



Japan-Canada Chambers Council Joint Statement

November 1, 2023

In recent years, the Canadian and Japanese business communities have shown immense resilience in response to major disruptions in the global economy. In spite of these challenges, the commercial relationship between the two countries is strong and continues to steadily expand. Fundamentally, the success of the relationship is underpinned by deep commercial, political and cultural ties, as well as our shared commitment to preserving a predictable, rules-based international trade environment.

To accelerate the economic dialogue between the two governments, including the bilateral Joint Economic Committee (JEC), and to strengthen the ties between the business communities of the two countries, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) hosted the annual joint meeting of Japan-Canada Chambers Council (JCCC) in Tokyo on November 1, 2023.

During the meeting, JCCC participants agreed that while this bilateral relationship has always been important, it has now become critical, given the volatility of the global context. Specifically, participants discussed the urgency of building on the economic opportunities that exist between Japan and Canada.

We therefore call upon our governments to build on the outcomes of the 2023 JCCC in the following areas.

- *Strengthening the Canada-Japan Bilateral Relationship in Times of Uncertainty.* The governments of both countries should continue to invest in this important bilateral relationship given its immense strategic and economic significance for both countries.
- *Bilateral Cooperation on Economic Security.* In the current international security context, it is important that both countries have access to reliable and sustainable sources of critical goods. Canada and Japan have complementary strengths in areas such as agriculture, energy, critical minerals, and clean technology, and should work closely together to ensure adequate supplies of materials are available for enhancing the economic security of both countries.
- *Enhancing the Framework for Expanding Bilateral Trade and Investment.* Both countries must strategically explore new measures for facilitating bilateral trade and investment while also strengthening existing systems. Such measures should include enhancing trade infrastructure, increasing trade and investment promotion, and deepening economic dialogues.

Our organizations look forward to continued collaboration with our members, as well as the Canadian and Japanese governments, to drive forward progress on these important matters.



Signed by:

Tatsuo Yasunaga, Japan Chair
Steve Dechka, Canada Chair

Witnessed by:

Kanji Yamanouchi, Ambassador of Japan to Canada
Ian McKay, Ambassador of Canada to Japan and Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific