

Pillar 1 : Principles for Peace and Rules for Prosperity

Case (1): Initiatives to promote a free and fair economic order

1. Basic concept

- Free trade and investment is the foundation for economic prosperity. As a flag bearer for free trade, Japan has long promoted the expansion of a free and fair economic order, and maintenance and enhancement of the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.
- On the other hand, as unfair and non-transparent trade practices are observed and concerns over free trade such as widening wealth inequality are expressed in the world, the importance of ensuring transparency and inclusiveness has been increasing.
- In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and other factors have brought us new challenges. They disrupted global supply chains of goods, including energy, food, medicine, and semiconductors that support our daily life threatened many people's lives and stagnated business activities of companies.

⇒ **In addition to enhancing cooperation with like-minded countries in economic field as well as maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trade system, we will maintain and strengthen a free and fair economic order by promoting economic partnership agreements, making and disseminating rules in line with the times, and facilitating the compliance with the rules with transparency.**

2. Items of cooperation

- Implementation and expansion of high-standard and other economic partnership agreements.
(e.g.) Upholding the high-standards of the CPTPP (including facilitation of the UK's accession negotiations as a party) and encouraging the US' return to the agreement
Steady implementation of Japan-UK CEPA, Japan-EU EPA, RCEP Agreement and other economic partnership agreements, and strengthening cooperation in the economic field
Expansion of bilateral EPAs (e.g., launch of joint study groups on a possible Japan-Israel EPA and a possible Japan-Bangladesh EPA).
- Rulemaking and promotion of tangible benefits under new frameworks.
(e.g.) Cooperation through IPEF among its partners in four fields: trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy.
- Presentation of issues on unfair and opaque trade practices at the WTO and other fora while facilitating discussions on WTO reform with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system.
- Support to the mainstreaming of the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific(AOIP)," which shares fundamental principles such as openness, transparency, inclusivity and rule-based frameworks.



2018: Signing the CPTPP



2022: Summit-level meeting on the launch of the IPEF



2022: The Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)