

Memorandum
between
the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
of Japan
and
the Department for Work and Pensions
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and the Department for Work and Pensions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”),

Working to strengthen their bonds of friendship and collaboration, and to promote cooperation on labour market issues, acknowledge the following.

Paragraph 1

The Participants share the objective of developing said cooperation through various means they deem fit based on available resources, each participant acting in accordance with their national legislation.

Paragraph 2

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

- strengthening labour market policies and programmes;
- supporting people to progress into better, sustained employment throughout their lives.
- examining labour market needs and opportunities for older workers;
- identifying and reducing skills gaps, including digital skills gaps, through access to worker training and other initiatives;
- exchanging expertise on working with social partners, to support better labour market outcomes;
- promoting effective delivery of public employment services, including services delivered digitally;
- supporting inclusive workplaces for all, including disabled people and people with long-term health conditions, and promoting occupational safety and health;
- promoting fair, sustainable and effective public pensions systems and encouraging saving through appropriate private pension schemes;
- enhancing labour market information and statistics.

Paragraph 3

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

- exchange of information and documents regarding the issues covered in paragraph 2, including analysis of the impact and effectiveness of relevant policies, programmes and initiatives;
- exchange of visits of delegations, professionals and specialists, as appropriate;
- holding of dialogues, seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings of mutual interest;
- coordination and collaboration on research in areas of mutual interest; and
- any other cooperation method decided by the Participants.

Paragraph 4

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

This Memorandum will commence from the date of its signing, and the cooperation under this Memorandum will be continued during a period of five years, and may be renewed for further periods of five years.

This Memorandum may be terminated by either Participant with prior written notice to the other Participant not later than six months before the desired date of termination.

This Memorandum may be modified where the Participants jointly decide. Said modification will be in writing following any applicable procedures for each Participant.

Any dispute arising from interpretation of this Memorandum will be settled by mutual negotiation between the Participants without any intervention from a third party or any international court.

Signed at Matsuyama, Japan on the 1st day of September, Two thousand and nineteen, in duplicate, in the English and Japanese languages.

For the Ministry of Health, Labour and
Welfare of Japan

For the Department for Work and
Pensions of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland

TAKUMI NEMOTO

Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

Rt Hon AMBER RUDD

Secretary of State for Work & Pensions

Minister for Women and Equalities