

## MEDIA NOTE

November 4, 2019

### Joint Statement by the United States and Japan on Furthering the Development of Smart Cities in the Indo-Pacific

The text of the following statement was released by the Governments of the United States of America and Japan following bilateral consultations on the margins of the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### *Begin Text:*

The United States and Japan are working together to advance a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). Under the Japan-U.S. Strategic Digital Economy Partnership (JUSDEP), we are committed to realizing a global digital economy environment that is open, interoperable, reliable, and secure. This enabling environment is essential to the development of smart cities in the Indo-Pacific region. The United States and Japan intend to share our cities' experience and expertise with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) to further ASEAN's vision for a more integrated and connected ASEAN community. The following areas of collaboration align with the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, which reaffirmed the importance of experience-sharing for the development of smart cities and of promoting our shared values and concepts concerning smart cities across the world.

- 1. Smart Sisters Program:** The United States and Japan intend to both independently facilitate policy and technical collaboration between their cities and Indo-Pacific cities, in particular the 26 cities in the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) through a Smart Sisters program.
  - The goal of the Smart Sisters program is to create mutually beneficial partnerships between Indo-Pacific cities and cities in the United States or Japan to support the development of smart cities through sharing knowledge and experiences.
  - The Smart Sisters program is expected to facilitate the establishment of collaborations between local government officials based on similarities and common challenges in areas such as water management, tourism, and transportation. The cities have the ability to define the nature of the collaboration and how best to work together.
  - Japan and the United States are committed to sharing outcomes and lessons learned from the Smart Sisters program with each other and the ASEAN member states.
- 2. Coordinating Smart City Efforts:** The United States and Japan expect to coordinate and share information on their planned engagements under their respective smart city programs, including engagements with key stakeholders, such as the private sector. The United States and Japan plan to invite one another to participate in future activities in the Indo-Pacific region including with the ASCN.

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3. **Joint Training:** The United States and Japan intend to engage in joint training related to smart city for the Indo-Pacific region including the ASCN.