

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION  
ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN  
AND  
THE STATE OF MARYLAND IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

This Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “MOC”) is made by the Government of Japan and the State of Maryland in the United States of America (hereinafter collectively referred to as “both Sides” and individually as “Side”).

Both Sides share the objective of deepening their already strong economic and trade relations. Both Sides, taking into account the strengths and advantages of each Side, intend to further support and coordinate efforts in mutually beneficial fields, such as Liquefied Natural Gas (“LNG”), High-Speed Rail (“HSR”), sports and business, life science cooperation, direct investment, export promotion, academic cooperation and sister state and sister city economic partnership.

**Item 1 Areas of Cooperation**

Both Sides share the intention to cooperate on the following areas, according to the principles of equality and mutual benefit:

• **Liquefied Natural Gas**

LNG, including the Dominion Cove Point LNG Project in Lusby, Maryland, through appropriate cooperation and information sharing, which should bring substantial economic benefits including new investments, jobs, and tax revenues to Maryland while also strengthening Japan's energy security by providing Japan with stable and competitive LNG for more than 20 years. Both Sides will cooperate as appropriate to support such a productive long term relationship.

• **High-Speed Rail**

HSR, including Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (“SCMAGLEV”) and other passenger rail services, through an exchange of information and best practices on safety, planning, operations reliability, environmental friendliness, and technology in areas

such as tunneling and station area development, as well as the social and economic effects of HSR, SCMAGLEV, and other passenger rail services.

- **Sports and Business**

Promoting the growth of the sports industry and supporting opportunities for trade and partnership. As sports transcend differences and foster universal values, both Sides value the economic and cultural benefits of sports and are engaged in this important industry, including by utilizing such occasions as the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

- **Life Science Cooperation**

Life science cooperation, based on various ongoing cooperative projects among institutions in Japan and in Maryland. Taking into account these robust connections as a basis for teamwork, both Sides will, where appropriate, encourage and support institutions for their collaborative potential through the development of symposiums, workshops, and other relevant cooperative events.

- **Trade and Investment**

Trade and investment, including the promotion of business interactions between Japan and Maryland through mutual exchange of appropriate business and market information, as well as other cooperative activities. These activities will be carried out by the Japan External Trade Organization (“JETRO”) and the State, represented by the Maryland Department of Commerce (“Commerce”).

- **Academic Cooperation**

Academic cooperation, in support and encouragement of appropriate institutional collaboration between high schools, universities, and research institutions in Japan and Maryland through the enhancement of exchange programs, with a particular focus on the exchange of students and scientists in emerging areas such as cybersecurity, big data, energy technology, and quantum computing, among others.

- **Sister State and Sister City Economic Partnership**

Through the Sister State and Sister City programs, Japan and Maryland have maintained close ties in areas such as business and education. Since 1981, the Kanagawa Prefecture and Maryland have maintained a formal Sister State relationship. Similarly, the Kawasaki City and the City of Baltimore serve as Sister Cities and will celebrate their

40th anniversary in 2019. These important relationships link international officials, institutions and businesses, which result in assisting local businesses to find new opportunities and resources. Both Sides are committed to furthering these relationships and identifying trade opportunities.

## **Item 2 Forms of Cooperation**

Forms of cooperation may include the following, as well as any other forms decided by both Sides:

- Specific projects, including technology and infrastructure demonstration projects;
- Sharing appropriate information and experiences regarding policies and programs, as well as policy design and capacity building support;
- Exchanges and temporary assignments of personnel from one Side to the other;
- Promotion of cooperative research, development, and deployment projects in fields such as the life sciences and other technology between research institutes and universities in both Sides;
- Joint organization of symposiums, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and training;
- Participation in other commitments and/or initiatives, including multilateral consortiums;
- Innovation hubs;
- Promotion of participation and support from municipalities, research institutes, universities, and non-governmental organizations, as well as other organizations; and
- Any other mutually acceptable forms of cooperation that contribute to the goals of this MOC.

## **Item 3 Implementation**

Both Sides will, on a regular basis, inform and consult with one another on matters of common interest that represent opportunities for mutual benefit consistent with this MOC.

To oversee and implement this MOC, the Government of Japan designates the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (“MOFA”), the Cabinet Secretariat, Office of Healthcare Policy, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (“MEXT”), the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (“MHLW”), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (“METI”), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism

(“MLIT”), the Japan External Trade Organization (“JETRO”), and the Embassy of Japan in the United States; and the State of Maryland designates the Maryland Department of Commerce (“Commerce”), the Maryland Department of Transportation (“MDOT”), and the Office of the Secretary of State (“SOS”).

These organizations will coordinate the implementation of this MOC, as appropriate, with other commitments between entities in Japan and Maryland.

#### **Item 4 Duration, Termination, Modification**

This MOC is not legally binding and does not create any legal or equitable rights or obligations on either Side.

The cooperation under this MOC will continue four years from the date of its signature by both Sides. Modification of this MOC or extension of the duration of the cooperation under this MOC may be decided by consent of both Sides in a signed writing.

Either Side may terminate the cooperation under this MOC after 45 days written notice to the other Side.

This MOC is signed in Annapolis on the 25th day of March, 2019 in the Japanese and English languages, both texts having equal values.

Shinsuke J. Sugiyama  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the United States of America

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor  
State of Maryland