

Joint Press Release

The 28th Meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee

On June 14th, 2018, the 28th Meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee (JEC) was held at Ikura Guest House in Tokyo. The meeting was convened, based on the agreement between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in May, 2016, to revitalize the JEC framework.

The JEC was jointly chaired by Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Timothy Sargent, Deputy Minister for International Trade. Other attendants included Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Ambassador of Japan to Canada, Mr. Ian Burney, Ambassador of Canada to Japan, as well as officials from both Japanese and Canadian governments and the Embassy of Canada in Japan.

In the light of the increasing uncertainty surrounding international trade, the co-chairs concurred that Japan and Canada will show leadership in supporting and strengthening the crucial role of a rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its center and continue to fight protectionism. They noted the importance of bilateral, regional and plurilateral agreements being open, transparent, inclusive and WTO-consistent, and commit to working to ensure they complement the multilateral trade agreements .

In the meeting, the co-chairs discussed the progress and ways forward on five priority areas of cooperation, namely, (1) infrastructure, (2) energy, (3) science and technology cooperation, (4) improving business environment and promoting investment, and (5) tourism and youth exchanges, as highlighted in the list, herein attached.

Private sector participation was another focus of the meeting. Following government-to-government discussions a separate session was convened to hear views from representatives of business organizations from both countries, namely Keidanren (the Japan Business Federation), the Japan-Canada Chambers Council, as well as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and individual companies from Japan and Canada which have introduced good practices and challenges in sectors such as clean technology, infrastructure and manufacturing/innovation.

In 2018 and beyond, Japan and Canada will further strengthen bilateral cooperation through opportunities including Canada's G7 Presidency and Japan's G20 Presidency in 2019, as well as the 90th Anniversary of Japan-Canada Diplomatic Relations.

Attachment:
List of Progress and Future Objectives in the Priority Areas of Cooperation

Since the 27th JEC meeting in October, 2016, Japanese and Canadian officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Global Affairs Canada have worked to identify opportunities to promote enhanced collaboration in the following priority areas of cooperation (PACs):

- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Science and Technology Cooperation
- Improving the Business Environment and Promoting Investment
- Tourism and Youth Exchanges

During the 28th meeting of the JEC on June 14, 2018 in Tokyo, participants produced the following list of progress and future objectives under each PAC.

1. Infrastructure

- Continue to explore opportunities for expanded infrastructure cooperation through:
 - (1) Strengthening policy collaboration on enhanced connectivity of a free and open Indo-Pacific through quality infrastructure investment bilaterally and at forums such as G7, G20, APEC and OECD DAC.
 - (2) Supporting Japanese investors' participation in Canada's infrastructure projects in energy and transport, including through continued participation by, and enhanced support for, Japanese businesses at the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships National Conference.
 - (3) Continuing collaboration in areas related to codes and standards regarding the use of wood in mid to high rise buildings.

2. Energy

- Acknowledge mutual strategic interest in ensuring energy security and an open investment environment with high transparency and predictability as well as with improved market access and profitability in the energy sector (e.g. LNG, oil sands and pipelines, including the LNG Canada and the Trans Mountain Expansion Project).
- Continue working within the Mission Innovation framework to deliver on shared goals to accelerate transitions to clean growth economies.
- Continue working towards the fall 2018 Oil and Gas Cooperation Dialogue, and expand its scope to include opportunities for collaboration in clean energy.

- Welcome the launch of the Nuclear Innovation: Clean Energy Future (NICE Future) initiative under the Clean Energy Ministerial in May 2018, led by Canada, Japan and the U.S. to discuss among the broader parties the role of nuclear energy as a part of the clean energy system.
- Confirm and support collaboration in the area of unconventional natural gas including cooperation between the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the Japan Oil, Gas, and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) to promote further development in LNG.
- Encourage possible cooperation for both Canada's 2018 G7 Presidency on the theme of *Working Together on Climate Change, Oceans and Clean Energy* and Japan's 2019 G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth.
- Continue public-private collaboration on LNG, including at the LNG Producer-Consumer Conference in October 2018.

3. Science and Technology Cooperation

- Continue to build on the "Science, Technology, and Innovation Action Plan 2016-2018" of the Japan-Canada Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation, and aim to hold the 14th Joint Committee Meeting in Tokyo early in 2019.
- Continue to deepen collaboration on innovative technologies through enhanced cooperation between Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Trade Commissioner Service, building on the successful "Japan-Canada A.I. Collaboration Forum" in Tokyo in October, 2017, "Japan Fintech Seminar" in Toronto in October, 2017, as well as the "Japan-Canada Innovation Partnership Forum" in Toronto in May, 2018.
- Support efforts to strengthen two-way researcher mobility, building upon the achievement of the existing Summer Program between Mitacs and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).
- Identify primary Japanese partner with whom to expand current Mitacs engagement and consider new partnerships with Japanese public and private stakeholders.
- Encourage ongoing earthquake and paleo-tsunami joint researches conducted by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), in collaboration with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), and with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), respectively. Also support collaboration between the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) focused on innovations in remote sensing science.
- Encourage exchange of perspectives, experiences, and recommendations to increase women's

involvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

4. Improving the Business Environment and Promoting Investment

- Reaffirm the importance of free trade and remain committed to efforts to improve business environment through high-standard regional trade rules; work towards an early entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and collaborate on joint promotion of the agreement.
- Support efforts for two-way investment promotion by enhancing collaboration between JETRO and newly-launched Invest in Canada, building on the Memorandum of Cooperation between JETRO and Global Affairs Canada signed in May, 2018.
- Encourage Japanese government and private sector participation in Canadian Embassy FDI promotion efforts
- Further strengthen private sector participation in JEC discussions, by (1) exploring possibility of holding the next JEC meeting in conjunction with the 4th Japan-Canada Chambers Council meeting in Canada, and (2) regularly holding roundtable meetings between Global Affairs Canada and Japanese private sectors in Canada to discuss investment opportunities and challenges.

5. Tourism and Youth Exchanges

- In the context of 90th anniversary of bilateral relations, explore to develop options to further strengthen youth exchanges to be presented at the next JEC.
- Continue efforts to increase the number of visitors to both countries through tourism promotion and enhanced air connectivity.
- Continue to promote international internships / work placements for Canadians in Japan, under existing mobility schemes, including the Japan-Canada Arrangement on youth mobility, Mitacs internship support programs, the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET), JET Internship Programs by Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), and the Canada-Japan Co-op Program.