cause tension on the Korean peninsula, its foreign minister, Wang Yi, said on Wednesday at previously scheduled meeting with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts in Tokyo. (*deed* 行為、行い)
- 12) South Korea's Foreign Ministry condemned the launch and warned of more sanctions and isolation for its rival that "will only speed up its self-destruction."
- 13) "This poses a grave threat to Japan's security, and is an unforgivable act that damages regional peace and stability markedly," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters, adding that Japan had lodged a stern protest. (*stern* 厳しい) 後略【Aug 24, 2016/Reuters】

★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What was your first reaction about the news?
2. What do you think are the targets of North Korea's missile launches?
3. What can Japan do to prevent such provocative actions from happening again?
What about other Asian countries?
4. What can you say about the US' action of placing THAAD system in South Korea?
5. Make sentences using the following words: in defiance of, evade, arsenal, trajectory, retaliation and provocative.

北朝鮮は様々な機会にミサイル発射などの挑発行為を行ってきたが、今年に入って技術が格段に進歩してきている事を国際社会に見せつけた。1月の核実験、2月の長距離ロケット発射を受けて3月には北朝鮮への制裁が強化されたが、今のところ北朝鮮への抑止力とはなっていない。北朝鮮に対し強い態度を示したい日本、韓国、アメリカと慎重論を唱える中国の間で足並みがそろっていないのが現状だ。