

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LABOUR AND WELFARE
OF JAPAN
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CONCERNING LABOR COOPERATION**

Recognizing the value of dialogue and cooperation between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (MHLW) and the Department of Labor of the United States of America (USDOL) (the "Participants"), MHLW and USDOL intend to cooperate in activities as described below.

**Paragraph 1
Overall Objective**

The Participants share the objective of promoting cooperation on labor issues to raise living standards, support widely-shared prosperity, protect worker rights, and address the opportunities and challenges regarding workforce development and effective social protection.

**Paragraph 2
Areas for Cooperation**

The Participants intend to cooperate in areas that may include, but are not limited to:

- Reducing skills gaps, including through promoting apprenticeship and other forms of worker training;
- Strengthening labor market policies and programs for the future of work;
- Enhancing female labor force participation;
- Examining labor market needs and opportunities for older workers;
- Improving labor inspection and enforcement;
- Promoting occupational safety and health;
- Enhancing labor market information and statistics, and
- Raising global labor standards and addressing labor challenges, such as informality, child labor and forced labor, in third countries.

Paragraph 3

Forms of Cooperation

Forms of cooperation will be decided through mutual consultation and arrangement and may include but are not limited to:

- Exchanging of information on successful labor programs and initiatives;
- Exchanging information and analysis of the impact of different policies on employment, wages and income distribution;
- Participation in dialogues, joint seminars, workshops, video conferences, and meetings of mutual interest;
- Coordination and collaboration on labor-related research with each other and with other stakeholders; and
- Coordination on technical assistance in third countries.

Paragraph 4

Each participant intends to designate a Point of Contact (POC). The POC serves as the principal coordinator of information and activities between the Participants.

Paragraph 5

Where considered appropriate and by mutual arrangement, the Participants may invite the participation of representatives of workers, employers, non-governmental and international organizations.

Paragraph 6

Nothing in this Memorandum of cooperation (MOC) is intended to limit a Participant's right to act in a manner it deems advisable to carry out its programs and authorities. Nothing in this MOC commits the Participants to the expenditure of any funds. The Participants each intend to bear their own costs associated with the implementation of this MOC. By mutual arrangement, other sources of funding may be sought in support of cooperative programs.

Paragraph 7

This MOC does not constitute an international agreement, and does not create any binding obligations between the Participants under either international or domestic law.

This MOC will commence from the date of its signing, and the cooperation under this MOC

will be continued during a period of five years, and may be renewed for further periods of five years. This MOC may be terminated by either side with prior written notice to the other side not later than six months before the desired date of termination.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on the 4th the day of May, Two thousand and eighteen, in duplicate, in the Japanese and English languages.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
LABOUR, AND WELFARE OF
JAPAN:

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

KATSUNOBU KATO

R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA