

Joint Press Statement

The sixth meeting of the Joint Committee established under the Agreement
between Japan and the United Mexican States
for the Strengthening of the Economic Partnership

February 21, 2011

1. On February 21, the sixth meeting of the Joint Committee established under the Agreement between Japan and the United Mexican States for the Strengthening of the Economic Partnership (hereinafter referred to “the EPA”) was held in Mexico City, which Mr. Ikuo Yamahana, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Ms. Beatriz Leycegui Gardoqui, Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade of Mexico co-chaired.
2. The Vice-Ministers reviewed the economic relation between Japan and Mexico after the EPA entered into force. They confirmed that bilateral trade and investment have substantially increased in volume since the entry. They also shared the view that the EPA positively affected the strengthening of the bilateral economic relation and the development of each economy.
3. In order to strengthen and facilitate economic relations between both countries and accordance to the commitments established in the EPA, the Vice-Ministers confirmed the conclusion of re-consultation to improve market access conditions for certain agricultural products of interest of Mexico such as beef, pork, chicken, orange, orange juice and agave syrup, and other products of interest of Japan like green tea, apple and mandarin. Regarding industrial products, they agreed to accelerate tariff reductions in products of interest of Japan for certain autoparts and paper for ink-jet printers.

4. Additionally, Japan and Mexico agreed the introduction of other disciplines in the EPA, in order to achieve a better utilization of the agreement, such as the modification of certain specific rules of origin in stainless steel, chemical products and autoparts. In the area of certification of origin and customs procedures, Mexico and Japan agreed to introduce the approved exporter system. They also agreed to introduce the measures to deal with the cases where MFN applied rates on particular goods are lower than the EPA applied rates.
5. The Vice-Ministers recognized that market access improvements will give important benefits for both countries, opening new opportunities for the exporters; and will strengthen the competitiveness of private sectors guaranteeing the supply of products of high quality at lower costs. The improvement in rules of origin and customs procedures will contribute to the facilitation of trading operations between both countries.
6. The Vice-Ministers highlighted that the framework of the EPA regarding bilateral cooperation of mutual interest, such as the strengthening of supporting industries, trade and investment promotion, small medium enterprises (SMEs), agriculture and environment, contributes to take further advantage of trade and investment disciplines and decided to continue the cooperation.
7. As a result of this cooperation efforts, Japan and Mexico have achieved important outcomes such as: the signing of deals for suppliers among Mexican SMEs and Japanese automotive companies established in Mexico; and Japanese expert consulting on best practices for energy efficiency in sectors like steel and chemical.
8. The Vice-Ministers shared the view that they will continue to make

efforts to deal with the issues raised by the private sector of both countries, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee for the Improvement of the Business Environment (CIBE), which carried out its fifth meeting on the same day.

9. During the meeting of the CIBE, representatives of governments and the private sectors of Mexico and Japan reiterated the importance of this Committee to foster a more favorable business environment in their countries and encourage the achievement of trade and investment potential by taking advantage of the market access and the protection for investors in the framework of the EPA.
10. They have also expressed their interest to promote investment in areas such as infrastructure, the automotive chain, clean technologies and aerospace, among others.
11. The Vice-Ministers expressed congratulations on the fact that the EPA offers many opportunities and interests to the bilateral economic relations. They also confirmed that, for the public and private sectors of both countries to benefit from the EPA, they will continue to make efforts to implement the EPA effectively, based on the fact that the Japan-Mexico Joint Statement on Strategic Global Partnership in the 21st Century and Promotion of Economic Growth, which was announced in the summit meeting held in February 2010, confirms the strategic importance of the EPA.