Memorandum of Cooperation

Between

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and

the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

of Japan, on the one side and

the Department of State of the United States of America, on the

other side,

Upon Creation of an

Educational and Cultural Exchange Opportunity

For Japanese Specialists

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), on the one side and the Department of State of the United States of America, on the other side (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides"),

In a spirit of promoting closer cooperation and expanding educational and cultural exchange opportunities between Japan and the United States,

Desiring to provide enhanced opportunities to citizens of Japan to build on their knowledge and skillsets through language education and exchange opportunities in the United States, and

Desiring to increase the number of Japanese language and/or culture specialists (referred to as "Japanese specialists") in the United States,

Have reached the following mutual understandings and intentions regarding a program for increasing the number of Japanese specialists (referred to as "the Japan specialist program"):

Section I: Background

MOFA and MEXT, and the Department of State of the United States of America, recognize that the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) currently

offers Japanese citizens the opportunity to study, train, teach, instruct, lecture, consult, observe or conduct research in the United States. The EVP is a public diplomacy program that supports the mission of the Department of State and its Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries. In recognition of the desire to encourage additional exchange opportunities and cooperation and to increase the number of Japanese specialists in the United States, this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is intended to encourage future Japanese specialists to apply for the Japan Specialist program. These Japanese specialists will observe U.S. institutions and methods of practice in their educational fields and share their specialized knowledge of Japanese language, education, and culture with their U.S. colleagues. They will gain a better understanding of U.S. culture and society and promote mutual enrichment by enhancing U.S. knowledge of foreign cultures, language, and educational systems.

Section II: U.S. and Japan general program description

1. The Department of State intends to provide Japanese citizens the opportunity to gain a better understanding of U.S. culture and society while they share their specialized knowledge of Japanese language, education, and culture in the United States.
2. Desiring to increase the number of Japanese specialists in the United States, this MOC facilitates the procedure for Japanese citizens to become Japanese specialists and provides a framework for qualifying specialists from Japan to come to the United States for up to 36 months.

Section III: U.S. program criteria

1. This program is conducted under existing Exchange Visitor Program regulations (U.S. 22 CFR Part 62), including for the Specialist category (U.S. 22 CFR 62.26), except as otherwise indicated in this MOC.
2. **Sponsors:** U.S. sponsors ("sponsors") are designated by the Department of State to conduct exchange programs in the Specialist category of the EVP. The Department of State

designates sponsor organizations to administer exchange programs under existing EVP regulations (U.S. 22 CFR Part 62). U.S.-based organizations may apply for a designation under the Specialist category specific to this Japan Specialist Program.

3. **Japanese government agency-selected candidates:** While Japan's MOFA and MEXT may pre-select candidates who receive funding to support their participation in the program, participants are expected to apply to a qualifying sponsor program and be accepted by the program to participate.

4. **Application**: Japanese applicants for this exchange program are expected to apply to designated sponsors to receive a "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status" (Form DS-2019) that is required for them to apply for the U.S. J-1 nonimmigrant visa. Department-designated U.S. sponsors are expected to educate program participants on EVP requirements and monitor the exchange visitors in accordance with the requirements set forth in U.S. 22 CFR 62.10(d) and 62.11(b). Department-designated sponsors retain the prerogative to issue

a Form DS-2019 to qualified Japanese citizens. Japanese citizens who may apply for the exchange program include not only the above-mentioned Japanese government agency-selected candidates who are pre-selected for funding, but also citizens who do not receive funding from Japanese government agencies, such as citizens receiving funding from private institutions and from Nationally Registered Japanese Language Teachers. All prospective applicants, regardless of funding source, are expected to apply directly to the sponsor. Sponsors are expected to confirm that the selection process and background of each participant comply with EVP regulations in the Specialist category, except as modified by this MOC, and that each participant is an expert in their field.

5. **Eligibility:** Prospective specialists are expected to be experts in a field of specialized knowledge or skills who travel to the United States for the purpose of observing, consulting, or demonstrating their special skills. Such specialists should not

fill a permanent or long-term position of employment while in the United States. In addition, each participant should:

a. be a citizen of Japan and hold a passport from MOFA,

b. have sufficient proficiency in the English language in accordance with U.S. 22 CFR 62.10 and meet all eligibility criteria under the Specialist category in U.S. 22 CFR 62.26, and

c. after receiving a Form DS-2019, successfully apply for and be issued a U.S. J-1 nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate that issues U.S. nonimmigrant visas where the participant is a resident or physically present.

6. **Program duration:** This MOC provides for an exception to EVP regulations in order to allow Japanese specialists to participate in the EVP for up to 36 months, rather than for one year as provided for in U.S. CFR 62.26(i). Eligible specialists are issued a Form DS-2019 and a J-1 nonimmigrant visa valid initially for one year, with the option of a one-time extension for up to an additional 24 months, at the sponsor's discretion, for a maximum program duration of 36 months. Sponsors should

submit an extension request to the Department for each exchange visitor and pay the required processing fee. Sponsors should also print and issue a new Form DS-2019 with the new program end dates.

7. **Placements:** Consistent with the terms of their exchange programs, sponsors are expected to work within their respective networks to place experts in Japanese language and culture within U.S. local communities to increase understanding of Japan and its language and culture. Placements may include community-based non-profit organizations, U.S. government offices, secondary (grades 9-12) education schools, post-secondary academic institutions offering Japanese, and similar types of institutions. Japanese exchange visitors are expected to share their specialized knowledge of Japanese language, education, and culture in the United States. They are expected to assess the educational system in the United States and offer suggestions to their colleagues in the Japanese educational

system. They are expected to examine effective ways to teach foreign languages based on their experience in the United States.

Section IV: Miscellaneous

1. The Sides intend to review this MOC every two years using in-person or virtual means to ensure that the program is meeting its intended goals. Modifications of this MOC may be made at any time by a written arrangement between the Sides.
2. The Sides intend to provide a four-month prior written notice of any discontinuation of this MOC to the other Side.
3. This MOC is not an international agreement and does not give rise to international legal rights or obligations.

4. This MOC is expected to become operative on the last day of the month following the date of the last signature of the Sides and is expected to remain operative for a period of five years, unless extended by decision of the Sides.

Signed, in duplicate at Washington, DC on the 10th day of April 2024, in the English language.

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan:

Koichi Ai 4-5-24

Koichi Ai

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

For the Department of State of the United States of America:

Lee Satterfield 4-3-24

Lee A. Satterfield

Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs