

Partnership for Innovation and Growth
Joint Declaration by the Prime Minister of Japan
And the Taoiseach of Ireland

Tokyo, 2 December 2013

The Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D., visited Japan from 1-5 December as Working Visit upon Invitation by the Japanese Government. This visit was a return call by the Taoiseach to the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzō Abe, who made the first ever visit to Ireland by a Japanese Prime Minister in June 2013.

The two leaders decided to strengthen the close and friendly ties between Ireland and Japan based on shared values of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The leaders on both sides noted the very positive development of political and economic relations between Ireland and Japan in the recent past and resolved to expand and deepen their bilateral relationship in the future for the mutual benefit of both countries, including by encouraging greater levels of trade and investment between them.

Both leaders noted that 2017 will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan and decided to set that timeframe as a target for achieving a number of specific projects involving economic, cultural and research collaboration for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The two leaders decided to launch a new Japan-Ireland Partnership for Innovation and Growth in the following areas:

Economic Cooperation

Both leaders agreed that strong political determination and decisive actions are essential to help promote economic growth. Prime Minister Abe welcomed the Irish Government's successful efforts to put the national finances on a sustainable footing, boost employment and economic growth and he also welcomed Ireland's successful exit from the EU-IMF programme on December 15. The Taoiseach welcomed Prime Minister Abe's efforts to

foster economic growth through the “three arrows” of “aggressive monetary policy”, “flexible fiscal policy” and the “growth strategy that promotes private investment”. Both leaders reaffirmed that innovation is critical to creating new industries for growth and that Japan’s and Ireland’s growth strategies have identified many innovative industrial sectors in common that can bring about significant growth opportunities.

Based on these understandings, the leaders identified the following points to promote the economic prosperity of both countries;

1. Both sides note the significant potential to increase investment and trade in key economic sectors such as agri-food, financial services, ICT, lifesciences and clean technologies. Both Governments will encourage and support their relevant agencies and business sectors (including SMEs) to explore and develop all relevant opportunities for mutual benefit of both economies.
2. Japan and Ireland recognise the importance of promoting global economic recovery, restoring growth in their own economies and encouraging prosperity for their peoples. In particular, they underline the necessity to create employment for those of working age with a particular emphasis on ensuring employment opportunities for young people.
3. Recognising the importance of increasing the participation of women in the workforce, which would serve as both a factor for and outcome of economic growth, Ireland welcomed Japan’s initiative aiming to create “a society in which women shine”, announced by Prime Minister Abe at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Trade and Investment

There is considerable potential to significantly increase trade and investment between Japan and Ireland and the two sides emphasise their intention to draw full benefit from their positive political relationship and mutual co-operation to boost two-way trade and investment. In this context, both leaders reaffirmed that a deep and comprehensive Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would strengthen economic

relations between Japan and Ireland, and increase trade and investment in both sides for mutual growth.

In this context, both leaders welcomed the lifting of the Japanese ban on imports of beef and beef offal from Ireland on 2nd December 2013, and expected that this lifting as well as the decision by the EU to allow Japanese exports of those products to the EU market will significantly promote trade between two countries.

Both countries welcomed the memorandums of proposed cooperation between Ireland's Industrial Development Agencies, IDA Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) which will be formalised during the Taoiseach's visit. This will ensure that both sides build on the joint investment event held in April 2013. Specifically, IDA Ireland has undertaken to offer guidance to mid-size Japanese companies looking to enter the Irish and European Markets, supported by JETRO. Both sides will also promote two-way direct investment between Ireland and Japan.

Research, Development and Innovation

Both sides recognised that concentrating resources on the priority areas to stimulate innovation for practical applications and commercial viability is the key to achieve further growth. Aware of the strong emphasis placed by both countries on research, development and innovation, the two countries decided to work towards greater collaboration in this field.

The two leaders welcomed the inclusion of Japan in the Irish Government's International Scientific Cooperation Awards programme which affords the potential for closer collaboration in this area. Along with this, to share experience and knowledge on research, development and innovation, the Irish side will organise an event in Japan with the support of Japanese counterparts to introduce Ireland to Japanese business, academia and government with a view to help identify specific projects for future collaboration.

Both leaders highlighted the following sectors as having particular potential for closer cooperation.

- New medical devices and technologies

- The introduction of more sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies, particularly in the areas of renewable energy and ‘smart’ cities
- The development of new services for older people and in particular harnessing the potential of ICT to improve the quality of life for older people and to assist both countries in meeting their mutual challenge of caring for an ageing population

Education, Culture, Sports, Science, Technology and People-to-People Exchanges

At the meeting, the Taoiseach congratulated Japan on the success of Tokyo’s bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and wished the organisers every success. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to successfully host the Olympic and Paralympic games in Tokyo with the spirit of *omotenashi* or Japanese warm hospitality in cooperation with international society. The Taoiseach expressed Ireland’s continuing solidarity and support with those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and welcomed the progress that has been made in the recovery from this unprecedented disaster. Prime Minister Abe reiterated his deep appreciation for the solidarity and support which were extended from the people of Ireland on the great earthquake. Since recent official exchanges between the two countries have been more frequent and at a higher level than at any other time, both leaders reaffirmed their countries commitment to continuing this level of exchanges.

With this goal in mind and building on the Memorandum on Cooperation signed in May 2013 by the Japanese and Irish Ministers for Education in the areas of education, culture, sports, science and technology, both governments will support cooperation among universities and institutions including mobility of researchers and students. In this context, both leaders welcomed the meeting which was held by Irish and Japanese Universities on September 11, in order to promote exchanges of students and research cooperation.

Ireland will support Japan’s expressed intention to double the numbers of students studying abroad by 2020 and to improve the English-language levels of Japanese students.

They resolved to take further steps to promote such exchanges including through:

- Encouraging more use of the Working Holiday Agreement between Ireland and Japan;

- Promoting more frequent exchanges between schools, universities and other institutions;
- Supporting cultural activities and events in both countries.

They affirmed the importance of the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and expressed their support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Conference on ESD to be held in Japan in November 2014.

Japan-EU Relations

The leaders reiterated the importance they attach to a strong, dynamic and comprehensive relationship between the EU and Japan and their belief that this will bring clear benefits for both Japan and the EU.

They noted with satisfaction the continued progress in the ongoing negotiations of a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) on a comprehensive basis and an ambitious EPA/FTA since the start of the negotiations in April and looked forward to further progress towards the earliest possible conclusion of these two agreements.

They welcomed the success of the Japan-EU Summit on 19 November 2013 where Japan and the EU decided to further enhance their economic relationship, widen cooperation in the area of security and work together to advance global interests.

International Peace and Security, and Global Challenges

Ireland and Japan reiterate their strong commitment to a rules-based international order, with the United Nations at its centre, as the most effective means for the maintenance of international peace and security, the pursuit of economic and social development and the protection and promotion of human rights. In this context, Prime Minister Abe explained Japan's security policy and its determination to act as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" to contribute to regional and global peace and stability. The Taoiseach welcomed the prospect of Japan contributing more proactively to regional and global peace and security and its work to this end.

Ireland and Japan confirmed the close linkage between security in East Asia and Europe. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the universally recognised principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The two leaders shared the view that the legitimate use of sea and airspace are rights enshrined in international law and are essential for security, stability and prosperity. The two leaders concurred on the need to avoid any unilateral action that could increase tensions, to renounce the use of coercion and, instead, to seek peaceful, diplomatic and cooperative solutions, based on the principle of the rule of law.

Both leaders recognized the importance of UN reform, with particular emphasis on the Security Council, emphasising the necessity to improve its effectiveness, transparency and representativeness in order to reflect the reality of today's international community and in view of the 70th anniversary of the UN in 2015. In this respect, both sides reiterated their will to work together to achieve its reform.

The two countries will continue to work closely both in the bilateral and the UN frameworks to promote international peace and security, including annual bilateral consultations. They will seek various opportunities to work together in order to share experiences and promote best practice in the context of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations around the world.

Ireland and Japan will seek opportunities to work together in areas such as peace-building and economic development for the eradication of poverty in developing countries. In this context, both leaders welcomed the recent agreement on a joint project to deliver clean water to 23,000 people in Malawi as the latest example of what can be achieved when Japan and Ireland work together.

The two countries will seek to work closely together to promote disarmament and non-proliferation in relation to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. In particular, Ireland will invite Japan to participate in a disarmament education symposium to be held in Ireland in 2014, including possible participation by survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombs. Prime Minister Abe explained the upcoming Non-Proliferation and

Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) ministerial meeting in Hiroshima. The Taoiseach expressed Ireland's strong interest in the outcomes of the meeting.

Ireland and Japan shared the view that only a genuinely inclusive political solution can bring an end to the Syrian crisis, welcomed the decisive action taken by the UN Security Council to as well as by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) secure the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal and strongly urged the Syrian government to comply with its obligations in this regard, paving the way to a wider political understanding

Ireland and Japan strongly urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards its denuclearisation and to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. They also strongly urged North Korea to address, without delay, the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of promoting the concepts and principles underpinning human security. In this regard, they reached the common recognition that the post-2015 development agenda should be an effective framework with the aspect of human security as a guiding principle, to address issues such as poverty eradication, disaster risk reduction and universal health coverage.

They reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, including the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.

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