



**JOINT STATEMENT  
ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FREE TRADE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL**

16 July, 2023

Reaffirming the vital importance of close cooperation between Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council for strengthening economic ties between the two sides;

Desiring to further liberalize trade and investment between Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council in a mutually beneficial manner;

Acknowledging that the Free Trade Agreement between Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (JGFTA) will provide the valuable foundations for expanding trade and investment and achieving greater cooperation between the two sides;

Following the discussion on the resumption of the JGFTA negotiations between H.E. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan and H.E. Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, on 16 July 2023;

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Chief Negotiator for the Gulf Cooperation Council, have confirmed the following recognition;

1. Japan and the GCC concurred on resuming the JGFTA negotiations, and hold the next round in 2024.
2. Japan and the GCC will continue their efforts on discussions and internal process for the resumption of the JGFTA negotiations.

**For the Government of JAPAN**

**For the Gulf Cooperation Council**

IWAI Fumio

Dr.Raja Almarzoqi

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of Japan to the Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia

Chief Negotiator of the Gulf Cooperation  
Council