

Joint Statement

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the State of Israel launch Japan-Israel Innovation Partnership

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

The Economic Policy Dialogue at ministerial level between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and the Ministry of Economy and Industry (MoEI) of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to collectively as “both sides”) was held in Jerusalem on May 3, 2017. The Japanese side was led by Mr. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. The Israeli side was led by Mr. Eli Cohen, Minister of Economy and Industry.

Both sides welcomed the substantial development of the bilateral economic relationship under the spirit of “Joint Statement on Building a New Comprehensive Partnership” announced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in May 2014. Since then, thin water flow has become strong current. Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Mr. Naftali Benett, Minister of Economy and Industry, signed the memorandum of cooperation on Industrial Research and Development (R&D) by Japanese and Israeli companies during Minister Motegi’s visit to Israel in July 2014. The Economic Policy Dialogue and Industrial R&D Dialogue at senior official level have been held three times in total in the past three years. Furthermore, the Agreement for the Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment was signed by Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan, and Mr. Moshe Kahlon, Minister of Finance, State of Israel, in February 2017. Economic ties in the private sector have expanded, having a twenty-fold increase in direct investments from Japan to Israel over the past three years and multiple high-tech top Japanese companies opening offices and research facilities in Israel. Both governments supported 64 government and business events including dialogues, delegations, exhibition, forums and seminars held in Japan and Israel (hereinafter referred to collectively as “both countries”) in the past three years.

Both sides are pursuing Connected Industries as new vision for the future of industries. The synergy of both countries' growth strategies will yield benefits which each country alone would not be able to optimize, and contribute to accelerating global innovation. Building on the achievements, both sides decided to launch the Japan-Israel Innovation Partnership to promote wider, deeper and faster cooperation in order to leverage the synergies to its fullest.

Both sides also shared the notion that sound market competition, free and fair trade and investment and the protecting of intellectual property rights, are prerequisite for innovation. To this end, both sides decided to implement the following policy instruments and initiatives.

Facilitating Cybersecurity Cooperation

Both sides welcomed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in the field of Cybersecurity as the first step of cooperation in the cybersecurity field. Both sides expressed high expectation that the MOC will encourage investments and promote cooperation between the private sectors in both countries. Both sides expect that the following activities will take place under the MOC in a successful manner.

- (i) Japanese experts and decision makers will participate in training programs in Israel.

- (ii) Joint training between both countries will be held by Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD) for the purpose of enhancing cybersecurity skills and sharing experiences of both countries.

- (iii) Israeli leading organizations and experts will contribute to the development of Industrial Cyber Security Center of Excellence of Japan.

- (iv) MoEI welcomed Japan booth and Japanese business delegation by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and METI in CYBERTECH 2016 and 2017 in Israel and METI appreciated the cooperation of the Israeli side in business matching and adherent networking events. MoEI announced that the Israeli booth will be exhibited at Japan IT Week at Tokyo Big Sight in May 2017 focusing on cybersecurity technologies and business matching will be held in this event.

- (v) Both sides will promote a workshop of experts from government entities and industry aimed at sharing information and views on the current situation in cybersecurity and responses to cyberattacks in order to enhance cooperation for sharing best practices on protection and mitigation against cyberattacks. MoEI expressed its expectation that the experts will analyze the cybersecurity challenges in new digital spaces (such as vehicles, aviation, medical IoT, etc.) as well as threats and risks in mass events.

Promoting Industrial R&D Cooperation

Both sides welcomed the achievements of the co-funding program by New Energy Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) and Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) since 2015 and its contribution to foster communication between business communities of both countries. Both sides recognized that SMEs and companies outside of Tokyo are also important players to enhance industrial R&D cooperation and decided to expand their cooperation in other areas, as well as to enhance activities in advertisement, business matching and pre-assessment in order to increase the number of pipeline projects and strengthen innovation cooperation between both countries.

In order to better support the scouting of dedicated innovative Israeli technologies and solutions, both sides reiterated the importance of increasing the number of Japanese companies' presence in Israel and distributing a digital booklet that presents the various tools and frameworks available to support Japanese companies' activity in Israel.

METI expressed its interest in exchanging researchers with Israeli top research institutions in the fields such as, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics.

Accelerating B2B communication

Both sides shared importance of upgrading and enhancing competitiveness of industries in both countries based on innovation as well as advanced manufacturing technologies. To achieve this, both sides also shared necessity of facilitating communication and joint business activities between private business communities in both countries for creating innovation, and decided to establish the Japan-Israel Innovation Network (JIIN). The JIIN will endeavor to involve all public and private institutions from both countries including METI, Embassy of Japan in Tel-Aviv (EoJ), JETRO, NEDO, Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) and Japan Association of New Economy (JANE) in Japan, and MoEI, Embassy of Israel in Japan (EoI), Israel Export and International Cooperation Institution (IEICI), IIA, and Israeli Manufacturers Association, and Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce in Israel. Through the JIIN, both sides will hold periodical meetings and exchange the track records list and future economic events schedule, as set out in the Attachment. Both sides will discuss possible areas of activities, as will be decided between them, including introducing support program of pilot projects for advanced manufacturing, sector/theme focused joint workshops, joint training and education programs in specific areas, performing gap analysis

surveys in the industries of specific areas, challenges on business environment and others reflecting the interest of the participating institutions.

Both sides welcomed MOC between METI-Kansai and MoEI signed in March 2016 on the Promotion of Economic and Business Exchanges, and the progress of cooperation based on the MOC in partnership with the Western Japan Trade Office of the Embassy of Israel in Japan, JETRO Osaka, Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI), and other relevant entities. Both sides respected the cooperation as a desirable model of local partnership, and decided to confirm continuous support to the partnership and to seek possibility to expand such local partnership to other areas outside of Tokyo where possible.

Both sides welcomed the achievements through the cooperation in the area of venture business. Under an entrepreneur support program led by METI, team of selected Japanese businesspersons and officials participated in the events in Israel supported by MoEI, including business matching, pitching, site visit and business meetings, which expanded business opportunities. METI expressed its expectation to continue the program with support by MoEI.

Both sides decided to boost inter-change of business communities in both countries in prospective industrial segments of innovation such as IoT, autonomous driving, healthcare, fintech and others. Both sides acknowledged that in CEATEC 2016 held in Tokyo, the largest exhibition of IoT and Electronics in Japan, METI supported participation of group of Israeli companies, which led to expansion of business opportunities. METI expressed continuous interest to collaborate with MoEI in IoT field including support to potential events in Japan such as CEATEC 2017. In addition, both sides also expressed their expectation that participation by Japanese companies in future infrastructure and transportation projects will raise the level of cooperation between the countries and between companies from both countries.

Launching Economic and Innovation Policy Dialogue

Both sides recognized the importance and achievements of the two senior official level policy dialogues between METI, MoEI, NEDO, IIA and relevant governmental entities, namely, the Economic Policy Dialogue and the Industrial R&D Dialogue. In order to maximize synergies of the dialogues, and thereby to further facilitate economic relationship, both sides decided to reorganize these dialogues into a new dialogue, Economic and Innovation Policy Dialogue (EIPD).

Noting that industry in both countries is going through a significant changes in manufacturing practices, processes, and technologies, often referred to as “Forth Industrial Revolution” based on advanced technologies, both sides decided a direction to seek possibility for shaping more practical cooperation.

Both sides decided to seek to have the first EIPD meeting in Tokyo in the upcoming year. Both sides decided that the senior official level EIPD can be upgraded to ministerial level, when the high level figures are available.

(Attachment)

Major Government and Business Events between Japan and Israel

1. Major Forthcoming Events

a. Government

Time	Location	Event
(tbd)	Japan	The 1 st Economic and Innovation Policy Dialogue

b. Business

Time	Location	Event
2017. May	Japan	Japan IT Week (Business Delegation)
2017. Jun	Japan	The 3 rd Kansai-Israel TV Seminar (Automotive)
	Japan	Sport Technology Event (Business Delegation)
	Israel	Cyber Week 2017
2017. Jul	Japan	Business Delegation (Healthy Aging)
2017. Sep	Japan	IIA and Business Delegation (Fintech)
	Japan	The 4 th Kansai-Israel TV Seminar (Mobile)
	Israel	DLD Tel-Aviv Innovation Festival
2017. Oct	Japan	CEATEC 2017
	Japan	SEECAT 2017
2017. Nov	Japan	CYBERTECH in Tokyo
2017. Dec	Japan	The 5 th Kansai-Israel TV Seminar (Life Science)
2017. (tbd)	Israel	Young Leadership Program (YLP) by JETRO
2018. Jan	Israel	CYBERTEC 2018
2018. (tbd)	Israel	HLS Cyber Security International Conference 2018
2018. (tbd)	Israel	Agritech 2018

2. Major Events in the Past

a. Government

Time	Location	Event
2014. May	Japan	Mr. Netanyahu (Israeli Prime Minister)'s visit to Japan
2014. Jul	Israel	Mr. Motegi (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry)'s visit to Israel. MOC on the Industrial R&D Agreement between METI and MoEI.

2014. Nov	Japan	Business Delegation led by Mr. Locker (Director General of the Prime Minister's Office) and representatives from Israeli business associations.
2015. Jan	Israel	Israeli government resolution 2395 (<i>Strengthening the Economic Ties and Cooperation with Japan</i>)
	Israel	Mr. Abe (Japanese Prime Minister)'s visit to Israel
2015. Jul	Japan	The 1 st Economic Policy Dialogue
	Japan	The 1 st Joint Committee Meeting of the Japan-Israel R&D Cooperation Program
2015. Nov	Japan	Mr. Lang (Director General of MoEI)'s visit to Japan Opening of Western Japan Trade Office in Osaka
2016. Mar	Israel	The 1 st Japan-Israel Industrial R&D Policy Dialogue
	Israel	The 2 nd Joint Committee Meeting of the Japan-Israel R&D Cooperation Program
	Israel	MOC between MoEI and METI-Kansai
2016. Jun	Israel	The 2 nd Economic Policy Dialogue
2016. Jul	Japan	Mr. Hasson (Chief Scientist of MoEI)'s Visit to Japan
2016. Dec	Japan	The 7 th Economic Working Group
	Japan	Official Delegation (Infrastructure)
	Israel	Mr. Sugawara (Vice Minister of METI)'s visit to Israel
2017. Jan	Japan	Mr. Kahlon (Minister of Finance)'s visit to Japan for signing of the Bilateral Investment Treaty
2017. Mar	Israel	Official Delegation from Japan Patent Office
	Japan	Visit of head of Israel's Investment Authority, MoEI
	Call	The 3 rd Joint Committee Meeting of the Japan-Israel R&D

b. Business

Time	Location	Event
2014. May	Israel	Business Delegation (JICC Kansai)
2014. Jul	Israel	Japan-Israel Investment Forum (Business Delegation and Forum by JETRO)
2014. Nov	Israel	HLS Cyber Security International Conference 2014 (Business Delegation)
2015. Jan	Israel	Japan-Israel Investment Forum (Business Delegation and Forum by JETRO)

2015. Mar	Israel	MED in Israel (Business Delegation)
2015. Jul	Japan	Government and Business Delegation (R&D)
2015. Oct	Japan	SEECAT 2015 (Business Delegation)
	Japan	Japan Open Innovation Council (JOIC) Israel Seminar
2015. Nov	Japan	Business Delegation (Automobile)
2015. Dec	Japan	Business Delegation (New Media)
2016. Jan	Israel	CYBERTECH 2016 (Business Delegation by JETRO)
2016. Feb	Israel	Business Delegation (Cybersecurity)
	Japan	Israel Seminar in Fukuoka, Osaka and Tokyo (by JETRO)
2016. Mar	Israel	OCCI Business Delegation
	Japan	Business Delegation (BioMedical)
2016. Apr	Japan	Business Delegation (Investment)
	Israel	Go Israel (Business Seminar supported by EoI and METI)
2016. May	Israel	Business Delegation (Keizai Doyukai)
	Israel	YLP Delegation (Venture Capital)
2016. Jun	Israel	YLP Delegation (Cybersecurity)
2016. Jul	Japan	Business Delegation (IoT)
2016. Sep	Israel	YLP Delegation (Kyoto-Univ.)
	Israel	DLD Innovation 2016 (Two YLP Delegation groups from Kansai-Region by Kansai-METI and OCCI, and from City of Yokohama)
2016. Oct	Japan	Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (Business Delegation)
	Japan	CEATEC 2016 (Business Delegation)
	Japan	SEECAT 2016 (Business Delegation)
2016. Nov	Japan	The 1 st Kansai-Israel TV Seminar (Life Science)
	Japan	Israel Seminar in Osaka (supported by Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ))
	Israel	HLS Cyber Security International Conference 2016 (YLP Delegation led by JETRO)
2016. Dec	Japan	Israel Seminar (co-organized by EoI and City of Yokohama)
2017. Jan	Israel	YLP Delegation (by METI – Next Innovator Program)
	Japan	World Eco-System Seminar (Presentation about Israel by JETRO)
2017. Feb	Japan	The 2 nd Kansai-Israel TV Seminar (Agritech)
	Israel	YLP Delegation (women entrepreneurs and leaders by JETRO)
2017. Mar	Japan	Automotive Seminar in Sendai (Organized by EoI)

	Japan	Engineering Association Seminar (Presentation by EoI)
	Japan	Advanced Industries 2017 (Business Seminar in Osaka and Tokyo, Business Delegation organized by EoI with support of METI, Kansai-METI and JETRO)
	Japan	Israel Business Seminar in Osaka
	Japan	Keihanna Israel Ecosystem Seminar (Presentation by EoI)
	Japan	JETRO Global Eye (TV Series by JETRO)
	Israel	MED in Israel (Business Delegation)
	Israel	YLP Delegation (venture and large enterprises)
2017.Apr	Japan	AGRI WORLD OSAKA (Israeli booth)
	Japan	Knowledge Capital Seminar in Osaka