

Five-Year Joint Action Plan on Japan - Thailand Strategic Economic Partnership *Towards a More Resilient and Sustainable Future*

I. OVERVIEW

Japan and Thailand have forged friendship and mutual trust as well as a resilient economic relationship through over 600 years of exchanges. In this regard, Japan and Thailand established diplomatic relations on 26 September 1887. Relations between the two countries have evolved and developed into a Strategic Partnership, particularly in the economic dimension, with Japan being the largest contributor of official development assistance (ODA) and the largest investor in Thailand for many decades.

Thailand is an important hub in Southeast Asia for Japanese companies. Presently, Thailand embraces approximately 6,000 Japanese companies and Japan's foreign direct investment accounts for approximately one-third of the total accumulated foreign direct investment into Thailand. Through the Thailand-Plus-One Strategy, Japanese companies in Thailand have also extended their supply chain network to neighbouring countries of Thailand. In addition, Thailand has collaborated in partnership with Japan under trilateral cooperation to provide technical assistance and promote economic development in third countries in the Mekong sub-region and beyond.

That being said, the economic relationship between the two countries are facing common new challenges, such as from the transformation in the geo-political and geo-economic landscapes, aging society and low birthrate, the rapid shift towards carbon neutrality, introduction of the state-of-the-art technologies including AI, and impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as energy security, food security and disruption of supply chains. These diverse challenges require Japan and Thailand to re-examine ways to respond more effectively and innovatively to the changing situation by leveraging and synergizing cooperation in areas of mutual interests at the bilateral, regional and multilateral frameworks with a view to injecting greater dynamism and vitality to the Strategic Partnership, while upholding rule-based international order and principles and contributing to the development and prosperity as well as connectivity of the two countries and the broader region.

In view of the above and on the occasion of the 135th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Thailand in 2022, the two countries shared the view on the importance of making the Strategic Partnership, in particular economic partnership, relevant with changing times and co-creating economic relations as equal partners by charting a new course for cooperation towards a more resilient and sustainable future. Both sides concurred on developing "The Five-Year Joint Action Plan on Japan - Thailand Strategic Economic Partnership" on the occasion of the 5th Meeting of Japan - Thailand High Level Joint Commission (HLJC) on 11 August 2021. Japan and Thailand hereby formulate this Plan as a mid-term guideline to set direction for the economic relationship during 2022-2026.

Moving forward, the relevant agencies of both countries will implement and follow-up this Five-Year Joint Action Plan effectively under the implementing mechanisms referred to in the respective areas of cooperation. The HLJC will review the overall implementation and progress of this Plan in an appropriate manner.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. Human Resource Development, Regulatory Reform, Innovation

- 1.1 Enhancement of Business Environment and Investment Promotion
- 1.2 Human Resource Development and Advance Education for Targeted Industries
- 1.3 Smart Industrial and SMEs & Start-up Promotion
- 1.4 Space, Science, Technology, and Innovation Development
- 1.5 Development of Thailand's Special Economic Zone and Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)

2. Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy

- 2.1 Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Industry
- 2.2 Environment and Energy for Carbon Neutrality
- 2.3 Smart Agriculture and Food Processing
- 2.4 Healthcare and Medical Industry Development
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3. Infrastructure

- 3.1 Transportation and Quality Infrastructure Development for Enhanced Connectivity
- 3.2 Digital Trade and E-commerce
- 3.3 Digital Infrastructure (Communication)
- 3.4 Smart City
- 3.5 Urban Development

1. Human Resource Development, Regulatory Reform, Innovation

1.1 Enhancement of Business Environment and Investment Promotion

<Objective>

To further develop G-to-G cooperation between Japan and Thailand for the economic development of Thailand, including cooperation on information sharing and intellectual contribution to policy planning by the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Secretariat, in order to promote new investment and expand existing investment by Japanese investors.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Promote and incentivize investment from Japan in Thailand in targeted industries such as (1) machines, automation and robotics, (2) digital, (3) next generation automobile, (4) medicine, medical device and healthcare, (5) biotechnology, (6) advanced materials and specialty chemicals, (7) smart electronics, and (8) agricultural and food products processing, and food packaging, as well as promote cooperation in the transfer of technology, innovation and human resources development;
- Improve the business systems, through easing of regulations and enhancing transparency and predictability of the customs and taxation system, and promoting financial cooperation, for example, by learning from obstacles that Japanese companies face in their activities in Thailand;
- Promote activities by Japanese companies that contribute effectively to the development of Thailand by sharing information on the process of consideration and implementation of main domestic projects in a timely and interactive manner through a dialogue with the implementing organs of the special economic zones such as EEC;
- Enhance the business environment for Japanese and Thai investors in the region by using ODA schemes of both countries which aim at improving the investment environment in the Mekong sub-region;
- Expedite the conclusion of the Social Security Agreement between Japan and Thailand, whose main purpose is, among others, to avoid dual coverage of contribution to the pension systems of both countries and, by doing so, reduce burdens for the private sector of both countries investing in each other; and
- Strengthen cooperation to fully implement and effectively utilize the economic partnership agreements, which both countries participate in, including Japan - Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA), ASEAN - Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement, and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and thereby deliver benefits to business between Japan and Thailand.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- HLJC
- Sub-Committee on the Enhancement of Business Environment under JTEPA
- The consultation on the customs and taxation issues with the Minister of Finance of Thailand in the presence of the representatives of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok (JCC)
- Japan - Thailand Joint Working Group on Financial Cooperation
- Japan - Thailand Agricultural High Level Cooperation Dialogue (HLCD)
- Projects by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative
- ODA schemes as agreed in Agreement on Technical Co-operation between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of Japan (signed in 1981), Partnership Arrangement between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (signed in 2017) and the Memorandum on Japan - Thailand Partnership Programme (Phase 3) (signed in 2019) such as bilateral development

cooperation between Japan and Thailand, the third-country training by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Thailand, and the training programme for government officials of neighbouring countries by Thailand

- Bilateral Dialogues on the Social Security Agreement among the relevant offices
- Joint Committee, Sub-Committees and Special Sub-Committees on Trade under JTEPA, ASEAN - Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Joint Committee (AJCEP - JC), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Joint Committee (RJC) for fully implementing and effectively utilizing JTEPA, AJCEP Agreement, and RCEP Agreement respectively
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS

1.2 Human Resource Development and Advance Education for Targeted Industries

1.2.1 Human Resource Development by JICA

<Objective>

To enhance the partnership between the two countries by building social networks with shared philosophies in the Asia-Pacific region and to develop the reciprocal and sustainable economy and industry.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Promote realization of “Thailand 4.0” by developing highly skilled and knowledgeable industrial human resource;
- Expand the higher education network among ASEAN and other regions; and
- Enhance human resource development in the field of public policy by providing the candidates of future leaders with opportunities to study in Japan.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- “Industrial Human Resources Development Project” by the Governments of Japan and Thailand through a Yen Loan cooperation
- ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)
- Programmes for study in Japan in the field of public policy

1.2.2 Industrial Human Resources Development through Thai KOSEN

<Objective>

To promote the development of advanced skilled industrial human resource with a view to contribute to the realization of “Thailand 4.0”, the vision of the Government of Thailand, through the introduction of the Japanese KOSEN education system, which provides consecutive five-year engineers education emphasizing experiments, laboratory works, Project based learning and Problem based learning (PBL), and a work-integrated Bachelor’s-degree-equivalent advanced course. The KOSEN education system can help facilitate knowledge transfers to Thai staff and students in the First S-Curve and New S-Curve industries, and develops practical and innovative engineers who will take active roles in Japanese companies, especially in invention and innovation development, including those in the EEC.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Introduce Japanese KOSEN education system in an appropriate manner to the KOSEN Institute of King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KOSEN-KMITL) and the KOSEN Institute of King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (KOSEN KMUTT), both of which have been established under the “Industrial Human Resources Development Project”, a Yen Loan cooperation project by the Governments of Japan and Thailand;

- Develop a necessary system for the implementation of the project by Thai side, including legislation of Thai KOSEN and recruitment of teachers;
- Provide a necessary support from Japanese side such as dispatching experts who have expertise in the KOSEN education system and coordinating with the industrial sector, offering trainings for Thai KOSEN teachers and staffs, and receiving Thai KOSEN students studying at KOSENs in Japan;
- Provide necessary support to ensure that the standard and quality of education of KOSEN Institutes in Thailand is equivalent to KOSEN International Standard (KIS) set by Japanese side;
- Explore the possibility to further expand the KOSEN education system across Thailand; and
- Explore the possibility of the KOSEN Education Center (KEC) to be established by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, to support teaching, learning, and research of Thai KOSEN staff and students, encourage the industrial linkage with Thai KOSEN Institutes, especially in work-integrated education and student career development, and serve as a training center, including training the trainers, providing new-skill, reskill and upskill training for industrial sectors, and mentoring other KOSEN establishments.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- The Board of Policy consisting of the relevant authorities of Japan and Thailand which are in charge of the “Industrial Human Resources Development Project”
- The Academic Sub-committee which is in charge of education related matters of the project under the supervision of the Board of Policy
- The management sub-committee which is in charge of scholarship and sustainability related matters of the project under the supervision of the Board of Policy
- A task force to implement industrial linkage which will be appointed and be in charge of overseeing the promotion of industrial collaboration and cooperation among industries and Thai KOSEN institutes under the supervision of the Board of Policy

1.3 Smart Industrial and SMEs & Start-up Promotion

<Objective>

To enhance productivity by introducing equipment and system for automation in various industries such as manufacturing industry among others and to promote businesses operated by SMEs and start-ups.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Promote cooperation in advancing highly-skilled and knowledgeable human resource development through the human resource trainings with relevant Thai authorities including the Thai-German Institute under the Ministry of Industry;
- Create business opportunities by supporting such projects as feasibility studies and organizing matching events among others;
- Promote investment and expansion of Japanese start-ups which have state-of-the-art technology and know-how that contribute to the solution of social challenges as well as to collaboration between Japanese and Thai companies, SMEs and start-ups in wide range of industries, including smart industry, agricultural processing, medical device, robotics, EVs, bio, and logistics; and
- Exchange experts on robotics and smart industry for Human Resources Development (HRD) with the Center of Robotic Excellence (CoRE)

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Cooperation including the MOC on Lean IoT Plant Management and Execution (LIPE)
- Memorandums of Understanding between Department of Industrial Promotion, Ministry of Industry of Thailand and local governments of Japan on supporting collaborations between entrepreneurs and enterprises of Japanese and Thai locals.

- Various projects for private partnership between Japanese and Thai companies including start-ups provided by JETRO in corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative
- “Industrial Human Resources Development Project” between the Governments of Japan and Thailand which supports the development of highly-skilled and knowledgeable industrial human resource
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS

1.4 Space, Science, Technology, and Innovation Development

<Objective>

To promote cooperation, including development of human resources, in the field of space, science, technology and innovation.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Consider a joint experiment using satellite-related technology including quasi-zenith satellite system;
- Promote cooperation in the field of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)-based control stations;
- Promote exchanges of know-how on human resource development relating to science and technology in the key areas including engineering, applied science, natural science, medical science, pharmacy, agriculture, social science, and humanities; and
- Organize business matching events.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- An experimental project on disaster control and MADOCA (Multi-GNSS Advanced Demonstration tool for Orbit and Clock Analysis) using geographical information from Japan’s quasi-zenith satellite system “Michibiki”
- A cooperation project concerning the promotion of operating system and usage of GNSS-based control stations including support for the capacity development of a national data center through ODA
- A seminar or an event to recruit human resources relating to science and technology, and innovation
- An exchange programme of space human resources in cooperation with JICA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- International joint research and human resources exchange to enhance the research and development ability and to create innovation for problem solution
- Workshops among related agencies such as Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council.

1.5 Development of Thailand’s Special Economic Zones and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)

<Objective>

To upgrade and add value to the targeted industries and key infrastructures in EEC;

To revitalize rural economy through special economic zones in the border areas; and

To improve connectivity between Thailand and neighbouring countries as well as between the EEC and other Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Thailand.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Promote investment in the targeted industries such as (1) health, (2) digital, (3) low-carbon technology, and (4) logistics, human resource development, and research and development among others through tax and other incentives in the EEC;

- Promote investment in EEC promotional zones for specific industries, especially EECd (Digital Park), EECmd (Medical Hub), and EECh (High-Speed Rail Ribbon Sprawl), in conjunction with investment in targeted industries;
- Promote ongoing large-scale projects in collaboration with Japan in the EEC including (1) smart city, (2) EECi (Innovation Platform), (3) Genomics Thailand, and (4) Utapao Airport/Airport City;
- Cooperate to revitalize local economy in the border areas and to promote trade by improving both the system and operational aspects; and
- Cooperate to develop a production supply chain to connect EEC with other Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Thailand.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Dialogues with the relevant authorities including the EEC Office
- Various projects including those of JETRO for improving the Thai investment promotion policies corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative

2. Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy

2.1 Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Industry

<Objective>

To establish a new model for the Japan - Thailand industrial cooperation by promoting innovative creation, technological development, and new investment and business expansion through bilateral cooperation in order to enhance competitiveness of Thai industry through the BCG Economy Model, while maximizing Japan's efforts towards Green Transformation (GX).

<Joint Action Plan>

- Promote new investment and business expansion in the areas of BCG through coordination between Thailand's BCG Economy Model and Japan's Green Growth Strategy;
- Support for business activities such as experimental projects on BCG by Japanese companies in Thailand;
- Promote private partnership such as technical experiment and joint research between the two countries;
- Achieve sustainable food system through collaboration between Thailand's BCG Economy Model and Japan's Measures for achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation (MeaDRI);
- Cooperate in R&D in fields related to BCG Economy Model; and
- Cooperate to promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and sound management of industrial/municipal waste, including but not limited to plastic waste and End of Life Vehicle.

(*The details of areas that can be categorized as BCG economy will be elaborated in respective chapters.)

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Various G-to-G dialogues on the synergy between Thailand's BCG Economy Model and Japan's Green Growth Strategy and on the BCG related areas of industry
- Projects and/or various seminars hosted by JICA, JETRO and New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) in corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative
- HLCD
- Cooperation under the MOC between the Department of Industrial Work, Ministry of Industry of Thailand and Environmental Regeneration and Material Cycles Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the Field of Waste Management

- Cooperation under the MOU between the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS

2.2 Environment and Energy for Carbon Neutrality

<Objective>

To aim at striking a balance between environment and economy by solving environmental issues and realizing carbon neutrality in Thailand while duly considering stable supply and price of electricity in line with the scientific analysis of Thailand's situation towards carbon neutrality, in the area of Green Economy, through synergies between Thailand's BCG Economy Model, Japan's Green Growth Strategy and the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI).

<Joint Action Plan>

- Strengthen seamless cooperation between the public and private sectors from innovation and technology development to investment in the area of Green Economy;
- Develop a system through the Government of Japan to promote the introduction of renewable energy and energy management systems by raising awareness on the potential of the growth of Green Economy and support for demonstration projects on decarbonization by the Japanese companies in Thailand;
- Promote new investment and project expansion including business creation and infrastructure export by Japanese companies which contribute to promotion of clean energy that utilizes the widest variety of energy sources and technologies, including but not limited to biomass, waste-to-energy (WtE), hydrogen, fuel ammonia, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and circular economy including 3Rs of waste such as plastic waste;
- Advance cooperation and human resource development for policy making and implementation to realize BCG Economy Model and to accelerate various and pragmatic energy transitions through the AETI;
- Promote cooperation through Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) projects related to renewable energy and energy conservation such as low-carbon operation of power grid;
- Evaluate the current situation in the energy sector in Thailand and related technological developments to identify challenges and ways to achieving carbon neutrality as well as to propose roadmap and measures related to sector including development of EV technology, energy storage technology, development of infrastructure and measures implemented during energy transition period; and
- Identify and develop the necessary biochemical materials which can help realize BCG Economy Model and carbon neutrality.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Various G-to-G dialogues on environment and energy
- Supporting schemes by the Government of Japan, JICA, JETRO, NEDO and among others based on the Memorandum of Intention between the governments on cooperation for realizing the carbon neutrality in Thailand
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS

2.3 Smart Agriculture and Food Processing

<Objective>

To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of Japan - Thailand joint activities through the existing bilateral technical cooperation and relevant sub-regional and regional bodies;

To address current and relevant mutual interest issues in the agriculture and food industry;
To establish and achieve sustainable agri-food systems while keeping a balance between the improvement in productivity and environmental protection; and
To stabilize and contribute to the world agricultural and food supply, in consideration of the world food supply situation.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Promote G-to-G, B-to-B and B-to-G cooperation through making MOCs between governments, businesses, and between business and government, and through JETRO schemes, and expand joint research projects and existing bilateral cooperation;
- Cooperate to implement technical experiments by private sectors and provide opportunities to explain incentive programmes available for businesses;
- Share information on Japanese companies which have interest in operating businesses in Thailand and their technologies;
- Enhance business environment for food-related Japanese companies for their smooth operation in Thailand, which is a hub for food export and production, and share information on regulations related to food processing and production;
- Implement the Joint Statement on Sustainable Agricultural Production and Food Systems under the MeaDRI;
- Discuss towards the implementation of technical cooperation projects on the promotion of smart agriculture or the establishment of smart food chain; and
- Cooperation on joint research in the field of technology and technology matching among universities, research institutions, and businesses.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- HLCD
- Utilizing relevant existing public and private schemes, such as from JICA and JETRO, in supporting projects on Smart Agriculture and Food Processing in corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative and Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG Model)
- Memorandum of Cooperation for Developing Smart Agriculture Between the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

2.4 Healthcare and Medical Industry Development

<Objective>

To promote cooperation in research and development, and healthcare and medical products of the two countries to improve the quality of life of the people in Thailand and its neighbouring countries through enhancement of quality of medical treatment, elderly care and health promotion.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Improve financial management of the public medical insurance system in Thailand by making use of the knowledge from the public medical insurance operation in Japan;
- Conduct joint research to improve access to Japanese innovative pharmaceuticals and medical devices in Thailand;
- Promote access to high quality healthcare and medical products to improve quality of life of the aged in Thailand;
- Promote information sharing on pharmaceuticals and medical devices and exchange relevant regulations;
- Enhance activities of aging societies of the two countries with new normal living, involving technology usage, online learning/entertainment, balancing life, and guidelines to preventing themselves from the pandemic; and

- Provide assistances to countries in Mekong sub-region and ASEAN through Japan - Thailand / Japan - ASEAN technical cooperation schemes in order to build a resilient community of ASEAN to better prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies, including cooperation for the expeditious operationalisation and sustainable operation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED)

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- The JICA technical cooperation project which enables a Japanese expert, the Ministry of Public Health and the National Medical Insurance Organization to work together
- Joint symposium co-organized by Japanese and Thai regulatory authorities, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency of Japan (PMDA) and the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for sharing information between regulators and industries as well as for sharing Japan's review experience on products approved in Japan with Thai regulator
- PMDA's Asia Training Center for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Regulatory Affairs for sharing Japan's review experience
- JICA's private partnership schemes and JETRO projects which supports Japanese companies operating in Thailand and exporting to Thailand in the area of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative
- ASEAN regional technical cooperation, cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS, and the third-country training with Thailand
- Cooperation under MOC in the field of Healthcare between Japan and Thailand

2.5 Quality Tourism

<Objective>

To promote visits of tourists between Japan and Thailand in order to revitalize the economy, to revive the tourism industry that has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to further deepen mutual understanding between the people of the two countries through visits of tourists.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Work closely among officials of both countries to promote visits of tourists as soon as tourism promotion becomes possible, taking into account of the COVID-19 situations of both countries among others; and
- Promote Quality Tourism by sharing insights on sustainability-conscious measures.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Activities by the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute (JTTRI) and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)
- Business meetings and promotions targeting travel agencies
- Consultation under Sub-Committee on Tourism under JTEPA

3. Infrastructure

3.1 Transportation and Quality Infrastructure Development for Enhanced Connectivity

<Objective>

To closely work together between the two countries for a variety of infrastructure projects in order to enhance connectivity of economic corridors within Thailand and between Thailand and its neighbouring countries by developing quality infrastructure.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Cooperate between Japan and Thailand to build both hard and soft infrastructure projects that deliver the quality infrastructure to Thailand;

- Cooperate for the enhancement of connectivity within Thailand and with the neighbouring countries which are important supply chain for Thailand through the Economic Corridors; and
- Cooperate and invest in research and innovation, to improve existing infrastructure technologies, along with implementation of new technologies in future infrastructure projects.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Meetings between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Transport of Thailand for the development of high-speed rail project between Bangkok and Chiang Mai based on the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Railway Sector signed in June, 2017 between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Transport of Thailand
- Following up of coordination between Japanese and Thai companies related to the high-speed rail project that connects the three airports (Don Mueang - Suvarnabhumi - U-Tapao Airports)
- Cooperation for the development of the urban railway system in Bangkok through formulating the M-Map2 by the Ministry of Transport of Thailand
- Support for the long-distance transport railway by the State Railway of Thailand to solve problems such as obsolete and environmentally burdening facilities
- Following up of coordination between Japanese and Thai companies related to the expansion and operation businesses of the U-Tapao International Airport
- Cooperation through the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Policy Planning and Technologies of Road Traffic signed in May, 2021, between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Transport of Thailand
- Cooperation between the National Science and Technology Development Agency of Thailand and Japanese counterpart to improve infrastructure technologies
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS
- Following up of flood control measures in Thailand based on Comprehensive Flood Management Plan for the Chao Phraya River Basin in the Kingdom of Thailand made by JICA in June, 2013

3.2 Digital Trade and E-commerce

<Objective>

To further encourage cooperation between the two countries for the development of e-commerce system in the digital industry, which includes promoting Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) that contributes to an open Asia-Pacific Region, as well as strengthening consumer and business trust while respecting both domestic and international legal frameworks.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Share knowledge on the digital sector's system, managements and its international cooperation;
- Advance the WTO E-commerce Joint Statement Initiative towards a high standard and commercially meaningful outcome;
- Generate trust service businesses and develop a fair competitive environment for platformers in order to enhance transparency of the digital sector and to promote investment into the digital industry as well as to vitalize its market; and
- Promote cooperation and connectivities in infrastructures, payment methods and services, including cooperation between private sectors in cross-border QR payments.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Various schemes by the Government of Japan and JICA which contribute to active investment and market vitalization in the digital sector in Thailand

- Japan - Thailand Joint Working Group on Financial Cooperation
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS

3.3 Digital Infrastructure (Communication)

<Objective>

To establish a cooperative system to deploy AI/IOT platform and solution by utilizing such networks as open and secure 5G such as Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) and to enhance security and credibility.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Upgrade network as digital infrastructure, consider demonstration projects to promote its use, organize seminars on the data use and utilization, and create opportunities to match research institutions and related companies; and
- Improve cybersecurity capabilities in the ASEAN countries including Thailand through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Demonstration projects for effective and efficient uses of network and frequency band including open and secure 5G such as O-RAN
- Cooperation through the MOC on information and communications technology
- Seminars on the data use such as collection, analysis and protection of data
- Cooperation on the security sector that supports the digital infrastructure
- Various schemes by the Government of Japan and JICA (e.g. technical cooperation, seminars) to improve cybersecurity capabilities of AJCCBC in corresponding to the implementation of the Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative
- Cooperation under the Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Mekong - Japan Cooperation and ACMECS

3.4 Smart City

<Objective>

To promote smart city policies which enable to upgrade the level of cities by developing both hard and soft infrastructure as a whole; and

To solve various issues that cities and regions face and to build sustainable urban cities and regions, that eventually contribute to further advancement of the Thai economy.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Share knowledge on smart city policies between the two countries and work together for implementation of smart cities in Thailand, including the new and existing smart cities project in the EEC which is currently under construction; and
- Promote R&D, joint investment in the fields of digital technology to drive smart cities and economic activities in industry 4.0

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Cooperation for the development of smart cities in Thailand under the framework of the Japan-ASEAN Smart Cities Network
- Asia-Japan investing for the Future Initiative
- Cooperation between Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) of Thailand and Japanese partners

3.5 Urban Development

<Objective>

To promote investment from Japan to the urban development sector in Thailand including Bangkok.

<Joint Action Plan>

- Work together in sharing information on the real estate market and improve the system of the real estate market in order to promote investment from Japan.

<Implementing Mechanisms>

- Dialogue on the real estate market in Thailand through the collaboration among the JCC Construction Committee and real-estate companies in Thailand
- JICA projects which contribute to improvement of property valuation method for land and building values, and enhancement of accuracy and transparency of the evaluation with the use of digital technology

This Five-Year Joint Action Plan will commence on the date of its signing.

Signed in duplicate at Bangkok on 17 November 2022 in the English language.

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Mr. Don Pramudwinai
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