

Japan Economic Partners ip (2001)

U.S.- JAPAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH

June 30, 2001

1. Recognizing the growing interdependence of the economies of the United States and Japan, the opportunities and challenges facing the two economies, and the need to support prosperity in the United States, Japan, and the world, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Japan announce the establishment of the U.S.-Japan Economic Partners ip for Growth ("Partners ip"), as described below.

2. The objective of the Partners ip is to promote sustainable growth in both countries as well as the world by addressing such issues as sound macroeconomic policies, structural and regulatory reform, financial and corporate restructuring, foreign direct investment, and open markets and by providing a structure for cooperation and engagement on bilateral, regional and global economic and trade issues. h

The Government of the United States and the Government of Japan ("the two Governments") recognize that private sector input could be beneficial to realizing the objective of the Partners ip.

The Partners ip will be based on the principle of two-way dialogue that enables either government to raise issues of concern and interest. Measures taken by either government under the Partners ip will be within its scope and responsibility and will be applied on a most-favored nation basis.

3. To realize the objective of the Partners ip, the two Governments establish the fora described below. The two Governments recognize the need to focus on important issues and will avoid, to the utmost extent, overlap and duplication of issues in more than one of these fora.

4. The U.S.-Japan Subcabinet Economic Dialogue ("Subcabinet") will set the direction of the Partners ip. Informal and flexible in style, the Subcabinet will meet at least once a year to address the full range of bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues. The Subcabinet could, for example, exchange views on global and regional issues; enhance cooperation in multilateral and regional bodies; review developments in the two economies, such as macroeconomic issues, structural and regulatory reform, and financial and corporate restructuring; and advance the bilateral economic relations ip, including, as necessary, discussing issues raised in other bilateral fora, keeping in mind meetings between the President and Prime Minister.

Participation in the Subcabinet will include officials at the Deputy/Vice-Ministerial level from the key economic agencies and ministries of the United States and Japan as well as any other agencies and ministries appropriate to the agenda. The Subcabinet will be chaired by the National Security Council/National Economic Council for the United States and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) for Japan.

5. The Private Sector/Government Commission ("Commission") is designed to integrate the U.S. and Japanese private sectors more fully into the economic work of the two Governments.

A. Annual Meetings: The Commission will meet annually immediately prior to the Subcabinet meeting to discuss agenda topic(s) agreed to in advance by the two Governments. The purpose of the Commission is to enable U.S. and Japanese private sector representatives to present their input - including expertise, observations and recommendations - on these agenda topic(s). The two Governments will seriously take into account this private sector input in conducting their work under the Partners ip. Participation in the Commission will include government officials from the Subcabinet and other agencies and ministries h

appropriate to the area as well as a high-level private sector representative. Each Government will elect a representative of its respective private sector to the appropriate to the area.

B. Agenda: The two Governments, in close consultation with the private sector, will set the agenda for the annual meeting of the Committee.

C. Review: No later than two months after completion of the first annual meeting, the two Governments will conduct a review of the Committee to assess the structure and effectiveness of the forum, and, as appropriate, implement improvements. Further review will be held as agreed by the two Governments.

6. Trade Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative ("Reform Initiative") is intended to promote economic growth by focusing on sectoral and cross-sectoral issues related to trade regulatory reform and competition policy. The Reform Initiative replaces the "Economic Initiative on Derogations and Competition Policy" ("Economic Initiative"), established by the United States and Japan in their Joint Statement of June 19, 1997. [Reco izi t e p r o r e m a e u e r t e E a c e I i t i a t i v e](#) - particularly in the area of trade, the competition, and improved market access - the Reform Initiative will build upon the work of the Economic Initiative and focus on key sectoral and cross-sectoral issues in which important reforms are being undertaken.

A. High-level Official Group: The two Governments establish a High-level Official Group to review and advance the work of the working group (established as described below). The High-level Official Group will strive to resolve any outstanding issues forwarded by the working group. The High-level Official Group will be chaired by a Deputy USTR for the United States and a Deputy Minister of MOFA for Japan and will include officials from other agencies as appropriate. Meetings of the group will be held as usual, or more frequently as agreed by the two Governments.

B. Annual Report: Once an annual basis, the High-level Official Group will transmit a report in writing to the President and Prime Minister specifying the progress made under the Reform Initiative, including measures to be taken by each Government. For this purpose, the working group will report the progress of its work to the High-level Official Group. As appropriate, the report will include proposed official sector liberalization achievements under the Financial Dialogue (established as described below).

C. Working Group: The two Governments establish four "sectoral working groups" and a "cross-sectoral working group" to address in detail measures to promote trade regulatory reform and competition policy. An ad hoc working group may be established in the future as agreed by the two Governments. The working group will meet within the year to address proposals submitted by each Government. Officials from the two Governments (including representatives of the other member countries) most relevant to the specific topic addressed by each working group will participate in the working group.

(1) Sectoral Working Group: The two Governments establish four sectoral working groups in the area of telecommunications, information technology, energy, and medical devices/pharmaceuticals. Given the progress made under the Economic Initiative in the area of energy, the two Governments establish a High-level Expert-level Group established under the Economic Initiative and will address energy-related matters in other bilateral fora.

a. ~~N~~ e Working Group on Telecommunications will focus on further cooperation, in view of the time, a competition in the telecommunications sector. The group will be chaired by USTR for the United States and MOFA and the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Postal and Telecommunications for Japan.

b. The Working Group on Information Technology will focus on improving the environment for growth and investment in information technology, leading to greater use of e-commerce and e-government. The group will be chaired by USTR and the Department of Commerce for the United States and MOFA for Japan.

c. The Working Group on Energy will focus on the further promotion of competitive, efficient, and innovative wholesale and retail energy sectors. The group will be chaired by USTR for the United States and MOFA and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for Japan. N

d. The Working Group on Medical Devices/Pharmaceuticals will focus on issues related to medical devices pharmaceuticals and mutual supplements. This group will be chaired by the Deputy Minister of Commerce for the United States and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare for Japan.

(2) Cross-Sectoral Working Group: To more effectively address the increasingly complex cross-sectoral issues related to regulatory reform and competition policy, the two Governments will establish a working group to address topics that have a widespread impact on the economy, including competition policy, trade space, intellectual property, commercial code issues, distribution, customs clearance procedures, business facilitation and other cross-sectoral issues not directly addressed by the Sectoral Working Groups. Considering the breadth and complexity of these issues, the two Governments will ensure that this working group will have sufficient time to cover thoroughly and conduct in-depth discussions of these issues. This group will be chaired by USTR and the Deputy Minister of Justice for the United States and MOFA for Japan.

D. Private Sector Committee: The two Governments will discuss issue(s) addressed by the Reform Initiative that could be left for private sector input. On this basis, the two Governments will, as appropriate, invite private sector representatives to join the government working groups on a ad hoc basis to offer input - including expertise, observations, and recommendations - on such issue(s). The two Governments will ensure that the account of this private sector input is included in the working group's Reform Initiative.

7. The Fiscal Dialogue will serve as a forum for the Deputy Minister of the Treasury and the Minister of Finance and the Fiscal Services Agency to exchange formats and views on a range of macroeconomic and fiscal sector issues of mutual importance, including basic principles. As appropriate, the attendance of other relevant agencies may be called for by the chairs while preparing the final agreed conclusions of the dialogue. The Fiscal Dialogue will include:

- a statement of the agreed focus of fiscal sector issues; and

- a review of the macroeconomic developments both countries, including a review of current monetary and fiscal policies and economic considerations that might influence macroeconomic policies.

A. Meetings: Meetings of the Fiscal Dialogue will take place at least annually and will be chaired at the Under Secretary/Vice Ministerial level by the Deputy Minister of the Treasury and the Minister of Finance of the two countries.

B. Working Group: A Working Group of Fiscal Services will meet immediately prior to the Under Secretary/Vice Ministerial level meeting to prepare for the fiscal sector discussions by those sectors of officials and to brief senior officials of fiscal sector issues. The working group will focus on developing competitive fiscal matters, and discuss the basic and securities sectors as well as other fiscal services issues. This group will be chaired at the Deputy Assistant Secretary/Deputy Director General level by the Deputy Minister of the Treasury and the Minister of Finance and include participants from each country's other fiscal authorities.

C. Private Sector Committee: The two Governments will seek to bring views from outside the two Governments to advance the agenda of the Fiscal Dialogue.

8. The Investment Initiative will address laws, regulations, policies, and other measures designed to improve the environment for foreign direct investment both countries. Issues to be addressed by this Initiative will include the structure and operation of corporations, corporate governance, corporate taxation, bankruptcy, labor mobility, and land market liquidation.

A. Meetings: A "Investment Group" of the Investment Initiative will meet semi-annually and will be chaired by the Deputy Minister of State for the United States and METI for Japan. Officials at the Deputy/Vice Ministerial level will meet annually to review progress.

B. Public Programs: The two chairs will sponsor public programs to explain the mutual benefits of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the U.S. and Japanese public as well as to review reform efforts designed to

further the objectives of this initiative.

C. Private Sector Component: Leaders from the U.S. and Japanese business communities will be invited to participate in the high-profile public programs described above. The Investment Group also will invite private sector experts to give technical presentations on issues relating to corporate restructuring and FDI.

D. Reports: The Investment Group will produce a report annually summarizing progress on issues under discussion in this group.

9. The Trade Forum ("Forum") will address trade and trade-related issues raised by either government. The two Governments recognize the importance of engaging in focused and substantial discussion of a broad and wide-ranging set of issues of interest and concern to either government, including those related to the manufacturing, services, and agricultural sectors. The Forum will also serve as an "early warning" mechanism to facilitate expeditious resolution of emerging trade and trade-related issues. The two Governments recognize that the Forum will not replace ongoing multilateral negotiations and will add, to the utmost extent, the overlap of issues with other bilateral modes, including other fora of the Partnership.

A. Meetings: The Forum will meet once a year and more frequently as necessary. Meetings of the Forum will be chaired by USR for the United States and MOFA for Japan and will include officials from other agencies and ministries as appropriate. The two Governments will set the agenda for meetings of the Forum.

B. Private Sector Component: Recognizing that the private sector can help narrow the gap in views between the two Governments, the two Governments will consult as to how private sector input will best be considered in conducting the work under the Forum.

TANC offers these agreements electronically as a public service for general reference. Every effort has been made to ensure that the text presented is complete and accurate. However, copies needed for legal purposes should be obtained from official archives maintained by the appropriate agency.