

Joint Press Release

April 15, 2025

Today, Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru and President Serdar BERDIMUHAMEDOV held a meeting on the occasion of the President's visit to Japan related to the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. The two countries welcomed successful implementation of Turkmenistan's national day event on the 14th of April.

The two countries shared the recognition on the growing geopolitical importance of the Central Asian region, and stressed the importance of mutual cooperation as partners in maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law. The two countries affirmed the importance of upholding the purposes and principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, contributing to peace, and protecting and strengthening human dignity.

Based on the cooperation that has been achieved so far, the two countries concurred on promoting concrete initiatives to strengthen the interconnection between Central Asia and the global community with the active involvement of Japan for co-creation of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two countries concurred on their cooperation for holding Summit of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue.

Japan congratulates that this year marks the 30th year since Turkmenistan was recognized the status of permanent neutrality, and the two countries confirmed to contribute together to the promotion of peace in the international community including the Forum dedicated to the International Year of Peace and Trust in Ashgabat, scheduled in December of this year.

The two countries concurred on the further development of their cooperation, including through the implementation of the bilateral cooperation and initiatives exemplified in the "Fact Sheet for Further Development of Relations between Japan and Turkmenistan to Co-create Mutually Beneficial Cooperation."

The two countries welcomed the signing of 15 documents between the Japanese side and the Turkmenistan side on the occasion of the visit of the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov to Japan in April 2025.

The two countries welcomed the revision of a Memorandum of Cooperation on Energy Transitions between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

Based on their shared view on the importance of cooperation in the international arena, the two countries also concurred on advancing bilateral cooperation in these areas.

Fact Sheet for Further Development of Relations between Japan and Turkmenistan to Co-create Mutually Beneficial Cooperation

Three Priority Areas of Cooperation

Cooperation including new industry development and industrial upgrading consistent with climate change measures in Central Asia

The two countries welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on Energy Transitions between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on 22 January 2024 as the progress of the outcomes of the Economic and Energy Dialogue of the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue held in September 2023. In addition, two countries welcome the signing of the revised Memorandum of Cooperation on the realization of Energy Transitions during the visit to Japan by the President of Turkmenistan.

Recognizing the importance of simultaneously achieving economic growth, energy security and decarbonization, the two countries concurred on the achievement of the common goal of carbon neutrality/net-zero following various pathways. In this regard, the two countries welcomed the progress of the formulation of an energy transition roadmap toward the net-zero goal envisaged in the revised MOC on Energy Transitions.

The two countries committed to public-private cooperation toward energy transition envisaged in the revised MOC on Energy Transitions.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation using GOSAT (Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite) series between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan and Chuo University.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Framework Agreement on cooperation for the engineering, procurement and construction on a “turn-key” basis of the second Gas to Gasoline plant, in Akhal velayat, Turkmenistan in April, 2025.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of joint research on hydrogen energy between the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan and the University of Tsukuba of Japan.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Framework Agreement between the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and Japanese company for converting the simple cycle Power Plant in Charjev etrap of Lebap velayat, in which Japanese companies participated in construction, into a Combined Cycle Power Plant that has much lower environmental impact in line with decarbonization policy of Turkmenistan.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Framework Agreement on cooperation for the engineering, procurement and construction on a “turn-key” basis of the Ammonia Urea Plant in the village of Kiyarly, Balkan velayat of Turkmenistan in April, 2025.

The two countries welcomed the consideration for the implementation of the feasibility study and the signing of the Memorandum on the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation pumping stations in Ashgabat and Ahal Region.

The two countries welcomed the progress in cooperation for the delivery of Japanese construction machinery for the further development of Turkmenistan.

The two countries welcomed the progress of discussion for the introduction of Japanese semiconductor production system to the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, which will open the possibility of joint research between the two countries.

The two countries concurred on cooperation for inter-governmental and inter-company coordination in diverse areas such as GX (Green Transformation) and DX (Digital Transformation).

The two countries welcomed the 15th Joint Meeting of Japan-Turkmenistan Economic Committees held in December of last year. The two countries confirmed that they will continue to utilize the Japan-Turkmenistan Network for Investment Environment Improvement and further promote trade and investment between the two countries.

The two countries concurred on cooperation on global issues in the UN and other forums, under the philosophy of human security, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The two countries welcomed cooperation for the success of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan and Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) with the aim of promoting cooperation in infrastructure projects in Turkmenistan.

Japan expressed its intention to provide necessary support for Turkmenistan's new accession to WTO.

Enhancing logistics, transportation, and people to people exchanges within and beyond Central Asia

The two countries concurred on the promotion of cooperation between Japan and Turkmenistan toward strengthening connectivity and border control. The two countries concurred on promoting cooperation toward strengthening the global supply chain, including “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” (Middle Corridor). Turkmenistan welcomed Japan’s cooperation, including the training for customs officials of Turkmenistan and support for logistics facilitation in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) aimed at strengthening connectivity and border control in the region, including “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” (Middle Corridor).

The two countries welcomed holding of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC 3) in Turkmenistan in 2025.

The two countries concurred on pushing forward the activity for the launch of direct flights between Japan and Turkmenistan. After the launch of the service, the two countries expect that cross-border travel becomes more

active and economic exchanges between the two countries are stimulated.

The two countries welcomed the delivery of Japanese-made vehicles, which has contributed to improving the quality of passenger service in Turkmenistan. The two countries also expect the progress in cooperation for the construction of a service station of Japanese-made vehicles in Ashgabat.

The two countries commended the introduction of the latest Japanese broadcasting equipment to the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography.

The two countries welcomed the active inter-parliamentary exchanges between Japan and Turkmenistan, including the visit to Japan by the National Leader of the Turkmen people, the Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in September 2022 and the mutual visit by the Parliamentary Friendship League of the two countries.

The two countries welcomed the progress in cooperation for the development of the seismic observation system and improvement of observation capacity in Ashgabat. The two countries also commended the implementation of the Seminar on Earthquake Disaster Mitigation for Central Asia and the Caucasus held in Almaty in April 2024.

The two countries welcomed the implementation of the technical cooperation “Project for the Capacity Development of Cardiovascular Disease Diagnosis”, that strengthened the capacity to deal with cardiovascular diseases and contributed to the maintenance of the health of Turkmenistan’s nationals. In relation to this cooperation, Japan expects smooth customs clearance procedures for the provision of equipment and smooth implementation of necessary renovation work by the Turkmenistan side for the hospital in Ashgabat to maximize the benefit of the provided equipment to patients.

The two countries welcomed strengthening the communication between agricultural authorities including in the field of the plant genetic resources.

Prospering with Empowered Human Resources through the Partnership between Japan and Central Asia

The two countries welcomed the support of the Japan Foundation and other organizations for the dramatic increase in the number of Japanese language learners in Turkmenistan, where human resource development and

exchange in the fields of science and technology, and social sciences are emphasized. The two countries expect that Japanese language learners will play an active role in various fields and work closely with Japanese companies and people concerned, thereby Japan-Turkmenistan relations will further develop. The two countries also welcomed the efforts being made in Japan to promote the Turkmen language.

The two countries concurred on developing human resources to serve as bridges between Japan and Turkmenistan through various study abroad and training programs.

The two countries commended the results of cooperation in improving statistics in Turkmenistan. The two countries also expect that the results will be used to publish more reliable statistical data in the future.

The two countries affirmed that people-to-people exchanges were of vital importance to bilateral relations. The two countries welcomed the implementation of faculty and student exchanges between the Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan and the University of Tsukuba of Japan.

The two countries concurred on working together toward women's empowerment, taking into account the WPS (Women, Peace and Security) perspective. Japan affirmed the willingness to consider future cooperation on the "One Village, One Product" movement.

The two countries commended cooperation in the "Development of advanced industrial human resource through Japanese Style Engineering Education" in the framework of the JICA training.

The two countries welcomed the signing of the Convention between Japan and Turkmenistan for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance, which will contribute to promoting mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.

The two countries concurred on promoting negotiations for an early conclusion of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) text negotiations.

Other fields

Political Field

The two countries commended the development of their bilateral relations through continued political dialogue, including the exchange of

dignitaries.

The two countries reaffirmed the importance of the implementation of political consultations on bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues, including the political consultation conducted in January of this year.

The two countries confirmed the progress in the exchange of dignitaries and cooperation between the two countries including the visit to Japan by President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov on the occasion of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

The two countries expressed their expectations for the exchange of views on regional affairs and for cooperation in bilateral and multilateral frameworks in areas such as disaster risk reduction and decarbonization.

The two countries welcomed holding the workshop on the rule of law in Japan to support counterterrorism measures in Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan in February of this year.

The two countries unequivocally condemned all inhumane acts, violence, atrocities, and all forms of terrorist acts. The two countries also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation between Japan and Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, in the areas of measures against illicit drugs and border control, in light of the situation in Afghanistan. The two countries concurred on continuation of cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism through strengthening border control and law enforcement capacity, intelligence and analysis capabilities, and inter-organizational network collaboration.

The two countries acknowledged the UN General Assembly Resolution designating Central Asia as a “Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation,” adopted by the initiative of Turkmenistan on behalf of the region.

The two countries concurred on the importance of promoting cooperation for the future peaceful development of Afghanistan. In this regard, the two countries concurred on holding bilateral consultations on Afghanistan at various levels of Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

The two countries expressed their commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons. In this regard, the two countries confirmed that they will cooperate in the areas of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The two countries concurred on further strengthening cooperation in various areas under the Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

signed between the two foreign ministers in January of last year.

Other areas

The two countries welcomed the progress of cultural exchange between the two countries, including the installation of a bronze statue of Nobel Prize-winning author Kawabata Yasunari in May of last year on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great Turkmen poet, Magtymguly Fragi.

The two countries welcomed the growing interest in Japanese martial arts such as Aikido, Judo, Karate and others in Turkmenistan. The two countries also expressed their intention to extend necessary cooperation for the promotion of Japanese martial arts in Turkmenistan.