

4040: Outline of the Agreement between Japan and Australia for an Economic Partnership

In April 2014, the two leaders of Japan and Australia confirmed the substantive agreement on a bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and Australia (JAEPA), on the basis of a series of negotiations since April 2007. The JAEPA was signed by both countries in July 2014, and entered into force in January 2015.

The JAEPA became the 14th economic partnership agreement for Japan, following those concluded with Singapore, Mexico, Malaysia, Chile, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, all of ASEAN, Philippines, Switzerland, Vietnam, India and Peru.

1. Summary of the Agreement

The JAEPA will promote liberalization and facilitation of trade in goods and services and increase investment opportunities between Japan and Australia, thereby enhancing bilateral partnership regarding economic activities. It will also strengthen cooperation in various areas such as food supply, energy and mineral resources, movement of natural persons, competition and consumer protection, intellectual property and government procurement.

It is expected that entry into force of the JAEPA will greatly invigorate both economies and further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

2. Significance of the Agreement

Australia is Japan's 10th export partner and 3rd import partner (2022 Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance).

The JAEPA is expected to promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment between the two countries and will further vitalize both economies by strengthening reciprocal economic ties in wide-ranging fields.

3. Key elements in the Agreement

- (1) Trade in goods: Commitments of comprehensive tariff elimination and reduction for industrial products, and for agricultural products in bilateral trade.
- (2) Customs procedures and trade facilitation: Provisions for ensuring transparency of customs procedures, proper application of customs-related laws, framework for prompt clearance of goods, and promotion of a cooperation and information exchange.
- (3) Food supply, energy and mineral resources: Commitments of stable supply of food, energy and mineral resources and export restrictions on specific items.

- (4) Services: Commitments of providing national treatment, most-favoured-nation treatment and market access to service providers of the other Party in areas other than those listed in Annex. Additional commitments of telecommunication services and financial services also included.
- (5) Investment: Commitments of national treatment and most-favoured-nation treatment for investment activities by investors from the other Party (including activities at the stage of investment approval), prohibition of performance requirements, and provision of conducting a review for an Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism.
- (6) Intellectual property: Adequate, effective and non-discriminatory protection of intellectual property rights, promotion of efficiency and transparency in the implementation of intellectual property rights system, and sufficient and effective enforcement of intellectual property rights against infringement.
- (7) Promotion of a closer economic relationship: With a view to a closer economic relationship, the establishment of a sub-committee, where representatives of relevant entities may be invited, to hold consultations about the promotion of trade and investment.