Memorandum of Understanding Between Japan Cabinet Office and United States Department of State Concerning Cooperation on the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Initiative

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creates a cooperative partnership between the Japan Cabinet Office (CAO) and the United States Department of State through the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) (the Participants) for cooperation on the Global Innovation through Science and Technology ("GIST") initiative.

I. MISSION AND PURPOSE

CAO and OES recognize their shared commitment to deepen U.S.-Japan science and technology entrepreneurship connectivity, expand investment opportunities, and foster technological innovation. Both Participants intend to leverage the GIST Initiative to catalyze innovation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and promote entrepreneurial endeavors that contribute to the advancement of science, technology, and societal well-being.

The GIST Initiative empowers young innovators through networking, skills building, mentoring, and access to financing to develop startup solutions that address economic and development challenges. Since 2011, GIST has engaged with science and technology innovators and entrepreneurs around the world, providing training and resources to help them build successful startups through competitions, investment trainings, startup trainings, and interactive online programs.

The Participants, sharing a mutual interest in helping entrepreneurs successfully build and scale their startup ventures, intend as follows:

II. GENERAL SCOPE OF PARTNERSHIP

The Participants intend to collaborate through the GIST Initiative to help entrepreneurs successfully build and scale their startup ventures. Areas of potential collaboration may include co-hosted entrepreneurship training programs and events, including with other GIST Initiative partners or countries, as appropriate.

Each Participant intends to cover the costs of its respective activities conducted under this MOU, subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions and subject to available funds. The Participants intend to facilitate the movement of those personnel participating in, and related logistical support, including providing J-1 visa support when appropriate, for, exchange program activities conducted under this MOU. Examples of such activities include pitch competitions, trainings, social media engagements, and activities focused on science and technology entrepreneurs and investors.

The Participants may decide upon other specific methods of collaboration under this MOU.

III. COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

The Participants intend to work together and coordinate appropriate publicity in support of the cooperative partnership and its activities. Any communications and/or press releases referencing the partnership should be approved in writing by both Participants.

IV. FUNDING AND LEGAL EFFECT

The Participants intend to implement this MOU in accordance with applicable law. Activities carried out under this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriations.

This MOU is not intended to be legally binding under international or domestic law and does not create any rights in any third party. It memorializes the spirit of the cooperative partnership and memorializes that the Participants intend to strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

V. COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF MOU

The cooperative partnership under this MOU commences on MARCH 27, 2024 and may continue for five (5) years.

Either Participant may discontinue its participation in this MOU at any time, but is expected to provide thirty (30) days advanced written notice to the other Participant.

Signed, in the English language.

For the Japan Cabinet Office:

Takayuki Fujiyoshi
Deputy Director General, Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

Place: Tokyo
Date: March 27, 2024

For the United States Department of State:

Jennifer Littlejohn
Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Place: Washington DC
Date: March 27, 2024