

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
JAPAN AND THE STATE OF KUWAIT
FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT

The Government of Japan and the Government of the State of Kuwait,

Desiring to further promote investment in order to strengthen the economic relationship between Japan and the State of Kuwait (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties");

Intending to create stable, equitable, favourable and transparent conditions for greater investment by investors of a Contracting Party in the Area of the other Contracting Party;

Recognising the growing importance of the progressive liberalisation of investment for stimulating initiative of investors and for promoting prosperity in the Contracting Parties;

Recognising that these objectives can be achieved without relaxing health, safety and environmental measures of general application;

Recognising the importance of the cooperative relationship between labour and management in promoting investment between the Contracting Parties;

Wishing that this Agreement will contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation with respect to the development of international rules on foreign investment; and

Believing that this Agreement marks the beginning of new economic partnership between the Contracting Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement,

- (a) The term "investment" means every kind of asset owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by an investor, including:

- (1) an enterprise and a branch of an enterprise;
- (2) shares, stocks or other forms of equity participation in an enterprise, including rights derived therefrom;
- (3) bonds, debentures, loans and other forms of debt, including rights derived therefrom;
- (4) rights under contracts, including turnkey, construction, management, production or revenue-sharing contracts;
- (5) claims to money and to any performance under contract having a financial value;
- (6) intangible assets such as intellectual property rights, including copyrights and related rights, patent rights and rights relating to utility models, trademarks, industrial designs, layout-designs of integrated circuits, new varieties of plants, trade names, indications of source or geographical indications and know-how or other undisclosed information, as well as goodwill;
- (7) rights conferred pursuant to laws and regulations or contracts such as concessions, licences, authorisations and permits, including those for the exploration, prospect, exploitation and extraction of natural resources; and
- (8) any other tangible and intangible, movable and immovable property, and any related property rights, such as leases, mortgages, liens and pledges;

An investment includes the amounts yielded by an investment, in particular, profit, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties and fees. A change in the form in which assets are invested does not affect their character as an investment.

- (b) The term "investor of a Contracting Party" means:
- (1) the Government of that Contracting Party;
 - (2) a natural person having the nationality of that Contracting Party in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations; or

- (3) an enterprise of that Contracting Party,
that seeks to make, is making, or has made
investments in the Area of the other Contracting
Party;
- (c) The term "enterprise of a Contracting Party"
means any legal person or any other entity duly
constituted or organised under the applicable
laws and regulations of that Contracting Party,
whether or not for profit, and whether private
or government owned or controlled, including
any corporation, trust, partnership, sole
proprietorship, joint venture, association,
organisation or company;
- (d) The term "investment activities" means
establishment, acquisition, expansion, operation,
management, maintenance, use, enjoyment and sale
or other disposal of investments;
- (e) the term "Area" means:
- (1) with respect to Japan: its territory,
and the exclusive economic zone and the
continental shelf with respect to which
Japan exercises sovereign rights or
jurisdiction in accordance with
international law; and
- (2) with respect to the State of Kuwait: the
territory of the State of Kuwait including
any area beyond the territorial sea which in
accordance with international law has been
or may hereafter be designated under the
laws of the State of Kuwait, as an area over
which it may exercise sovereign rights or
jurisdiction;
- (f) The term "existing" means being in effect on the
date of entry into force of this Agreement;
- (g) The term "freely usable currency" means freely
usable currency as defined under the Articles of
Agreement of the International Monetary Fund; and
- (h) The term "the WTO Agreement" means the Marrakesh
Agreement Establishing the World Trade
Organization, done at Marrakesh, April 15, 1994.

Article 2
National Treatment

1. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to its own investors and to their investments with respect to investment activities.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, each Contracting Party may prescribe special formalities in connection with investment activities of investors of the other Contracting Party in its Area, provided that such special formalities do not impair the substance of the rights of such investors under this Agreement.

3. Paragraph 1 does not prevent either Contracting Party from differentiating between treatments accorded in accordance with its laws and regulations relating to taxes.

Article 3
Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment

1. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to investors of a third party and to their investments with respect to investment activities.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not be construed so as to oblige a Contracting Party to extend to investors of the other Contracting Party special tax advantages accorded to investors of a third party, on the basis of reciprocity with the third party or by virtue of any agreement relating to taxes in force between the former Contracting Party and the third party.

Article 4
General Treatment

1. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party treatment in accordance with international law, including fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security.

2. Neither Contracting Party shall, within its Area, in any way impair the operation, management, maintenance, use, enjoyment and sale or other disposal of investments of investors of the other Contracting Party by arbitrary measures.

3. Each Contracting Party shall observe any obligation it may have entered into with regard to investments and investment activities of investors of the other Contracting Party.

Article 5
Access to the Courts of Justice

Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investors of the other Contracting Party treatment no less favourable than the treatment which it accords in like circumstances to its own investors or investors of a third party with respect to access to the courts of justice and administrative tribunals and agencies in all degrees of jurisdiction, both in pursuit and in defence of such investors' rights.

Article 6
Prohibition of Performance Requirements

1. Neither Contracting Party shall impose or enforce, as a condition for investment activities in its Area of an investor of the other Contracting Party, any of the following requirements:

- (a) to export a given level or percentage of goods or services;
- (b) to achieve a given level or percentage of domestic content;
- (c) to purchase, use or accord a preference to goods produced or services provided in its Area, or to purchase goods or services from natural or legal persons or any other entity in its Area;
- (d) to relate in any way the volume or value of imports to the volume or value of exports or to the amount of foreign exchange inflows associated with investments of that investor;
- (e) to restrict sales of goods or services in its Area that investments of that investor produce or provide by relating such sales in any way to the volume or value of its exports or foreign exchange earnings;
- (f) to restrict the exportation or sale for export;
- (g) to appoint, as executives, managers or members of boards of directors, individuals of any particular nationality;

- (h) to transfer technology, a production process or other proprietary knowledge to a natural or legal person or any other entity in its Area, except when the requirement:
 - (1) is imposed or enforced by a court, administrative tribunal or competition authority to remedy an alleged violation of competition laws; or
 - (2) concerns the transfer of intellectual property rights which is undertaken in a manner not inconsistent with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in Annex 1C to the WTO Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the TRIPS Agreement");
- (i) to locate the headquarters of that investor for a specific region or the world market in its Area;
- (j) to hire a given number or percentage of its nationals;
- (k) to achieve a given level or value of research and development in its Area; or
- (l) to supply one or more of the goods that the investor produces or the services that the investor provides to a specific region or the world market, exclusively from the Area of the former Contracting Party.

2. Paragraph 1 does not preclude either Contracting Party from conditioning the receipt or continued receipt of an advantage, in connection with investment activities in its Area of an investor of the other Contracting Party, on compliance with any of the requirements set forth in subparagraphs 1(g) through (l).

Article 7 Reservations and Exceptions

- 1. Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall not apply to:
 - (a) any existing non-conforming measure that is maintained by the central government of a Contracting Party, as set out in the Schedule of each Contracting Party in Annex I;

- (b) any existing non-conforming measure that is maintained by a local government of a Contracting Party;
- (c) the continuation or prompt renewal of any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b); or
- (d) an amendment or modification to any non-conforming measure referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b), provided that the amendment or modification does not decrease the conformity of the measure as it existed immediately before the amendment or modification with Articles 2, 3 and 6.

2. Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall not apply to any measure that a Contracting Party adopts or maintains with respect to sectors, sub-sectors or activities set out in its Schedule in Annex II.

3. Neither Contracting Party shall, under any measure adopted after the date of entry into force of this Agreement and covered by its Schedule in Annex II, require an investor of the other Contracting Party, by reason of its nationality, to sell or otherwise dispose of an investment that exists at the time the measure becomes effective.

4. In cases where a Contracting Party makes an amendment or a modification to any existing non-conforming measure set out in its Schedule in Annex I or where a Contracting Party adopts any new or more restrictive measure with respect to sectors, sub-sectors or activities set out in its Schedule in Annex II after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, the Contracting Party shall, prior to the implementation of the amendment or modification or the new or more restrictive measure, or in exceptional circumstances, as soon as possible thereafter:

- (a) notify the other Contracting Party of detailed information on such amendment or modification, or such measure; and
- (b) hold, upon request by the other Contracting Party, consultations in good-faith with that other Contracting Party with a view to achieving mutual satisfaction.

5. Each Contracting Party shall endeavour, where appropriate, to reduce or eliminate the reservations specified in its Schedules in Annexes I and II respectively.

6. Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall not apply to any measure covered by the exceptions to, or derogations from, obligations under Articles 3 and 4 of the TRIPS Agreement, as specifically provided in Articles 3 through 5 of the TRIPS Agreement.

7. Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall not apply to any measure that a Contracting Party adopts or maintains with respect to government procurement.

Article 8 Transparency

1. Each Contracting Party shall promptly publish, or otherwise make publicly available, its laws, regulations, administrative procedures and administrative rulings and judicial decisions of general application as well as international agreements which pertain to or affect the implementation and operation of this Agreement.

2. Each Contracting Party shall, upon request by the other Contracting Party, promptly respond to specific questions and provide that other Contracting Party with information on matters set out in paragraph 1, including that relating to contract each Contracting Party enters into with regard to investment.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to disclose confidential information, the disclosure of which would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or which would prejudice privacy or legitimate commercial interests.

Article 9 Measures against Corruption

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that measures and efforts are undertaken to prevent and combat corruption regarding matters covered by this Agreement in accordance with its laws and regulations.

Article 10
Entry, Sojourn and Residence of Investors

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations, give sympathetic consideration to applications for the entry, sojourn and residence of a natural person having the nationality of the other Contracting Party who wishes to enter the territory of the former Contracting Party and to remain therein for the purpose of investment activities.

Article 11
Expropriation

1. Neither Contracting Party shall expropriate or nationalise investments in its Area of investors of the other Contracting Party or take any measure equivalent to expropriation or nationalisation (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") except:

- (a) for a public purpose;
- (b) in a non-discriminatory manner;
- (c) upon payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation pursuant to paragraphs 2 through 4; and
- (d) in accordance with due process of law and Article 4.

2. The compensation shall be equivalent to the fair market value of the expropriated investments at the time when the expropriation was publicly announced or when the expropriation occurred, whichever is the earlier. The fair market value shall not reflect any change in value occurring because the expropriation had become publicly known earlier.

3. The compensation shall be paid without delay and shall include interest at a commercial rate established on a market basis, taking into account the length of time until the time of payment. It shall be effectively realisable and freely transferable and shall be freely convertible into the currency of the Contracting Party of the investors concerned and into freely usable currencies, at the market exchange rate prevailing on the date of expropriation.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 16, the investors affected by expropriation shall have a right of access to the courts of justice or administrative tribunals or agencies of the Contracting Party making the expropriation to seek a prompt review of the investors' case and the amount of compensation in accordance with the principles set out in this Article.

Article 12 Compensation for Losses or Damages

1. Each Contracting Party shall accord to investors of the other Contracting Party that have suffered loss or damage relating to their investments in the Area of the former Contracting Party due to armed conflict or a state of emergency such as revolution, insurrection, civil disturbance or any other similar event in the Area of that former Contracting Party, treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or any other settlement, that is no less favourable than that which it accords to its own investors or to investors of a third party, whichever is more favourable to the investors of the other Contracting Party.

2. Any payment as a means of settlement referred to in paragraph 1 shall be effectively realisable, freely transferable and freely convertible at the market exchange rate prevailing at the time of payment into the currency of the Contracting Party of the investors concerned and freely usable currencies.

Article 13 Subrogation

If a Contracting Party or its designated agency makes a payment to any investor of that Contracting Party under an indemnity, guarantee or insurance contract, pertaining to investments of such investor in the Area of the other Contracting Party, the latter Contracting Party shall recognise the assignment to the former Contracting Party or its designated agency of any right or claim of such investor on account of which such payment is made and shall recognise the right of the former Contracting Party or its designated agency to exercise by virtue of subrogation any such right or claim to the same extent as the original right or claim of the investor. As regards payment to be made to that former Contracting Party or its designated agency by virtue of such assignment of right or claim and the assignment of such payment, Articles 11, 12 and 14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 14
Transfers

1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that all transfers relating to investments in its Area of an investor of the other Contracting Party may be freely made into and out of its Area without delay. Such transfers shall include, in particular, though not exclusively:

- (a) the initial capital and additional amounts to maintain or increase investments;
- (b) profits, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties, fees and other current incomes accruing from investments;
- (c) payments made under a contract including loan payments in connection with investments;
- (d) proceeds of the total or partial sale or liquidation of investments;
- (e) earnings and remuneration of personnel engaged from the other Contracting Party who work in connection with investments in the Area of the former Contracting Party;
- (f) payments made in accordance with Articles 11 and 12; and
- (g) payments arising out of the settlement of a dispute under Article 16.

2. Each Contracting Party shall further ensure that such transfers may be made without delay in freely usable currencies at the market exchange rate prevailing on the date of each transfer.

3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, a Contracting Party may delay or prevent a transfer through the equitable, non-discriminatory and good-faith application of its laws and regulations relating to:

- (a) bankruptcy, insolvency or the protection of the rights of creditors;
- (b) issuing, trading or dealing in securities;
- (c) criminal or penal offences; or
- (d) ensuring compliance with orders or judgements in adjudicatory proceedings.

Article 15

Settlement of Disputes between the Contracting Parties

1. Each Contracting Party shall accord sympathetic consideration to, and shall afford adequate opportunity for consultations through diplomatic channels regarding, such representations as the other Contracting Party may make with respect to any matter affecting the application of this Agreement.

2. Any dispute between the Contracting Parties as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement, not satisfactorily adjusted by diplomacy within six months, shall be referred for decision to an arbitral tribunal. Such arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators, with each Contracting Party appointing one arbitrator within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of receipt by either Contracting Party from the other Contracting Party of a note requesting arbitration of the dispute, and the third arbitrator to be agreed upon as Chairman by the two arbitrators so chosen within a further period of sixty (60) days, provided that the third arbitrator shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.

3. If the third arbitrator is not agreed upon between the arbitrators appointed by each Contracting Party within the further period of sixty (60) days referred to in paragraph 2, the Contracting Parties shall request the President of the International Court of Justice to appoint the third arbitrator who shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.

4. If the President of the International Court of Justice is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President of the Court shall be invited to make the necessary appointments. If the Vice-President of the Court is a national of either Contracting Party or if he, too, is prevented from discharging the said function, the member of the Court next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.

5. The arbitral tribunal shall within a reasonable period of time take its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be made in accordance with this Agreement and applicable rules of international law. Such decision shall be final and binding on both Contracting Parties.

6. Each Contracting Party shall bear the costs of the member of the arbitral tribunal of its choice, as well as the costs for its representation in the arbitration proceedings. The expenses incurred by the Chairman as well as any other costs of the arbitration proceedings shall be borne in equal parts by the two Contracting Parties. However, the arbitral tribunal may, at its discretion, direct that a higher proportion or all of such other costs of the arbitration proceedings be paid by one of the Contracting Parties. In all other respects, the arbitral tribunal shall determine its own procedure.

Article 16
Settlement of Investment Disputes
between a Contracting Party and an Investor
of the Other Contracting Party

1. For the purposes of this Article, an "investment dispute" is a dispute between a Contracting Party and an investor of the other Contracting Party that has incurred loss or damage by reason of, or arising out of, an alleged breach of any obligation of the former Contracting Party under this Agreement with respect to the investor of that other Contracting Party or its investments in the Area of the former Contracting Party.

2. Subject to subparagraph 7(b), nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent an investor who is a party to an investment dispute (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "disputing investor") from seeking administrative or judicial settlement within the Area of the Contracting Party that is a party to the investment dispute (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "disputing Party").

3. Any investment dispute shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through consultations between the disputing investor and the disputing Party (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the disputing parties").

4. If the investment dispute cannot be settled through such consultations within three months from the date on which the disputing investor requested in writing the disputing Party for consultations, the disputing investor may, subject to subparagraph 7(a), submit the investment dispute to one of the following international conciliations or arbitrations:

- (a) conciliation or arbitration in accordance with the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, done at Washington, March 18, 1965 (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the ICSID Convention"), so long as the ICSID Convention is in force between the Contracting Parties;
- (b) conciliation or arbitration under the Additional Facility Rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, so long as the ICSID Convention is not in force between the Contracting Parties;
- (c) arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on April 28, 1976; and
- (d) if agreed with the disputing Party, any arbitration in accordance with other arbitration rules.

5. Each Contracting Party hereby consents to the submission of investment disputes by a disputing investor to conciliation or arbitration set forth in paragraph 4 chosen by the disputing investor.

6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5, no investment disputes may be submitted to conciliation or arbitration set forth in paragraph 4, if more than five years have elapsed since the date on which the disputing investor acquired or should have first acquired, whichever is the earlier, the knowledge that the disputing investor had incurred loss or damage referred to in paragraph 1.

7. (a) In the event that an investment dispute has been submitted to courts of justice or administrative tribunals or agencies or any other binding dispute settlement mechanism established under the laws and regulations of the disputing Party, any conciliation or arbitration set forth in paragraph 4 can be sought only if the disputing investor withdraws, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the disputing Party, its claim from such domestic remedies before the final decisions are made therein.

- (b) In the event that an investment dispute has been submitted for resolution under one of the conciliations or arbitrations set forth in paragraph 4, the same investment dispute shall not be submitted for resolution under courts of justice, administrative tribunals or agencies or any other binding dispute settlement mechanism established under the laws and regulations of the disputing Party.

8. An arbitral tribunal established under paragraph 4 shall decide the issues in dispute in accordance with this Agreement and applicable rules of international law.

9. The disputing Party shall deliver to the other Contracting Party:

- (a) written notice of the investment dispute submitted to the arbitration no later than thirty (30) days after the date on which the investment dispute was submitted; and
- (b) copies of all pleadings filed in the arbitration.

10. The Contracting Party which is not the disputing Party may, upon written notice to the disputing parties, make submissions to the arbitral tribunal on a question of interpretation of this Agreement.

11. Unless the disputing parties agree otherwise, the arbitration shall be held in a country that is a party to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done at New York, June 10, 1958 (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the New York Convention").

12. The award rendered by the arbitral tribunal shall be final and binding upon the disputing parties. This award shall be executed by the applicable laws and regulations as well as relevant international law including the ICSID Convention and the New York Convention, concerning the execution of award in force in the country where such execution is sought.

13. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, the disputing investor may initiate or continue an action that seeks interim injunctive relief that does not involve the payment of damages before an administrative tribunal or agency or a court of justice under the law of the disputing Party.

14. The disputing Party may not assert, as a defence, counterclaim, right of set-off or otherwise, that the disputing investor has received or will receive indemnification or other compensation for all or part of the alleged damages pursuant to an insurance or guarantee contract.

Article 17
General and Security Exceptions

1. Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied by a Contracting Party in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination against the other Contracting Party, or a disguised restriction on investments of investors of the other Contracting Party in the Area of the former Contracting Party, nothing in this Agreement other than Article 12 shall be construed so as to prevent the former Contracting Party from adopting or enforcing measures:

- (a) necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health;
- (b) necessary to protect public morals or to maintain public order, provided that the public order exception may only be invoked where a genuine and sufficiently serious threat is posed to one of the fundamental interests of society;
- (c) necessary to secure compliance with the laws or regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement including those relating to:
 - (1) the prevention of deceptive and fraudulent practices or to deal with the effects of a default on contract;
 - (2) the protection of the privacy of the individual in relation to the processing and dissemination of personal data and the protection of confidentiality of personal records and accounts; or
 - (3) safety;
- (d) which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests:
 - (1) taken in time of war, or armed conflict, or other emergency in that Contracting Party or in international relations; or

- (2) relating to the implementation of national policies or international agreements respecting the non-proliferation of weapons;
- (e) in pursuance of its obligations under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security; or
- (f) imposed for the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value.

2. In cases where a Contracting Party takes any measure, pursuant to paragraph 1, that does not conform with the obligations under this Agreement other than Article 12, that Contracting Party shall, prior to the entry into force of the measure or as soon thereafter as possible, notify the other Contracting Party of the following elements of the measure:

- (a) sector and sub-sector or matter;
- (b) obligation or article in respect of the measure;
- (c) legal source of the measure;
- (d) succinct description of the measure; and
- (e) purpose of the measure.

Article 18 Temporary Safeguard Measures

1. A Contracting Party may adopt or maintain measures not conforming with its obligations under Article 2 relating to cross-border capital transactions and Article 14:

- (a) in the event of serious balance-of-payments and external financial difficulties or threat thereof; or
- (b) in cases where, in exceptional circumstances, movements of capital cause or threaten to cause serious difficulties for macroeconomic management, in particular, monetary and exchange rate policies.

2. Measures referred to in paragraph 1:

- (a) shall be consistent with the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, so long as the Contracting Party taking the measures is a party to the said Articles;

- (b) shall not exceed those necessary to deal with the circumstances set out in paragraph 1;
- (c) shall be temporary and shall be eliminated as soon as conditions permit;
- (d) shall be promptly notified to the other Contracting Party; and
- (e) shall avoid unnecessary damages to the commercial, economic and financial interests of the other Contracting Party.

3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be regarded as altering the rights enjoyed and obligations undertaken by a Contracting Party as a party to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund.

Article 19 Prudential Measures

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, a Contracting Party shall not be prevented from taking measures relating to financial services for prudential reasons, including measures for the protection of investors, depositors, policy holders or persons to whom a fiduciary duty is owed by an enterprise supplying financial services, or to ensure the integrity and stability of its financial system.

2. Where the measures taken by a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 1 do not conform with this Agreement, they shall not be used as a means of avoiding the obligations of the Contracting Party under this Agreement.

Article 20 Intellectual Property Rights

1. The Contracting Parties shall grant and ensure the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, and promote efficiency and transparency in administrations of intellectual property protection system. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall promptly consult with each other at the request of either Contracting Party. Depending on the results of the consultations, each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations, take appropriate measures to remove the factors which are recognised as having adverse effects to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to derogate from the rights and obligations under multilateral agreements in respect of protection of intellectual property rights to which the Contracting Parties are parties.

3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to extend to investors of the other Contracting Party and their investments treatment accorded to investors of a third party and their investments by virtue of multilateral agreements in respect of protection of intellectual property rights, to which the former Contracting Party is a party.

Article 21 Taxation

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of either Contracting Party under any convention for the avoidance of double taxation. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any such convention, that convention shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Article 22 Joint Committee

1. The Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") with a view to accomplishing the objectives of this Agreement. The functions of the Committee shall be:

- (a) to discuss and review the implementation and operation of this Agreement;
- (b) to review the exceptional measures maintained, amended, modified or adopted pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 7 for the purpose of contributing to the reduction or elimination of such exceptional measures;
- (c) to discuss the exceptional measures adopted or maintained pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 7 for the purpose of encouraging favourable conditions for investors of the Contracting Parties; and
- (d) to discuss any other investment-related matters concerning this Agreement.

2. The Committee may, as necessary, make appropriate recommendations by consensus to the Contracting Parties for the more effective functioning or the attainment of the objectives of this Agreement.

3. The Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Governments of the Contracting Parties. The Committee may, upon mutual consent of the Contracting Parties, invite representatives of relevant entities other than the Governments of the Contracting Parties with the necessary expertise relevant to the issues to be discussed, and hold joint meetings with the private sectors.

4. The Committee shall determine its own rules of procedure to carry out its functions.

5. The Committee may establish sub-committees and delegate specific tasks to such sub-committees.

6. The Committee and the sub-committees established pursuant to paragraph 5 shall meet upon the request of either Contracting Party.

Article 23
Health, Safety and Environmental Measures
and Labour Standards

Each Contracting Party recognises that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by investors of the other Contracting Party and of a third party by relaxing its health, safety or environmental measures, or by lowering its labour standards. To this effect, each Contracting Party should not waive or otherwise derogate from such measures and standards as an encouragement for the establishment, acquisition or expansion of investments in its Area by investors of the other Contracting Party and of a third party.

Article 24
Denial of Benefits

1. A Contracting Party may deny the benefits of this Agreement to an investor of the other Contracting Party that is an enterprise of the other Contracting Party and to its investments if the enterprise is owned or controlled by an investor of a third party and the denying Contracting Party:

- (a) does not maintain diplomatic relations with the third party; or

- (b) adopts or maintains measures with respect to the third party that prohibit transactions with the enterprise or that would be violated or circumvented if the benefits of this Agreement were accorded to the enterprise or to its investments.

2. Subject to prior notification and consultation, a Contracting Party may deny the benefits of this Agreement to an investor of the other Contracting Party that is an enterprise of the other Contracting Party and to its investments if the enterprise is owned or controlled by an investor of a third party and the enterprise has no substantial business activities in the Area of the other Contracting Party.

3. For the purposes of this Article, an enterprise is:

- (a) "owned" by an investor if more than fifty (50) percent of the equity interest in it is owned by the investor; and
- (b) "controlled" by an investor if the investor has the power to name a majority of its directors or otherwise to legally direct its actions.

Article 25 Headings

The headings of the Articles of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

Article 26 Entry into Force

The Governments of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of their respective legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the latter of the dates of receipt of the notifications.

Article 27 Duration and Termination

1. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of thirty (30) years after its entry into force and shall continue in force unless terminated as provided for in paragraph 2.

2. A Contracting Party may, by giving one year's advance notice in writing to the other Contracting Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial thirty (30) year period or at any time thereafter.

3. In respect of investments acquired prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall continue to be effective for a period of twenty (20) years from the date of termination of this Agreement.

4. This Agreement shall also apply to all investments of investors of either Contracting Party acquired in the Area of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of that other Contracting Party prior to the entry into force of this Agreement.

5. This Agreement shall not apply to claims arising out of events which occurred, or to claims which had been settled, prior to its entry into force.

6. The Annexes to this Agreement shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 28
Amendment

Either Contracting Party may at any time request consultations with the other Contracting Party for the purpose of amending this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Tokyo on this twenty-second day of March 2012, in two originals in the Japanese, Arabic and English languages, all the three texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government
of Japan:

山根隆治

For the Government
of the State of Kuwait: