



## The Japan-Canada Chambers Council Joint Statement on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting

The Japan-Canada Chambers Council (JCCC) was founded in 2014 through a partnership of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The JCCC's purpose is to serve as a framework for deepening mutual understanding and friendship between business communities in both countries, as well as to promote trade, investment, technical cooperation, tourism, culture, and personal exchange.

On April 7, 2017, the JCCC held its third joint meeting in Sendai-city, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. The location highlighted the outstanding recovery efforts and progress achieved since the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. 100 participants from both countries attended the event, discussed the potential for new bilateral scientific and technical cooperation, measures for promoting bilateral trade and investment, fostering human resources, and promoting personal exchange between the two countries.

Building on this joint meeting, the JCCC issued this joint statement to confirm its commitment to furthering Japan-Canada relations.

At the previous joint meeting of the JCCC in 2016 in Vancouver, we endorsed the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) but also stressed that the TPP is not enough. The JCCC called upon our two governments then to continue Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (CJEPA) negotiations.

Protectionist trends are emerging, particularly in the West. In such times, the JCCC reaffirms that the promotion of free trade is essential to both countries' growth and consequently to the growth and development of the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Canada and Japan ought to build a stronger relationship than ever before and exercise their leadership in promoting free trade in the Asia-Pacific region. While we continue to acknowledge the importance to endeavor concluding the TPP, we urge our two governments to recommence CJEPA negotiations as quickly as possible, striving for a framework for our businesses to engage.

Moreover, in order to realize further economic development in both countries, it is necessary to strongly promote technological innovation, productivity enhancement, and new business creation. To that end, bilateral industry-academia-government collaboration is required in the fields of science and technology in which both countries excel, as well as in securing and cultivating the human resources needed to promote such collaboration.

Finally, in order to further develop the countries' bilateral relationship, it is essential that Canada and Japan expand cross-border personal exchanges especially in tourism and study abroad programs. We should also further strengthen information dissemination and marketing activities to deepen mutual understanding regarding each other's respective local tourism- and education-related resources, strengths, and other attractive qualities for various regions in Canada and Japan.

April 7, 2017

The Japan-Canada Chambers Council

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