

Japan-Kingdom of Denmark
Joint Strategic Work Program
(2023-2028)

Towards deeper collaboration for growth, innovation and social welfare
through green transition and digitalization

Introduction

In 2014, Prime Ministers of Japan and Denmark launched a Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership for Growth and Innovation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark. Since then the bilateral relations and cooperation between Japan and Denmark have expanded and strengthened significantly. Our partnership which has lasted more than 150 years is underpinned by mutual interests, common values and a commitment to upholding the rules-based international system.

The Strategic Partnership between Japan and Denmark builds on a whole-of-government approach involving a range of sectors, stakeholders and authorities on both sides. Numerous cooperation frameworks and other ongoing joint activities on multiple levels have been initiated since the Strategic Partnership was launched – spanning political cooperation, trade, health, science, innovation, education, energy, food and agriculture, as well as environment and culture.

Amid growing geopolitical competition and challenges in the international arena, Japan and Denmark are determined to uphold international law including the UN Charter and to strengthen cooperation to maintain and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is not just a European crisis, but a challenge to the international order. The security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific is closely interlinked.

In the face of various global challenges, including those impacting vulnerable communities, the cooperation between Japan and Denmark is becoming more necessary than ever. In their joint efforts to ensure prosperity and to uphold the UN Sustainable Development Goals, combating climate change, which calls for global action and international cooperation, is a shared political agenda of Japan and Denmark as frontrunners setting ambitious goals on achieving net-zero. Furthermore, in addressing this agenda together, accelerated efforts through government and private partnership toward further digitalization will remain important.

Against this background, this Joint Strategic Work Program covers the main areas and mechanism for cooperation in the next five years: from 2023 to 2028, reflecting the breadth and depth of the Strategic Partnership between Japan and Denmark and

developments in the international arena since 2014.

1. Political cooperation



At a time when the freedom, democracy, rules-based international order, free trade, and global institutions are being challenged, strengthening political cooperation with like-minded countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally, is increasing its importance. Japan and Denmark are both liberal democracies committed to the fundamental values and principles, which give potential for an even closer political and economic cooperation. Building on the commonalities between their respective approaches to the Indo-Pacific, both countries will enhance cooperation to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive, based on the rule of law and democratic value, and free of coercion.

This follows the aspirations of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement and the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between Japan and the EU to strengthen the overall partnership by furthering connectivity, political and sectoral cooperation and joint actions on issues of common interest, including regional and global challenges.

The overall ambition is to strengthen the cooperation across foreign policy, security policy and international trade policy, in order to promote and safeguard the values and institutions that form the basis for the free and open international order based on the rule of law. Cooperation in the Arctic is central to this agenda, not least within the framework of the Arctic Council.

Promoting defense exchanges will also help safeguarding our common values.

The bilateral efforts will also focus on the active promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals, good governance and stability, prosperity, sustainable growth and development. Japan and Denmark will work together to support environmentally, socially and financially sustainable connectivity between Europe and Asia.

1.1. Political Cooperation

Area of focus: <i>Strengthening the bilateral relations and further enhancing multilateral cooperation, promoting and supporting the rule of law, human rights and shared democratic values and principles.</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs (Danish Maritime Authority). <i>Greenland:</i> The Ministry of Statehood and Foreign Affairs of Greenland <i>Faroe Islands:</i> Ministry of Industry and Foreign Affairs of Faroe Islands <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Cabinet Secretariat	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral relations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen political cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities to hold high-level exchanges and dialogue including through meetings in the margins of international and regional fora. Explore possibilities to hold regular consultations on political and security issues including on economic security and the protection of critical/advanced technology at the working level – for example in connection with the capacity as NATO Contact Point Embassy for 2021-2024. Support friendly exchanges between legislative bodies.
<i>Arctic and North Atlantic Issues</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the cooperation on Arctic and North Atlantic Affairs between Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark) and Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance exchange of views through consultations on the Arctic and North Atlantic between Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark) and Japan on relevant occasions, including on the margins of international meetings. Explore possible areas of concrete cooperation, e.g., through scientific cooperation utilizing Japan's Arctic Research Vessel which will be done in close cooperation with the relevant responsible authorities in respectively Denmark and Greenland, as well as with equal and meaningful participation and involvement in regards to the framework and substance of the scientific cooperation in this regard. Launch a dialogue on a bilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan and Greenland, as reflected in paragraph 16 of the Joint Statement.
<i>International Peace and Security</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and promote the rules-based multilateral system, with the United Nations playing the central role in addressing global issues and bringing political solutions to international disputes through consultations, dialogues and negotiations in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter. Strengthen cooperation to expedite UN reform, in support of Secretary-General's initiatives on peace and security reform, development system reform and management reform, emphasizing the necessity to improve its effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and representativeness in order to reflect the reality of today's international community. Strengthen cooperation and dialogue aimed at early reform of the UNSC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibilities to strengthen cooperation at relevant occasions involving relevant actors, i.e. political consultations. Joint efforts and initiatives to support and promote the rules-based multilateral system. Support the G4's reform proposal to expand both the permanent and non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC) Japan and Denmark will work together towards concrete action on the reform. Promote UN-reform, especially the UNSC reform and the reform of the UN development system.

<i>Free and open Indo-Pacific and sustainable connectivity</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate for realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific and promote sustainable connectivity between Japan and the EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific including through dialogues between Japan and the EU and strengthen bilateral and Japan-EU cooperation towards the realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific. • Strengthen sustainable connectivity cooperation, including implementation of the EU-Japan connectivity partnership. • Collaborate in international financial institutions to promote sustainable connectivity.
<i>Maritime issues</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote freedom of navigation and overflights of the high seas and peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. • Promote cooperation reflecting the changing security environment, and call for multilateral defense cooperation with other like-minded states. • Tackle asymmetric threats - including the threat of piracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urge to resolve maritime disputes through peaceful means and in accordance with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, and stress that maritime activities must be done in accordance with UNCLOS. • Strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, and actions that increase tensions in the East and South China Seas. • Explore possibilities for bilateral cooperation within maritime security issues where the two countries share common interests, such as the framework of the EU's Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP), Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA) , Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151) , Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and in the G7++Friends of the Gulf of Guinea Group.
<i>Human Rights</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen cooperation on the promotion and protection of human rights, including cooperation towards the immediate resolution of the North Korea's abductions issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possibilities of multilateral coordination on human rights issues in the Human Rights Council. • Express Danish understanding and support for the immediate resolution of the North Korea's abductions issue.
<i>Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including mine action, utilizing the margins of multilateral disarmaments meetings. • Cooperate on achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss further strengthening of cooperation at relevant occasions involving relevant actors, including at the margins of international meetings. • Ensure the full implementation of UNSC resolutions on North Korea.
<i>Legal cooperation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share legal views and analysis on major issues of international relations and international law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote bilateral legal consultations on international law.
<i>Cyber security</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the cooperation on cyber security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange recent incidents and experiences on cybersecurity.

1.2. Defense Cooperation

Area of focus: <i>Promote exchanges and cooperation between Japan and Denmark both bilaterally and multilaterally in the area of defense</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral defense exchanges</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to promote defense exchanges between Japan and Denmark. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate the work to commence consideration of stationing Danish defence attaché to Tokyo and to accredit Japanese Defense Attache in a third country to Copenhagen, with a view to strengthening bilateral defense cooperation. Explore the possibility to hold senior officers-level (policy director- level) defense consultations. Identify specific topics for bilateral cooperation in the defense field. Explore possibilities to hold exchanges and dialogues including through meetings in the margins of international and regional fora, as well as bilateral consultations.
<i>Multilateral defense exchanges</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue defense exchanges and training in multinational occasions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities for the participation in a multilateral exercise from both Japan and Denmark.

1.3. Other International and Multilateral Cooperation

Area of focus: <i>Supporting achieving SDG3 on Good Health and Well-being in third countries</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry of the Environment	
Objectives	Action
<i>Cooperation in third countries</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support sustainable growth in developing countries after the COVID-19 global pandemic, focusing on human security. Support international initiatives to ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures. Support vulnerable groups, children's health and national health systems. Continue efforts to assist developing countries in fighting poverty and in fostering inclusive economic growth and employment. Maintain and build on common positions, at the multilateral level, to promote growth and to fight poverty in Africa, as well as cooperating for peace and stability in fragile and conflict-affected states. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance a "Build Back Better and Greener" approach in developing countries based on respective approaches and solutions. Promote cooperation through international discussions including WHO convened process to establish the interim mechanism. Explore possibilities to hold consultations between Embassies of Japan and Denmark in third countries.
<i>Multilateral cooperation in various fora</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen dialogue and cooperation in multilateral and regional fora, such as the United Nations, ASEM and Japan-EU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities to strengthen cooperation between the two countries at various fora.

2. Energy and Environment



Combating climate change and promoting sustainable growth are amongst the greatest and most imminent global challenges. Japan and Denmark are both technologically advanced economies and can therefore cooperate in becoming net-zero as well as inspiring others to pursue an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. On climate change, Japan and Denmark have been cooperating in various ways, and both sides recognise the importance of utilization of the widest variety of renewable energy sources and technologies to achieve cost-effective and pragmatic energy transitions both in our respective countries and other countries across the globe, with a focus on the Global South.

On energy sector, Japan and Denmark have been exploring possibilities for cooperation as well as promotion and facilitation of networks and partnerships between Japanese and Danish institutions and businesses. There are potentials on cooperation in renewable energy area, particularly on offshore wind energy, clean hydrogen, clean ammonia, e-methanol and grid integration. On the environment, Japan and Denmark will cooperate on reducing waste and promoting the circular economy, creating sustainable cities and conserving biodiversity. Furthermore, the strategic cooperation will enhance dialogue at the political level between Japan and Denmark.

The overall ambition is to further strengthen the bilateral and multilateral partnership for a greener, cleaner, and quicker recovery from the negative economic impact of COVID-19, as well as ensuring more sustainable global growth and development.

2.1 Climate

Area of focus: Promote and Support action and Cooperation in achieving SDG7(Affordable and Clean Energy)	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities (Danish Energy Agency), The Export and Investment Fund of Denmark (EIFO) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral level</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen political-level and working-level dialogue on climate policy. Promote public focus and appropriate understanding of the 2030-agenda and the SDGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities of cooperation through political dialogue at the level of climate envoys and ministers. Explore possibilities to advance awareness and implementation of the SDGs in areas of common interest. Explore possibilities for holding seminars, workshops and meetings attended by government officials, business communities, researchers and scientists. Share experiences between relevant authorities, organize seminars, and exchange of technical delegation visits.
<i>Regional level</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen cooperation at regional and city level. Support exchanges and cooperation between regional and local leaders, including provinces, regions and municipalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize the opportunity of high-level participation in C40 World Mayors Summit. Explore the possibility to formulate Memorandums of Cooperation (MoCs) between Danish Embassy in Tokyo and local governments in addition to existing Arrangements with Kitakyushu (2022), Moriya (2021), Akita (2020), Sapporo (2020), Inabe (2020), Ogata (2017), Fukushima (2014), Kawasaki (2012) and Osaka (2011).
<i>Multilateral level</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance efforts towards tackling climate change and support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the main channel for reaching global consensus on climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate efforts to promote the Paris-Agreement and the SDG's in international and multilateral arenas and alliances.

2.2 Energy

Area of focus: Clean energy technologies	
Main partners Denmark: Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities (Danish Energy Agency) Japan: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral level</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate between the relevant authorities on clean energy technologies toward reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy system. Cooperate on energy efficiency with a focus on the development of new technologies within areas such as industry, transport, and the building sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in offshore wind energy and integrate variable renewable energy, which was adopted in March 2022 between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities of Denmark. Expand the energy collaboration to include e-fuels like hydrogen, ammonia and e-methanol. Exchange policy, scientific and technical information regarding facilitation of clean energy technologies. Explore common interests to enhance introduction of clean energy technologies. Explore the opportunity to establish an Innovation Centre that can either be a virtual centre or a physical centre for Floating Offshore Wind Energy.
<i>Regional level</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate on the development of regional green power houses with the aim to pursue just transition in renewable resource rich areas and supplying consumption centres with renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to leverage the similarities between regions of Japan, and Denmark, including the potential to become green power houses of our respective regions/country Exchange policy, scientific and technical information regarding developing renewable resource rich areas into green power houses.
<i>Cooperation in International fora</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate within multilateral fora on the area of clean energy technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities of cooperation in the activities on clean energy technologies under the International Energy Agency, Global Offshore Wind Alliance and the Clean Energy Ministerial.

2.3 Environment

Area of focus: <i>Promote and support action and cooperation on achieving SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land)</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral cooperation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to increase the national ambitions of relevant green policies, it is necessary to enhance cooperation and share knowledge in areas such as securing and protecting water resources and supplies, reducing air pollution, waste management, circular economy and sustainable resource. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility to adopt and formalize a Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC) concerning the areas as described. Explore possibilities to establish a framework for regular political consultations taking place between Japan and Denmark on a rotational basis. Jointly develop a set of priority areas to be pursued through a framework such as bilateral consultations, seminars, workshops, and meetings for the following 3-5 years. Share experiences and information.
<i>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance international efforts toward a swift and full implementation of GBF including the achievement of its goals and targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information between the relevant authorities about experiences, achievements and learnings in the area of biodiversity.
<i>Technical issues in the environmental area</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance cooperation on the facilitation of technology transfer and joint-research arrangements in the environmental sector, such as sustainable urban development, waste water treatment, mitigation of climate change impacts and reduction of air pollution from thermal power plants and traffic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities to hold seminars, workshops and meetings attended by government officials, business communities, researchers and scientists Share experiences and information. Explore possibilities to establish a Japan-Denmark Dialogue on Water. Promote sustainable connectivity and G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment Continue ongoing dialogue on extending the scope of cooperation.

2.4. Agriculture

Area of focus: <i>Sustainable agriculture and food safety</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Food Safety Commission of Japan.	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral Cooperation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed on March 7th 2023 with the intended objective to enhance cooperation in relation to the green transition in agriculture and sustainable food production. • Initial topics include policy consultations, bioenergy in agriculture, smart farming technologies and organic agriculture. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct high-level meetings and consultations on a rotational basis. • Conduct seminars and workshops • Conduct site visits • Consider a letter of intent (LoI) with the prefectural government of Hokkaido, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Danish Dairy farmers to Japan.
<i>Animal health and sustainable food production</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance cooperation between Japanese and Danish authorities, businesses and research institutions within the areas of animal health and food production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange seminars and workshops e.g. within the area of dairy production, meat and food safety.
<i>Open innovation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss future possible collaboration between Japanese and Danish authorities, businesses, researchers and scientists within the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food. • Engage in an exchange of information regarding products and technologies that would reduce the climate footprint of agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange seminars, workshops, and field visits to exchange the technologies from both countries.

3. Growth, Business, Trade and Maritime Cooperation



Japan and Denmark have a great potential for achieving green transition while growing the respective economies and increasing bilateral trade and investment. Japan and Denmark have benefited from the rules-based multilateral trading system. Cooperation in the field of trade and business is relevant in a bilateral setting, but also multilaterally in working together for an open and rules-based multilateral trading system. In this context, both countries support strengthening and reforming the WTO, as a central pillar of the global economic system, and will work together to ensure concrete results at MC13. Japan and Denmark have an opportunity to increase connectivity, mutual investment and trade by utilizing the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Both countries have advanced and developed industries in maritime area, and there is a great potential to be unleashed in increased cooperation in this sector, including cooperation on zero-emission vessels, maritime high tech and reduction of air pollution.

3.1. Growth, Business and Trade

<p>Area of focus: <i>Further strengthening economic ties between Japan and Denmark and increase trade, fully utilizing the Japan-EU EPA, with special attention to green sectors.</i></p>	
<p>Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danish Business Authority). <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Food Safety Commission of Japan, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p>	
Objectives	Action
<p><i>Bilateral trade relations and supply chains</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the new advantages of the EPA to increase trade, investment, etc. between Japan and Denmark. • Work towards creating favourable conditions for the establishment and operation of Japanese and Danish enterprises on the two markets • Strengthen supply chain. • Continue discussion for regionalization agreements between Japan and Denmark covering both African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI). • Examine the possibility of the application of regionalization for FMD to Japan's export of beef to EU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to seminars on the utilization of the advantages of the Japan-EU EPA. • Cooperate to ensure the full implementation of the Japan-EU EPA including through Japan-EU cooperation especially by the Joint Committee of the EPA. • Encourage partnerships between Japanese and Danish authorities, businesses and research institutions with a view to further expanding cooperation, exchange of know-how and experience as well as the development of new technology. • Explore the possibilities to strengthen supply chain between Japan and Denmark while considering the importance of supply chain of medical goods during the time of health crisis such as COVID-19. • Organize a MAFF inspection visit to Denmark in accordance with the established risk assessment process of MAFF. • Support a dialogue and information exchange between MAFF and DVFA in order to reach consensus.
<p><i>Cooperation in international fora</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate on promoting an open and rules-based multilateral trading system for global growth under the WTO. • Advance the reform of the WTO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue ongoing dialogue on efforts to promote an open and rules-based multilateral trading system • Explore possibilities of cooperation towards the advancement of the WTO, including having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024. • Work together in advancing plurilateral initiatives including the Joint Statement Initiatives, especially on E-Commerce negotiations and making permanent the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmission.

3.2. Maritime Cooperation

Area of focus: <i>Reducing Green House Gas emissions from ships and support multilateral cooperation</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs (Danish Maritime Authority) <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Maritime Bureau)	
Objectives	Action
<i>Multinational cooperation – IMO</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve net-zero GHG emission shipping by or around, i.e. close to 2050 • Successfully implement the IMO’s strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together in promoting the net-zero GHG emissions agenda in IMO and in projects under other fora, for example cooperation on green corridors and getting commercially viable deep sea zero emission vessels into operation by 2030. • Support research and development for zero or near-zero emission technologies and fuel bunkering.
<i>Other maritime issues</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate on the maritime sector including on quality shipping, digitalization, maritime high tech, green technology and liberalization of international shipping. • Strengthen cooperation within international fora on issues such as but not limited to global enforcement of environmental regulations, improvement of energy efficiency, training requirements, combatting piracy and armed robbery against ships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage through the ongoing informal dialogue in connection with the work of the IMO as well as in other fora such as Consultative Shipping Group.

4. Health, Welfare Technologies and Life Sciences



The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and the Ministry of the Interior and Health of Denmark signed a bilateral Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of health in October 2017, running for three years. In 2020 this Memorandum was made permanent. The successful bilateral cooperation including the implementation of this MoC has provided learning by government and authority cooperation, academic institutions, clinical societies and industry.

Japan and Denmark have shared the importance of promoting Universal Health Coverage globally, while exchanging information on the COVID-19 pandemic and collaborating in the medical area in Denmark. In light of the successful implementation of a MoC between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and the Ministry of the Interior and Health of Denmark, and the experiences of the COVID-19 global pandemic, it is evident that there is a great potential in a continued close cooperation in this sector, where Japan and Denmark face very similar challenges.

4.1. Health, Welfare Technologies and Life Sciences

Area of focus: <i>Strengthen cooperation and exchanges of knowledge between authorities on health issues and to promote and support action and cooperation on achieving SDG3 (Good Health and Well-Being)</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of the Interior and Health and its agencies. <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and its agencies.	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral cooperation on general health</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the successful collaboration within the field of health. • Operationalize the MoC in the area of health. • Promote the MoC cooperation in areas related to health, regulation and research, supporting health policy deliverables, improve system efficiencies and access for better health and societal value demonstration. • Expand commercial opportunities for businesses by achieving more favourable environments for health collaboration, regulatory collaboration and research collaboration. • Continue cooperation between the Japanese Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) and the Danish Medicines Agency (DKMA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange knowledge in the area of health based on the Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of the Interior and Health of Denmark and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. • Explore possibilities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ develop plans of cooperation as needed; ○ exchange of information on policies, laws and regulations; ○ hold joint seminars, workshops and meetings; ○ promote participation of health professionals from both countries. ○ strengthen cooperation to facilitate increased access to safe, effective and high quality medicines and medical devices, and share information related to these products. Initiate cooperation on disease and therapy areas with highly unmet health and societal needs, where Japanese and Danish capabilities and solutions are relevant and effective. • Promote collaboration with non-governmental groups, including public-private partnerships, academic institutions and civil society. • Exchange visits between the ministries and relevant agencies or other technical bodies between the two countries.
<i>Infectious diseases</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen cooperation on infectious diseases and pandemic response. • Strengthen cooperation on battling Antimicrobial Resistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote international cooperation on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through international organization such as the WHO.
<i>Health and welfare technologies</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase cooperation within health and welfare technologies including strengthening cooperation between Japanese and Danish authorities, business and research institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possibilities for exchange of information and joint seminars.

5. Digitalization, Science and Innovation



As highly advanced countries, digitalization, science and innovation are cornerstones in achieving economic growth and sustainable societies in Japan and Denmark. Furthermore, digitalization and e-government are effective tools for facilitating integrated policies and public service and therefore it has the potential to help support the implementation of the SDGs. Japan and Denmark will strengthen cooperation within the fields of technology, digitalization, science and innovation to make sure that they reap the benefits of scientific and technological development and prepare their societies for the future – including by managing technology-related risks. Japan and Denmark mutually recognise the tight link between innovation, economic growth and sustainable society. Both countries will jointly work towards further strengthening of a conducive business, innovation and intellectual property rights (IPR) environment to the benefit of industry and enterprises.

5.1. Digitalization and e-government

Area of focus: <i>Digitalization and e-government</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry for Digital Government and Gender Equality. <i>Japan:</i> Digital Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication.	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral cooperation on e-government</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing in the field of digitalization and e-government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of digitalization including Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT). Conduct seminars and other events discussing various topics including how to include the elderly in the digitalization and to ensure data protection and nationals' privacy.

5.2. Technology and Digitalization

Area of focus: <i>Technology and Digitalization</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Higher Education and Science <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and other relevant agencies	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral cooperation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the comprehensive and diverse cooperation in the fields of technology and digitalization, by committing to deepen dialogue through regular consultations, bilaterally as well as in relevant multilateral settings. Facilitate of cooperation in science and innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share experience on policies and strategies regarding the implications of digitalization on the international as well as the multilateral agenda in the fields of foreign and security policy, international aspects of cyber security, digital divide, and human rights. Share information and experience on collaboration and dialogue with the technology industry, including by exploring possibilities for expanding public-private collaboration on the responsible use of technology. Facilitate network and partnerships between Japanese and Danish research and other organizations through relevant frameworks such as the Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science of Denmark on Science, Technology and Innovation, 2018. Explore possibilities for cooperation under the renewed MoC on Science, Technology and Innovation on areas of mutual interest in advanced science and technology, e.g. quantum technology, life science and renewable energy.

5.3. Intellectual Property Rights

Area of focus: <i>More Secure IPR</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs (Danish Patent and Trademark Office). <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	
Objectives	Action
<i>Bilateral and multilateral cooperation on IPR</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in the field of intellectual property rights. • Open a dialogue in area of patenting and trademark registration, through which the two countries will exchange methodologies and explore synergies and possibilities for cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possibilities of cooperation in the field of intellectual property rights including through senior official meetings between Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO) and Japan Patent Office (JPO) to discuss global challenges to IP policies and systems. • Explore possibilities to exchange best practices between DKPTO and JPO on selected technical aspects related to patents and trademarks. • Explore possibilities to hold seminars in appropriate format on Japanese and Danish best practice on patents and trademarks targeting users of the IP system (companies, patent attorneys etc.). • Explore possibilities to exchange best practices in the field of international cooperation with non EU-countries.

6. Social Affairs, Gender Equality and Cultural Cooperation



Japan and Denmark will enhance cooperation on social affairs, gender equality, culture, and sport. As democracies where the value of welfare is held high, Japan and Denmark can cooperate on social security and ensure better labor market reforms.

In Japan and Denmark, there is huge potential in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, which is why both countries should share experiences on empowering women domestically and internationally.

Furthermore, Japan and Denmark are mature democratic countries sharing fundamental values and principles as well as a long history of exchange and friendship founded upon the strong ties between their nationals. Maintaining and strengthening such foundation is essential for both countries. In this context, cooperation in the field of culture and people-to-people exchange is important. The close cooperation between the two countries concerning the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 in the summer of 2021 and onward has been critical as a beacon of hope and friendship for the world during and post COVID-19 pandemic. Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, which, among others, aims at achieving the SDGs and digitalization, has become even more relevant in the era of COVID-19. As a showcase in the post-COVID-19 world, this Expo will provide an opportunity, to experiment with and demonstrate what will be a possible future society.

6.1 Social Affairs

Area of focus: <i>Labor market reforms and social security</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Employment <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	
Objectives	Action
<i>Labor and social security</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance cooperation in the field of labor and social security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange information about social security system to consider the possibility of bilateral agreement on Social Security.

6.2. Gender Equality and the rights for LGBTI persons

Area of focus: <i>Ensure equality and prevent discrimination based on gender or sexual orientations</i>	
Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Digital Government and Gender Equality and Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Japan:</i> Cabinet Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	
Objectives	Action
<i>Gender equality and women's empowerment</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, including active participation of women in the labor market as the key to further economic growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a seminar on national experiences in creating a society that empowers women, hosted by the Danish Embassy in Tokyo. Organize workshops and exchange knowledge, ideas, information on issues of common interest. Enhance cooperation at the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) in Japan Joint efforts and initiatives, including in multilateral forums, to promote gender equality.
<i>Rights of LGBTI persons</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote efforts in order to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct awareness-raising activities to protect the rights of LGBTI persons.

6.3 Cultural Affairs

<p>Area of focus: <i>Cultural exchanges including sports and foods to follow up on the celebration of the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Denmark and to ensure successful execution of major events including the EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.</i></p>	
<p>Main partners <i>Denmark:</i> Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <i>Japan:</i> Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies.</p>	
Objectives	Action
<i>Culture</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen cultural cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and tourism. Promote exchange of food culture. Cooperate on the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up on the celebration of 150th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Denmark and Japan in 2017 (to be carried out by the Embassies). Enhance cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchange including through Japan's Friendship Ties Program MIRAI (Mutual understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic exchange Initiative), JARA (Japan Alumni and Researchers Assembly) and JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme) Program, etc. Explore possibilities to promote cooperation on culinary culture. Cooperate to make the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Japan success. Participate in the EXPO via a joint Nordic Pavilion. Continue to promote exchanges between sister cities (Sorø-Wakuya City, Næstved-Narita City, Kolding-Anjo City, Gladsaxe-Taito-ku, Odense-Funabashi City, Faaborg-Midtfyn-Noboribetsu City), as well as cooperation with the Vejle City and other Danish municipalities.
<i>Sport</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen bilateral exchanges in the field of sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen bilateral exchanges including municipalities through the Host Town Initiative and so on. Support athletes and coaches who travel between Japan and Denmark to play and/or instruct each other. Facilitate further exchanges between respective Japanese and Danish national sport associations, building upon the contacts made during Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.