

Communications News

Newsletter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications(MIC), Japan

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TOPIC 1

Results of the Visit of Manabu Sakai, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to Vietnam and Myanmar

Manabu Sakai, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, visited Vietnam on May 2 and 3, 2018, and Myanmar from May 3 through 5, 2018, respectively. During his stay in Vietnam, he held talks with H.E. Mr. Truong Minh Tuan, Minister for Information and Communications, and attended the Japan Wireless EXPO in Viet Nam and relevant events.

In Myanmar, he met and exchanged a memorandum on cooperation in the postal field with H.E. U Thar Oo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, and held talks with a number of other key government officials as well, including H.E. Dr. Pe Myint, Minister for Information. The results of his visit in detail are described below.

1. Outline of State Minister’s Visit to Vietnam

(1) Talks with H.E. Mr. Truong Minh Tuan, Minister for Information and Communications

State Minister Sakai and Minister Truong Minh Tuan reached an agreement to continue the cooperative relationship between Japan and Vietnam through the Japan-Vietnam ICT Joint Working Group to discuss cooperative items in the field of information and communications. In addition, they exchanged opinions on the progress of the cooperation in the field of radio communications and postal services and on the co-production of broadcast content and confirmed the continuation and reinforcement of the cooperative relationship between Japan and Vietnam.

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Results of the Visit of Manabu Sakai, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to Vietnam and Myanmar

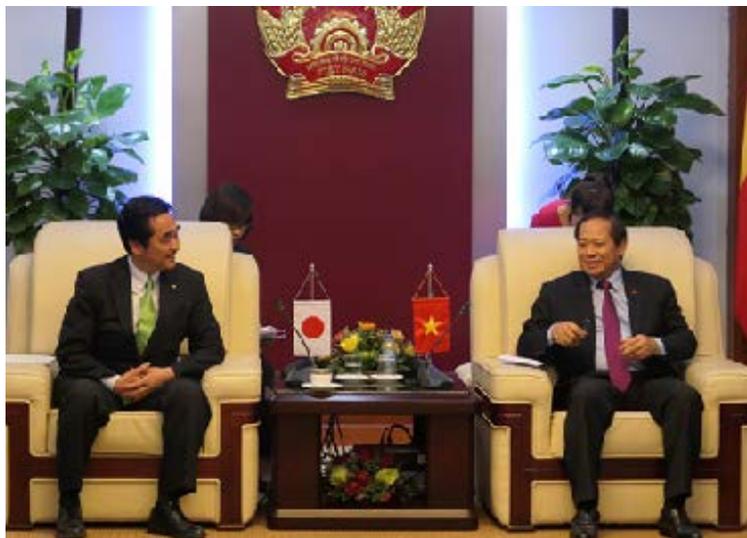


Photo: State Minister for MIC Manabu Sakai talking with H.E. Mr. Truong Minh Tuan, Minister for Information and Communications in Vietnam.

(2) Attendance at the Japan-Viet Nam Wireless Seminar

State Minister Sakai attended the Japan-Viet Nam Wireless Seminar. On behalf of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan as the organizer of the seminar, he delivered a greeting speech to those who participated in the seminar, explained the superiority of Japan's radio systems, and call for the utilization of the same in ASEAN countries, including Vietnam. Furthermore, State Minister Sakai and H.E. Dr. Phan Tam, Deputy Minister for Information and Communications of Vietnam visited exhibitions of Japanese companies at the Japan Wireless EXPO in Viet Nam, which was held in parallel with the seminar. The Japan-Viet Nam Wireless Seminar and the Japan Wireless EXPO in Viet Nam were events that commemorated the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan-Vietnam diplomatic relations and aimed at contributing to the further development of cooperative relations between the two countries.

(3) Witness to the Signing of an Agreement between a Japanese Company and VATM on a Demonstration and Experimental Field Test

State Minister Sakai witnessed the signing ceremony of a Japanese company and Vietnam Air Traffic Management Corporation (VATM) for an agreement on a demonstration and experimental field test of the Multilateration (MLAT) system to be conducted at Phu Quoc International Airport. The MLAT system is a radar system capable of identifying the location of aircraft at the airport. MIC promoted this demonstration and experimental field test in collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan as an effort towards an overseas expansion of Japan's excellent wireless systems.

(4) Field Visit

State Minister Sakai made an inspection visit to the elementary school conducting demonstration experiments of ICT utilization for education by the Japanese Company and to the Hanoi Mail Sorting Center, to which Japan Post gave consultations as a part of Japan's efforts based on a memorandum on cooperation in the postal field. State Minister Sakai confirmed the progress of Japan-Vietnam cooperation and the outcome of each effort there.

Results of the Visit of Manabu Sakai, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications to Vietnam and Myanmar

2. Outline of State Minister's Visit to Myanmar

(1) Exchange of a Memorandum on Cooperation in the Postal Field

MIC and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Myanmar have been promoting bilateral cooperation, including ODA technical cooperation for postal services capacity improvement, based on a memorandum on cooperation in the postal field (signed in May 2015). With consideration of the expiration of the memorandum in May this year, State Minister Sakai exchanged a new memorandum on Cooperation with Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications H.E. U Thar Oo.

(2) Talks with H.E. U Thar Oo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications

State Minister Sakai exchanged views on the progress of Japan-Myanmar cooperation in Myanmar on postal services, communications, and cybersecurity, and confirmed the enhancement of cooperative relationship in the future.

(3) Talks with Dr. Pe Myint, Minister for Information

State Minister Sakai exchanged views on the reinforcement of the performance of Myanmar's radio and television and the cooperation between Japan and Myanmar to establish program production companies and the collaborative production of broadcast content. Both confirmed the continuation and reinforcement of the cooperative relationship between Japan and Myanmar.



Photo: State Minister for MIC Manabu Sakai exchanging the Memorandum on Cooperation with Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications H.E. U Thar Oo

Results of The Seventh Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT) of the European Commission held the seventh Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop in Tokyo on Tuesday, April 17, and Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

The workshop included two meetings, i.e., a Government to government meeting and a Meeting with industries to exchange opinions freely on critical issues in the digital economy.

1. The Seventh Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop—Meeting with industries

(1) Overview

With consideration of the policy trends in both Japan and the EU and along with practical business issues in actual business places, the following matters were discussed mainly.

(2) Main Achievements

i. Policies of Both Sides

The EU side explained the situation of the digital single market strategy. The Japanese side explained the comprehensive ICT policy and the private sector's initiatives to realize Society 5.0. Both sides confirmed that they will periodically exchange opinions on the updating of each policy update in the future.

ii. 5G, IoT, and Automatic Driving

Both Japan and the EU explained their 5G frequency policies and trial efforts, initiatives for automatic driving, and utilization of 5G and the IoT in real business. They confirmed that they will periodically exchange opinions on the progress of these efforts.

iii. Standard Essential Patents

The Japanese side explained guidance on licensing negotiations for standard essential patents. The EU side commented that an international approach in this field is important and that the EU would like to share the direction with Japan.

iv. AI and Robotics

The EU side explained the EU's efforts on both social and technical aspects of AI to the effect that it is planning to establish an industry, government, and academia framework for conducting studies on AI. The Japanese side explained a plan on AI development guidelines for international discussions and an initiative for the utilization of AI. The importance of future discussions on AI was also recognized at the meeting of the G7 Ministers of Employment and Innovation held in Montreal, Canada, in March this year. The Japanese side and EU side confirmed that they will continue sharing issues and work in cooperation.

v. Electronic Certification

The Japanese side explained the progress of electronic certification from the previous Japan-EU ICT strategy workshop and that Japan is about to start comparing and examining the systems of both EU and Japan regarding electronic certification, including time stamps. The EU side commented on the importance of the advancement of electronic certification in cooperation with the Japanese side, and both sides confirmed that we will continue exchanging opinions.

Results of The Seventh Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

vi. Joint Research

The EU side explained the past efforts of Japan-EU ICT international collaborative research and the outline of research themes in the past. The Japanese side explained the scheme of international collaborative research and future collaborative research. Both sides confirmed that they will continue ongoing efforts towards international collaborative research.

vii. Platform

The EU side explained a proposed platform regulation under consideration within the EU and discussed the background of this regulation and regulatory objectives.

viii. Data Economy

Both sides discussed issues, including those over data utilization and data promotion and contract guidelines for data utilization.

With regard to personal information, the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission and the Japanese side explained the progress of efforts towards the establishment of the framework of personal information distribution between Japan and the EU, and the need to formulate practical and flexible guidelines and the importance of ensuring an appropriate balance between data protection and data distribution.

2.The Seventh Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop—Government to government meeting

(1) Overview

The Japanese side and the EU held discussed the following matters with consideration of the policy trends in both Japan and the EU.

(2) Main Achievements

i. G7 and G20

Both sides discussed the importance of the continuous collaboration of Japan and the EU at international forums such as G7 and G20. With consideration of the meeting of the G7 Ministers of Employment and Innovation held in Montreal, Canada, in March this year, in particular, they discussed the concept of human-centered AI that will achieve social benefits and inclusiveness and the importance of expanding this concept to countries other than G7 and confirmed that they will continue their cooperation between Japan and the EU.

ii. Platform

The EU side explained a proposed platform regulation under consideration in the EU and discussed the target of this regulation and the scope of the impact. In addition, the EU side stated that it is considering recommendations focusing on countermeasures against fake news.

iii. Cybersecurity

The Japanese side explained MIC and METI's efforts towards cybersecurity. The EU side showed its interest in security measures for IoT equipment.

iv. Cooperation in Individual Fields

Both sides confirmed the progress of the cooperation of both sides from the previous Japan-EU ICT strategy workshop in each individual field. Specifically, the Japanese side explained its concrete efforts, including those towards 5G, data economies, blockchains, ICT indicators, and market access in third countries. Both sides confirmed that they will continue deepening their cooperation through opinion exchanges of experts in the future.