

“Tokyo Declaration”
Joint Statement of the Third Meeting
of the Japan-Arab Economic Forum
for the Development of Japan-Arab Economic Relations

December 16, 2013

The third meeting of the Japan-Arab Economic Forum was held in Tokyo on December 16, 2013, hosted by the Government of Japan on the basis of the Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC) between the Government of Japan and the League of Arab States (LAS). The Forum was very fruitful with a wide range of participation including ministers, government officials and businesspersons of both Japan and Arab countries. Participants shared the view that the result will lead to further development of Japan-Arab relations.

A. Development of Japan-Arab Economic Relations

1. Both the Japanese and the Arab sides confirmed that they are mutually indispensable partners to ensure their prosperity and that they would pursue further cooperation between them, bearing in mind the historic challenges that have been occurring since the second Forum, such as the democratic transition process in some of the Arab countries and the Great East Japan Earthquake.
2. Both sides welcomed that economic relations between Japan and Arab countries have vastly expanded through increasing diplomatic interactions epitomized by high-level mutual visits.
3. Both sides confirmed that, from the perspective of energy security, it is essential to strengthen their cooperation, in the fields of natural resources and energy, including stable supply of natural gas at competitive prices. Both sides reaffirmed their intentions to further strengthen collaboration for developing multi-layered economic relations.
4. Both sides recognized that the gradual progress of the transition process towards democratization in some countries in the Arab region is expected to take time. Both sides confirmed to continue providing long-term assistance for the efforts of these countries in the transitional process. Arab countries expressed their appreciation for Japan's support extended to them, mainly in the fields of political process and governance, human resource development, job creation and fostering of industries. Both sides also confirmed to further promote government-to-government and public-private cooperation in such fields.
5. Both sides emphasized that it is necessary to reinforce human networks among governments and private sectors. Both sides recognized that such efforts will enhance further improvement of the investment

climate in Arab countries and their move toward regional integration. Both sides also expressed their expectation that such efforts will integrate further investment by Japanese companies including small and medium-size enterprises (SME's) in Arab countries including ones facing instability. In this regard, safety and security of Japanese businesspersons and enterprises need to be ensured to further strengthen economic relation between Japan and Arab countries.

B. Cooperation in the fields of Energy, Environment and Infrastructure

6. Both sides emphasized the significance of energy security for both regions to secure their stable economic activities. In particular, both sides recognized the importance of cooperation in oil and gas industry.

7. Both sides shared a view on the importance of enhancing and strengthening their cooperation in expanding their use of renewable energies, and to promote cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency, peaceful use of nuclear energy, resource management such as water and food.

8. Both sides expressed their intention to further strengthen their relations and cooperation in the area of infrastructure development of mutual interest such as metro, petrochemical industry, desalination and wastewater treatment facilities, in Arab countries.

9. Both sides emphasized the importance of encouraging cooperation in the fields of Agriculture and Research in Agro-industry ensuring food security, eradicating hunger and combating environmental issues including desertification. Both sides also expressed their intention to work together for establishing resilient societies against natural and humanitarian disasters.

C. Cooperation in the fields of Human Resource, Science and Technology and Scientific Research toward Economic Diversification

10. Both sides recognized that stable democratic transition in some countries of the Arab region and job creation in Arab countries are urgent issues for regional stability. In this regard, both sides recognized the importance 1) to promote human and intellectual exchanges in order to fill the gaps among the countries, 2) to encourage educational and vocational training for the youth in such areas as capacity-building for governmental officials, and 3) to furthermore encourage technology transfer.

11. The Japanese side welcomed the Arab side's intention to encourage industries including SME's; and to promote Japan-Arab cooperation in the field of technology transfer to improve and diversify Arab markets.

12. Both sides emphasized the importance to seek further cooperation in the fields of science and technology through joint studies and researches.

D. Building Multi-layered Economic Relations

13. Both sides expressed their intention to further seek the progress of people-to-people exchanges among governments and private sectors. In this regard, both sides recognized the importance of promoting Japan-Arab cooperation in trade and investment.

14. Both sides shared the view that it is important to promote their cooperation in the agricultural, industrial and medical sectors.

15. Both sides expected that Arab countries further promote their regional integration, and discussed the possibility of Japan's support.

E. The Way Forward

16. Both sides welcomed that the Japan-Arab Political Dialogue would be held for the first time at the margin of the 4th Economic Forum at the level of Foreign Ministers. Both sides expressed their intention to enhance cooperation based on "the Mechanism for Japan-Arab Cooperation" which encompasses three pillars: the Economic Forum; Political Dialogue; and Cultural and Educational Cooperation, while reaffirming that the establishment of these frameworks aim at fundamentally strengthening the Japan-Arab relationship in order to materialize "The Comprehensive Partnership toward Stability and Prosperity", which Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe announced during his visit to the region on May 1st, 2013.

17. Both sides expressed their appreciation for Japan's arrangements and hospitality as the host and for the cooperation of the Arab Ambassadors' Council (AAC) in Japan and the Japanese embassies in Arab countries.

18. Both sides welcomed the Moroccan proposal to hold the 4th Forum in Morocco in 2014.

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