

**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 this “MOC”) is made by the Governments of Japan and the State of Maryland in the United States of America (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Both Sides” and individually as a “Side”).

Both Sides encourage the strengthening of the larger Japan-United States economic relationship and recognize that the State of Maryland in the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as “Maryland”) can and has played an important contributing role. The original Japan-Maryland MOC, signed in August 2016, was one of the first cooperative arrangements between Japan and an American state. The original memorandum was renewed in March 2019 to deepen the already strong economic and trade relations.

Both Sides, considering each other’s collective and individual strengths, intend to further collaborate and coordinate efforts in mutually beneficial areas, such as energy, high-speed rail development and passenger rail services, life sciences and biotechnology, digital innovation, academic cooperation, trade and investment, and Sister State and Sister City Economic Partnerships.

Cooperation can also be enhanced by the exchange of dialogue and collaboration promoted through upcoming activities such as the 2025 World Expo to be held in Osaka, Japan.

Item 1. Areas of Cooperation

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

- **Energy**

Both Sides will work together to sustain a stable and long-term energy relationship. The Cove Point LNG Project in Lusby, Maryland, which has and will continue to strengthen Japan's energy security with liquefied natural gas for twenty years, is one such example. Both Sides will cooperate as appropriate in the development of collaboration in areas such as hydrogen, fuel cells, solar, and wind power with both their net-zero goals in mind.

- **High-Speed Rail Development and Passenger Rail Services**

Collaboration opportunities regarding the development of modern and efficient transportation modes such as High-Speed Rail (“HSR”), including Magnetic Levitation (“MAGLEV”) and other passenger rail services will be explored as appropriate through the 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 these transportation modes. The recent \$2.2 billion contract received by Hitachi Rail to manufacture subway cars in Hagerstown, Maryland for the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) is one such example.

- **Life Sciences and Biotechnology**

Japan and Maryland greatly benefit from a concentration of stellar research institutions and global biotechnology companies. There is potential to build upon already robust cooperation in areas such as vaccine research, cell therapy, new drug development, and life-saving discoveries.

- **Digital Innovation**

International research collaboration is essential to fully realizing the potential of next generation digital innovation and advanced technologies, including quantum, artificial intelligence, machine learning, information technology, cybersecurity and smart cities, and Both Sides recognize that they are indispensable in further developing business, investment, and research opportunities for Both Sides.

- **Academic Cooperation**

Academic cooperation, which support and encourage collaboration between high schools, universities, and research institutions in Maryland and Japan through exchange programs, will be pursued as appropriate with a particular focus on aforementioned areas of cooperation such as energy, transportation, life sciences, and digital innovation, among others.

- **Trade and Investment**

Trade and investment activities, 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, will be carried out by the Japan External Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as “JETRO”) and the Maryland Department of Commerce (hereinafter referred to as “Commerce”).

- **Sister State and Sister City Economic Partnerships**

Through the Sister State and Sister City programs, Japan and Maryland have maintained close long-standing ties in areas such as education and business, assisting local companies to find new international opportunities and resources. As examples, Kanagawa Prefecture and Maryland have maintained a formal Sister State relationship since 1981, and Kawasaki City and the City of Baltimore have been Sister Cities since 1979.

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 on Both Sides;
- Joint organization of symposia, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and training;
- Participation in other commitments and/or initiatives, including multilateral consortiums;
- Industry engagement through Innovation Hub models, such as the Kanagawa Science Park or the Shonan Health Innovation Park or the Maryland Global Gateway Initiative;
- 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, the Office of Healthcare Policy, the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (“METI”), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (“MLIT”), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (“MEXT”), the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (“MHLW”), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (“MIC”), JETRO, and the Embassy of Japan in the United States; and the State of Maryland designates 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 Both Sides.

The cooperation under this MOC will continue for four years from the date of its signature by Both Sides and may be revised and/or its duration extended as decided by Both Sides in a signed writing.

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

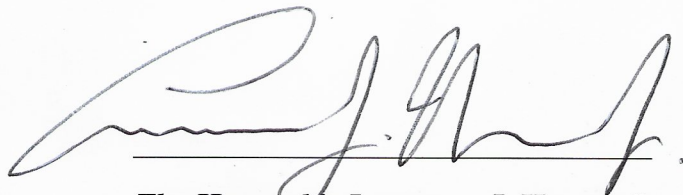
This MOC is signed in Annapolis, Maryland on the 12th day of December, 2022 by Both Sides in the Japanese and English languages, both texts having equal value.

On behalf of the Government of Japan:

On behalf of the State of Maryland:



*His Excellency Tomita Koji
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States*



*The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor*