

May 5th, 2023

Joint Statement
between the Minister of Economy and Industry of Bulgaria and
the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
on economic cooperation on Digital and Innovation

On May 5, 2023, the Minister of Economy and Industry of Bulgaria Nikola STOJANOV and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan NISHIMURA Yasutoshi met in Sofia, Bulgaria to discuss bilateral economic relations.

Bulgaria welcomed the first time visit of Minister Nishimura to Bulgaria and the accompanying Japanese business mission to the country. In addition to the bilateral ministerial meeting, both ministers conducted a business dialogue with business sectors of both countries participating.

In the dialogue, both ministers exchanged views on the interests and strengths of their respective business sectors in IT fields. Both ministers acknowledged the importance of the development of innovation based on advanced digital technologies with the abundant resource pools in Bulgaria.

Both ministers welcomed the strengthening of cooperation to promote business activities including digital and innovation between Bulgaria and Japan through mutual exchanges of business and industrial information, as well as other cooperation activities.

To stimulate further cooperation in response to the current demand of companies in both countries, both ministers will explore potential areas of cooperation by institutions such as Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan External Trade Organization, and the corresponding Bulgarian ministries and economic institutions, such as:

- (a) Supporting trade and investment between Bulgaria and Japan
- (b) Supporting collaboration between Bulgarian and Japanese business sectors including business matching
- (c) Supporting cooperation in human resources including the IT sector
- (d) Supporting innovation and start-ups in both countries

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