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Joint Economic Activities Seen as Most Russia Can Concede: Expert (2016/11/22-23:06)



Moscow, Nov. 22 (Jiji Press)--Joint economic activities on disputed islands are likely to be the most that Russia can concede to Japan in their territorial talks over the Russian-controlled islands, a Russian expert on bilateral relationship has told Jiji Press.

Victor Kuzminkov, a senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences, said in an interview on Monday that it is hard to imagine that Russia will concede sovereignty over the islands, called the Northern Territories in Japan.

Kuzminkov also said Russia has floated the idea of joint economic activities to show that Moscow does not mean to refuse all requests from Japan in the territorial talks.

He added that the possible joint activities would allow Japan to operate on the islands to some extent without infringing on Russia's sovereignty over the islands.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the issue of joint economic activities was covered at a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Lima on Saturday.

Putin made the disclosure apparently because of his eagerness to achieve a certain result on the issue at a planned bilateral summit with Abe in Japan on Dec. 15, according to Kuzminkov.

The Japanese government, however, is cautious about joint economic activities on the islands, concerned that such a move could be taken as its acceptance of Russia's claim of its sovereignty over the islands.

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