

**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**ON COOPERATION IN INDUSTRY, TRADE AND ENERGY**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE SOCIALIST**  
**REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM (MOIT)**  
**AND**  
**THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN**  
**(METI)**  
**23rd August 2022**

1. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Hong Dien, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam, and H.E. Mr. Nishimura Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, co-chaired the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy (JC) in Tokyo on 23rd August 2022.

2. At the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee, the Ministers expressed satisfaction with significant achievements since the fourth JC meeting, including intra-regional cooperation such as with ASEAN, the RCEP, and the CPTPP, and on-going bilateral cooperation in the areas of energy/decarbonization, supporting industries, industrial human resource development and others, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. They reaffirmed the important roles of the JC mechanism in removing business obstacles and ensuring the stability and continuity of further trade and investment.

3. Furthermore, the Ministers discussed how both countries could work together towards creating innovative and sustainable economic and social foundations, securing post-pandemic economic recovery, and building a free and fair economic order. Both countries will also continue to advance cooperation on supply chain resilience, digital economy, energy, and low carbon emissions. In this regard, the Ministers affirmed that bilateral cooperation in industry, trade, and energy should also contribute to the goals of implementing and revising the ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan.

Based on the above-mentioned understanding, the Ministers confirmed the following directions of bilateral cooperation in each field.

## **INDUSTRY COOPERATION**

The Ministers recognized the importance for Japan and Viet Nam to lead global economic growth through a co-creation partnership through mutually beneficial cooperation in various industrial sectors.

To this end, Minister Nishimura explained that the Asia-Japan Investing for the Future Initiative (AJIF) would contribute to improving the attractiveness of Viet Nam as a global supply chain hub and creating innovations that enhance economic sustainability and resilience, and noted that Japan hoped to contribute to Viet Nam's economic growth through this initiative.

With that, the Ministers confirmed they would focus on the following endeavors especially under the initiative.

### **4.1. Deepening cooperation to strengthen supply chain resilience**

The Ministers affirmed that Viet Nam was an important part of the global supply chain of Japanese companies and that both countries would work together to strengthen the resilience of the supply chain towards post-pandemic economic recovery. In this regard, Minister Nishimura expressed his gratitude to the Government of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam for their consideration to the stable operation of Japanese companies during the spread of COVID-19.

The Ministers also affirmed the importance of deepening discussion among public and private sectors and creating best practices of data utilization and so forth in order to strengthen closer and more sustainable supply chain linkages towards achieving resilience and sophistication. Both Ministers agreed to promote investment by Japanese companies and collaboration by companies of both countries to work towards promoting supply chain resilience and sophistication through means such as supply chain diversification subsidies and Asia Digital Transformation (ADX) projects. In this connection, Minister Dien stated that the Vietnamese government was committed to continuously improving the investment environment and creating favorable conditions for foreign investors in general and for Japanese investors and enterprises in particular.

## **4.2. Strengthening industrial competitiveness through digital technology**

The Ministers recognized the importance of boosting the creation of new businesses by Japanese and Vietnamese companies using J-Bridge and other digital platforms, recognizing that promoting business digital innovation would greatly contribute to the growth of Viet Nam – Japan bilateral trade and investment.

The Ministers affirmed the importance of ensuring a free and open business environment for further development of the digital sector and confirmed among other things that free and smooth cross-border data circulation was an important factor for the business and investment activities of enterprises.

## **4.3. Development of supporting industries**

The Ministers expressed their expectation for the progress of business-to-business collaborations, contributing to the development of Viet Nam's supporting industries, under the recently launched Japan-Viet Nam Technology Innovation Cooperation Partnership. The Ministers also confirmed that they would continue to work on the development of Viet Nam's supporting industries through human resource development efforts in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies, and through the parts procurement exhibitions and other business matching events organized by JETRO.

Recognizing the essential role of policy framework for the development of Vietnamese industries, Minister Dien asked METI to share its experiences and help MOIT Viet Nam to formulate and implement industry development laws and policies, especially for founding industries such as automobiles, mechanics, electronics, materials, and supporting industries. Minister Nishimura took note of this for positive consideration.

## **4.4. Strengthening human resource cooperation to improve industrial capacity and competitiveness**

Minister Dien highly appreciated Japan's technical cooperation in industrial human resource development and capacity building to enhance Viet Nam's industrial competitiveness and welcomed Japan's intention to provide opportunities for 50,000 ambitious and highly skilled Asian professionals to seek jobs in Japanese companies in Asia as well as Japan over the next five years.

The Ministers welcomed Japan's continuous contribution through industrial training programs and expert dispatch programs, and supporting endowed courses in

Vietnamese higher educational institutes.

## **TRADE COOPERATION**

### **5.1. Promoting economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region**

The Ministers expressed their shared concern at numerous challenges caused by COVID-19 infections, amplified protectionism, and global supply chain disruption. They reaffirmed their continued efforts to provide a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment and open markets, and to maintain a rule-based multilateral system under the framework of the WTO Agreement. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of WTO MC12 and affirmed their commitment to further their efforts towards the reform of the WTO.

They also reaffirmed their commitment to promote economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region and their mutual support and close coordination in the multilateral framework for economic and trade cooperation, of which both countries are members. In particular, the Ministers recognized the importance of maintaining the high standards of the CPTPP and affirmed that the agreement was open to economies that were able to fully meet the high standards of the agreement.

The Ministers also welcomed the entry into force of the RCEP Agreement on January 1, 2022, and confirmed their determination to work together to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Agreement, contributing to the strengthening of regional supply chains and post COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery.

### **5.2. Utilization of FTAs**

Recognizing that Japan and Viet Nam are two among few countries which have FTAs with the EU and the UK, Minister Dien asked METI to consider starting discussion at technical levels on the Japan origin cumulation of fabric materials under the framework of the Free Trade Agreement between Viet Nam and the European Union (EVFTA) and the Free Trade Agreement between Viet Nam and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Minister Nishimura took note for consideration.

### **5.3. Digital trade platforms**

The Ministers recognized the ongoing efforts of the private sector to streamline trade procedures and welcomed further upgrading of the regional supply chain through the establishment of a "trade platform" where enterprises can digitally exchange trade

related documents while ensuring their security.

#### **5.4. Logistics and distribution**

Recognizing the importance of increasing the efficiency of the logistics and distribution sectors, the Ministers expressed their expectations for closer coordination and experience sharing.

#### **5.5. Trade promotion**

The Ministers agreed that both Ministries would support the businesses of Viet Nam and Japan to carry out trade promotion activities including trade fairs, exhibitions, and business matchings in each country.

### **ENERGY COOPERATION**

**6.1.** Minister Nishimura briefed Minister Dien about the "Asia Zero Emissions Community Concept" and conveyed the fact that Japan would strengthen financial and technical support for Viet Nam's energy transition efforts, especially introduction of zero emission fuels such as ammonia, hydrogen, and biomass.

**6.2.** To concretize the roadmap towards the carbon neutrality of Viet Nam and confirm Japan's support projects under the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI) for Viet Nam's energy transition, the Ministers agreed to task technical levels of both Ministries to negotiate towards signing in 2022 the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on energy transition cooperation.

**6.3.** The Ministers acknowledged the importance of the human resource development program regarding an energy transition roadmap, hydrogen and ammonia for Vietnamese officials, which will be held in September in Japan, and looked forward to further discussion of the energy transition roadmap in the special Task Force under the Japan-Viet Nam Energy Working group.

**6.4.** The Ministers welcomed the ongoing discussion on the co-firing of ammonia in coal-fired power plants between Japanese and Vietnamese companies to reduce GHG emission in Viet Nam, and expressed their expectation for accelerating discussions

in this area in the future.

**6.5.** The Ministers confirmed that the 4th Japan-Viet Nam Energy Working Group (WG) meeting was successfully held in December 2021 and agreed to discuss support for the offshore wind and energy transition roadmap at the next Energy WG meeting, including intersessional meetings, in addition to cooperation in various areas.

**6.6.** Both Ministers confirmed that they will facilitate and support Japanese investment in the operation and development of LNG-fired power plants as well as development for gas field in Viet Nam in accordance with Viet Nam's respective laws and regulations.