

Joint Statement of Intent on Japanese-French cooperation for startups and innovation

On 22nd May 2024, on the occasion of the participation of Japan as “Country of the Year” to Viva Technology, one of the leading startup events in the world, Mr. Kazuchika Iwata, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ms. Marina Ferrari, Secretary of State for Digital Affairs, exchanged views on Japanese-French bilateral cooperation in the field of startups and innovation.

They reconfirmed their intention to promote exchanges, cooperation, partnerships and joint projects in the field of startups, as mentioned in the “Roadmap on Japan-France Cooperation under the Exceptional Partnership (2023-2027)”, issued by the leaders of Japan and France in December 2023.

They also expressed their wishes regarding the continuation of cooperation between the two countries in the context of Expo Osaka-Kansai, that will be held next year, focusing on “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”. They recognized a B2B matching event between Japanese and French startups would enable a closer cooperation of both ecosystems.

They confirmed the importance of cross-border investments and of cooperation in the field of innovation as well as the importance of promoting commercial relations, both in Japan and in France.

They intend to strengthen cooperation in the field of Japanese-French startups, based on the existing partnership.

- Promoting human exchanges between entrepreneurs and relevant actors, notably as part of the J StarX program for the current cycle (2023-2027).
- Cooperation between JETRO, Business France and other organisations such as La French Tech, J-Startup, INPI and Japan Patent Office.
- Supporting connection of startup ecosystems to address the social challenges at the level of regions and companies working on innovation, by promoting cooperations such as the one existing between Station F and Station Ai, and mobilizing the network of the French Tech Tokyo community, and cooperation between administrations (eg. secondment of a French Technical Expert to METI).
- Development of synergies in the field of startup financing: connecting French and Japanese investment funds to better support young entrepreneurs.

This statement does not create any legally binding obligation and does not grant any legal rights.

Signed in Paris, 22nd May 2024

Marina Ferrari
Secretary of State for the Digital Affairs of
the French Republic

Kazuchika Iwata
State Minister of Economy, Trade and
Industry of Japan
