

Canada and Japan revitalize the Joint Economic Committee

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Following on the meeting in May 2016 in Tokyo between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a meeting of the Canada-Japan Joint Economic Committee (JEC) was convened on October 20 at Headquarters of Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the JEC, which is an important forum to improve economic ties between Canada and Japan. When the prime ministers met last May, they agreed to revitalize the JEC to better focus on five priority areas of cooperation: infrastructure, energy, science and technology cooperation, improving the business environment and promoting investment, and tourism and youth exchanges.

Christine Hogan, Canada's Deputy Minister of International Trade, and Keiichi Katakami, Japan's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, represented their countries at the JEC meeting. Both countries decided to operate within the revitalized JEC framework on the five priority areas of cooperation.

Background - Canada-Japan Joint Economic Committee

A cooperative working group led by Global Affairs Canada and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will promote progress within these priority areas: infrastructure, energy, science and technology cooperation, improving the business environment and promoting investment, and tourism and youth exchanges.

Infrastructure

- Continue policy collaboration on quality infrastructure investment at multilateral forums and encourage stakeholders to align their infrastructure investment and assistance with the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment.
- Share Canadian expertise on public-private partnerships and encourage Japanese stakeholders to take part in the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnership annual conference in November 2016.
- Explore collaboration opportunities between related organizations and businesses in Canada, Japan and third-country markets.

Energy

- Acknowledge common strategic interests in ensuring energy security.
- Support ongoing efforts to promote investment in energy infrastructure, including liquefied natural gas export facility development projects.
- Enhance partnerships on clean technologies.
- Double government investments in clean energy innovation over five years and work with other Mission Innovation members to accelerate global clean-energy innovation while exploring bilateral collaboration on R&D in related technologies.
- Confirm interest in holding a second dialogue based on the Canada-Japan Policy Statement on Oil and Gas Cooperation.

Science and technology cooperation

- Build on the outcomes from the Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation, including, among others:
 - Focus on new areas of cooperation, such as researcher mobility programs between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Mitacs, a Canadian NGO that

supports two-way research collaboration between Canada and international partners.

- Explore opportunities for a more coordinated approach in sharing information on innovative Canadian and Japanese technologies that could be of strategic interest to both technology sectors.

Improving the business environment and promoting investment

- Further reflect views from the private sector in JEC discussions through participation by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and through the newly formed Canada-Japan Business Promotion Window in JETRO Toronto.
- Enhance collaboration with organizations like JETRO to support greenfield investments, retention and expansions by Japanese companies in Canada.
- Explore ways to enhance mobility of professional service providers into key investment sectors, such as energy and infrastructure.
- Discuss collaboration opportunities in innovative new technologies of interest to both countries.
- Examine ways to deepen collaboration for promoting trade and investment.

Tourism and youth exchanges

- Explore ways to increase cooperation to boost the two-way flow of tourists, including by sharing information on the successful hosting of major events such as the Olympic and Paralympic games.
- Facilitate youth exchanges, including internship programs for researchers, students and businesspersons under various scholarships and youth mobility agreements.