

**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
OF THE SEVENTH 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**

AND

THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN

20 December 2024

1. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Hong Dien, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam and H.E. Mr. Muto Yoji, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan co-chaired the 7th Meeting of the Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy (JC) in Tokyo on 20 December 2024.
2. At the 7th meeting of the Joint Committee, the Ministers expressed satisfaction with the significant achievements since the 6th JC Meeting, including ongoing bilateral cooperation in the areas of industry, trade and energy.
3. Furthermore, the Ministers discussed ways for Viet Nam and Japan to cooperate in: promoting trade and investment; enhancing supply chain resilience; and developing the digital economy; developing renewable energy and low carbon emissions.

Based on the 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 based on mutually beneficial cooperation in various industrial sectors.

4.1. Deepening cooperation to strengthen supply chain resilience

The Ministers affirmed that Viet Nam was an important part of the global supply chain for Japanese companies and that both countries would work together to strengthen the resilience of the supply chain for future economic growth. Under the Global South Future-Oriented Co-Creation Project, demonstration projects targeting

Viet Nam in the areas of energy, semiconductors, healthcare, DX, aviation, agriculture, and infrastructure were selected. The Ministers agreed to continue their efforts to strengthen supply chain resilience and promote innovation through the project and other means. Both sides also agreed to utilize various channels of dialogue and discussion between the public and private sectors to promote these activities.

On trade digitization, the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) prepared and released a study on the current status of trade digitization in ASEAN countries, including Viet Nam, and a roadmap toward trade digitization. The Ministers recognized the continuous efforts of the private sector to streamline trade procedures and welcomed the end-to-end trade digitalization through building interoperability between the two countries' "trade platform" to increase trade between the two countries and further strengthen the regional supply chain.

The Ministers confirmed that both sides would hold discussion on supplies of rare earths and other critical minerals.

4.2. Strengthening industrial competitiveness through digital technology

Utilizing J-Bridge, a business platform to facilitate collaboration between Japanese and overseas companies, including start-ups, pitch events for both ASEAN and Japanese companies, including Vietnamese companies were held. These events led to the creation of collaboration with Vietnamese companies through support such as the setting up of meetings between the companies. The Ministers agreed to further promote investment between Japan and Viet Nam by continuing to utilize J-Bridge and other means to encourage collaboration between the two countries' companies in the digital and green sectors.

The Ministers confirmed that they will further promote cooperation to encourage innovation utilizing digital technology. In this regard, the Ministers recognized the important role of collaboration between start-ups in Japan and Viet Nam.

4.3. Developing supporting industries

The Ministers welcomed the launch of the Viet Nam-Japan Joint Initiative in a New Era in March 2024, following the objectives of the former Viet Nam Technology Innovation Cooperation Partnership. The Ministers expressed their expectations for further progress in Viet Nam's industrialization and modernization toward the goal of becoming a high-income country by 2045.

JETRO held "Supporting Industry Show 2024" aimed at fostering Viet Nam's supporting industries, resulting in more than 1,500 business negotiations and more

than 50 successful cases (including prospective cases). In addition, a “List of Excellent Vietnamese Companies” was created and updated to raise awareness of Vietnamese companies among Japanese companies in Viet Nam.

The Ministers welcomed the continued efforts to develop Viet Nam's supporting industries through the holding of these parts procurement exhibitions and business talks and the promotion of efforts by Japanese firms in the automotive and other sectors to develop Vietnamese suppliers and confirmed that both sides will continue to utilize various channels for dialogue and consultation.

The Ministers discussed the possibilities to cooperate in sharing information and experience, orienting Japan's needs in industrial development in general and supporting industry in particular (in the context that the Ministry of Industry and Trade is developing specialized laws on key industrial products, building and amending a number of mechanisms, policies, programs and strategies on the automobile industry and supporting industries).

The Ministers discussed the possibilities to increase the scale of current cooperation activities in the industrial sector into specific programs and projects, with larger scope and longer duration to achieve better results and create higher spread.

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

Minister Nguyen Hong Dien highly appreciated Japan's technical cooperation in industrial human resource development to improve Viet Nam's industrial competitiveness, while creating opportunities for Viet Nam's highly skilled labor to work at Japanese companies in Asia as well as in Japan.

The Ministers welcomed Japan's continuous contribution to the development of highly skilled human resources. In this context, Japan takes note of Viet Nam's intention to train engineers for semiconductor manufacturing.

The Ministers agreed to promote responsible business conduct in the supply chains of enterprises of both countries and to further strengthen supply chains.

The Ministers highly appreciated the regional cooperation between Japan and Viet Nam. In this regard, the Kansai Desk in Dong Nai Province, which has been building a cooperative relationship with the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI Kansai), has been renamed the “Japan Desk” to provide a contact point for Japanese companies to invest in Dong Nai Province and deal with local business issues more widely. The ministers welcomed METI Kansai's efforts in Dong Nai Province to foster supporting industries, develop and supply industrial human resources, and promote economic cooperation in the environmental and

energy-saving fields, as well as the transfer of Japanese environmental technology and administrative know-how, human resource development and business exchange in the environmental field in Binh Duong Province.

Japan will consider supporting for capacity building for the Industrial Development Support Technical Centers under the Ministry of Industry and Trade (through activities of sending experts, cooperation with Japanese Training Centers, etc.).

4.5. Business Licenses

Minister Muto Yoji mentioned that various licenses required for business development of Japanese companies in Viet Nam should be issued smoothly with time predictability. Minister Nguyen Hong Dien took note of the issue to be forwarded to relevant agencies for resolution.

4.6. Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan

The Ministers confirmed that they will work closely together to ensure that both countries cooperate in Viet Nam's participation in Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan and that the Expo will also be a meaningful opportunity to enhance business exchanges.

4.8. ASEAN-Japan Cooperation

The Ministers welcomed the progress report on the Future Design and Action Plan (FDAP) for Innovative and Sustainable ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation 2023-2033.

TRADE COOPERATION

5.1. Promoting trade

Noting that the still uncertain regional and global situation may affect the volume of trade between the two countries, the Ministers agreed to enhance trade activities and take advantage of the economic partnership agreements/FTAs to which both countries are signatories.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade will work to create an attractive environment to encourage Japanese companies to continue and expand investment in the industrial and energy sectors and make an important contribution to promoting bilateral trade.

The Ministers reaffirmed their continued efforts to provide a free and fair, open, non-discriminatory and transparent trade and investment environment and to maintain and strengthen a rule-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of WTO MC13 and affirmed their

commitment to their efforts towards the reform of the WTO to improve all its functions.

The Ministers agreed that both sides will continue to support the connection between the Vietnamese and Japanese business communities via: strengthening the implementation of trade promotion activities in each country; facilitating and promoting the import and export of the two countries' strong products; supporting the introduction of Vietnamese agricultural and aquatic products to Japanese consumers through retail/e-commerce systems.

5.2. Promoting economic integration in the Asia - Pacific region

The Ministers agreed that both sides will continue to work closely together in implementing a new generation of free trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, and to discuss the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in more depth.

CPTPP

The Ministers affirmed that the CPTPP is open to economies that fully meet, steadily implement and adhere to the high-standard of the CPTPP and that have demonstrated adherence to their commitments to trade.

The Ministers welcomed good progress on the General Review and continuously discuss how to maintain the CPTPP's status as the standard-bearer for trade agreements through the process.

RCEP

The Ministers affirmed the importance of transparent implementation of the RCEP Agreement and welcomed the progress made in establishing an RCEP Support Unit to support the implementation of the Agreement.

IPEF

The Ministers affirmed the importance of implementing each of the IPEF agreements to achieve a free, open, fair, inclusive, interconnected, strong, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

5.3. Developing digital economy

The Ministers emphasized that digital economy development plays an important role in Viet Nam's economic development and is an inevitable trend of Industry 4.0. The Ministers affirmed that they will continue to cooperate in the development and security of e-commerce.

The Ministers acknowledged the importance of facilitating cross border flows of data and strengthening of consumer and business trust in the digital economy.

5.4. Anti-Counterfeiting Measures

The Ministers affirmed the importance of cooperating through Viet Nam Market Surveillance Agency and the International Intellectual Property Protection Forum (IIPPF) to protect consumers from counterfeit products and promote legitimate trade in the Vietnamese market.

ENERGY COOPERATION

6.1. Recognizing that Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) and the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) are complementary framework to help Viet Nam achieve Viet Nam's Eighth National Power Development Plan (PDP8) and Carbon Neutral 2050, Minister Muto Yoji welcomed the progress that the country is making toward a clean energy transition. This is also an important legal basis for creating favorable conditions for foreign investors, including many large Japanese companies, to invest in Viet Nam's energy sector.

6.2. The Ministers affirmed the existence of various and realistic pathways toward carbon neutrality/net zero emissions, depending on each country's situation, and the importance of utilizing diverse energy sources and technologies to design and implement such pathways. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the second AZEC Ministerial Meeting held in August 2024, including the "AZEC Sectoral Initiatives" to promote decarbonization in power, transport and industry sectors and the launch of "Asia Zero Emission Center" in the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), as well as the outcomes of the second AZEC Leaders Meeting held in October 2024, including the "Action Plan for the Next Decade". In addition, the "Project Accelerating Platform (PAP)" was established as a platform for Japanese and Vietnamese stakeholders to discuss the progress of individual projects in Viet Nam and to resolve issues. The Ministers confirmed the importance of continued cooperation under AZEC in advancing these initiatives.

6.3. The Ministers agreed to continue to support human resource development for carbon neutrality in Viet Nam.

6.4. The Ministers welcomed the successful holding of the 5th Japan - Viet Nam Energy WG in April 2024.

6.5. The Ministers recognized the need for both sides to explore various options and utilize all fuels and technologies to ensure a safe and stable supply of energy to achieve the two goals of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ministers also agreed to work on creating a favorable business environment for Japanese companies to invest in LNG power projects, as well as providing institutional support, human resource development and knowledge sharing related to LNG.

6.6. The Ministers agreed to co-create the decarbonization of industrial parks between Japan and Viet Nam, taking into account that Thang Long Industrial Park and DEEP C Industrial Park will be supported by the Global South Future-Oriented Co-Creation Project, and also utilizing the direct power purchase agreement (DPPA) and other programs. The Ministers also confirmed the importance of cooperating to add value to the industrial parks that are being developed in various parts of Viet Nam, while actively utilizing Japanese companies' technology for operating power distribution systems.

6.7. The Ministers confirmed the importance of establishing a favorable business environment for starting gas production as soon as possible at the Block B Gas Field Project, which will be an important gas supply base in Viet Nam, and necessary ODA-related procedures for the achievement of the O Mon III Combined Cycle Power Plant Construction Project, which will be the gas supply destination for the Block B Gas Field, at the earliest possible date.

6.8. The Ministers confirmed the importance of proceeding with the pilot project in order to expedite the development of the investment environment in Viet Nam, including regulations related to offshore wind power generation. The Ministers then agreed to promote the structuring of demonstration and investment projects by Japanese and Vietnamese companies that have experience in offshore wind power development, based on the results of future sea area surveys.

6.9. The Ministers welcomed the announcement that Viet Nam will resume its nuclear power plant construction project with the aim of ensuring national energy security. The Ministers acknowledged that international cooperation in nuclear energy is a crucial solution for countries like Viet Nam, which lack experience in constructing nuclear power plants, as it helps mobilize resources, shorten timelines, and reduce investment costs. Japan is prepared to support Viet Nam in the process of resuming the construction of nuclear power plants, leveraging its experience and modern technology with high safety standards.

Additionally, as of the Ninh Thuan Nuclear Power Plant construction project, the Ministers affirmed that Japan will continue being a preferred partner and that Viet Nam will maintain the site for the project when the project is resumed, as previously agreed upon when the project was suspended. Taking into account Viet Nam's needs and the project's schedule, Japan shows readiness to conduct feasibility studies for the future introduction of reactors using Japanese technology in Viet Nam. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of close cooperation and consideration in the implementation of the project.

Furthermore, the Ministers welcomed and encouraged cooperation between universities under the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam, such as the University of Electric Power, and Japanese universities, companies, and related organizations in the field of human resource development for civil nuclear energy utilization in Viet Nam. In particular, they agreed that Japan will continue to provide support for technical cooperation and human resource development, centered on the activities of International Nuclear Energy Development of Japan Corporation (JINED).

6.10. The Ministers agreed that Japan will increase support for capacity building for Vietnamese specialized officials to more effectively amending regulations on electricity regulation and developing the electricity market in the new context of energy transition towards green growth, in line with the general trend of the world and Viet Nam.

6.11. The Ministers agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of energy saving: supporting Viet Nam in building energy efficiency standards in industrial sectors, sharing experience in developing and implementing policies on economical and efficient energy use, and energy saving solutions for small and medium enterprises.

6.12. The Ministers welcomed businesses from both countries to actively seek cooperation opportunities in research and development, human resource training, and technology transfer in the fields of new and clean energy such as hydrogen and ammonia, especially sharing experiences in cooperation and investment in value chains including production, storage, transportation, distribution and use of hydrogen, contributing to ensuring energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

7. Both Sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

8. The Joint Statement of the 7th meeting of the Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy was adopted by both Ministers on 20th December 2024.