



Communications News

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

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TOPICS

Results of Talks between H.E. Sanae Takaichi, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and Union Minister U Myat Hein for Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar

H.E. Sanae Takaichi, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, held talks with Union Minister U Myat Hein for Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar, who was visiting Japan. Minister Takaichi informed the Union Minister of the results of Japan-Myanmar cooperation based on the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the postal field concluded between Japan and Myanmar in April last year, and renewed the MoC. Furthermore, Minister Takaichi presented the Info-Communications Promotion Month Award to the Union Minister.

1. Sequence of events

(1) Japan and Myanmar signed the MoC in the postal field in April 2014 as a result of extensive consultations between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan and the Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar, between Japan and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

(2) Postal experts of Japan started teaching basic postal service know-how to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (MPT) in May 2014 in accordance with the MoC and practiced postal service improvements in Myanmar in order to investigate and analyze the effects and possibility of further postal service improvements.

(3) In the telecommunications field, on the other hand, a project for urgent improvement of communications networks was implemented in 2013 in the form of grants (in a total amount of 1.7 billion yen). In March 2015, Japan and Myanmar signed an Exchange of

Notes for a communication network improvement project by yen loans (with a credit ceiling of 10.5 billion yen). In addition, a joint project of MPT, KDDI, and Sumitomo Cooperation has been implemented since September 2014.

(4) In response to the development of the above cooperation in the telecommunications field between Japan and Myanmar, MIC invited and gave a training to officials of Myanmar's MPT and Post and Telecommunications Department (PTD) in Japan this March.

(5) This time, certain results came out based on the MoC in the postal field and the time came to renew the MoC. Accordingly, Minister U Myat Hein visited Japan, and held talks with Minister Takaichi for Internal Affairs and Communications today, when Minister Takaichi informed Minister U Myat Hein of the results of the cooperation and renewed the MoC.

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Furthermore, Minister Takaichi presented the Info-Communications Promotion Month Award to the Union Minister for his significant contribution to the development of cooperation between Japan and Myanmar in the information and communications field.

2. Gist of Renewed Memorandum of Cooperation

(1) Scope of cooperation

- Sharing information and know-how on institutions and policies in the postal field
- Assisting Myanmar's national postal and telecommunications entities in the creation of master and action plans
- Introducing new projects and services
- Promoting business activities, such as advertising, sales, and marketing businesses and PR with the people of Myanmar

(2) Target areas of cooperation

- Three cities, i.e., Yangon, Mandalay, Nepido, and their surrounding areas

(3) Initiatives for cooperation

- Japan (MIC)
 - 1) Securing a place for policy dialogue and assistance in institutional designing
 - 2) Assistance in creating master and other plans
 - 3) Introducing support to new businesses and new services

4) Support to PR to Japanese enterprises for the situation of quality improvements

• Myanmar (MPT):

- 1) Making the confidentiality of Japanese know-how
 - 2) Making a mechanism to keep MPT and its officials well informed of know-how
 - 3) Creating master and other plans
 - 4) Personnel securing for the introduction promotion of new projects and new services
 - 5) Working on other ministries and agencies concerned for the effective use of postal services and post offices
 - 6) Keeping Myanmar's people and enterprises informed of the situation of quality improvements
- *Overseas development assistance (ODA) to be adopted will take over the technical cooperation in postal quality improvements.

(4) Validity period

Valid for one year counting from the date signed (automatically renewed for another year, up to a maximum of three years.)

3. Future policy

MIC will continue promoting Japan-Myanmar cooperation in the information and communications field. In the postal field, in particular, MIC will make concrete efforts based on the renewed MoC.

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Dr. Ken Sakamura (Professor of the University of Tokyo, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies Graduate school of Interdisciplinary) Receives ITU 150 Award

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) decided to grant an ITU150 Award to Dr. Ken Sakamura (Professor of the University of Tokyo, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies Graduate school of Interdisciplinary). ITU150 Awards recognize individuals who have contributed to improving lives of world citizens through information communications technology (ICT) innovations on the occasion of the ITU's 150th Anniversary, and six people of the world, including Mr. Bill Gates of the United States have been selected.

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at the ITU's 150th anniversary celebration in its headquarters in Geneva on May 17 (local time).

INFORMATION

Signing Joint Declaration between Japan and EC on Strategic Cooperation on Future Generation of Communication Networks

First joint declaration to establish concrete cooperation on 5G between Japan and EU

Minister Sanae Takaichi for Internal Affairs and Communications and European Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger (for Digital Economy & Society) signed the Joint Declaration at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) on Wednesday, May 27, in the presence of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Viorel Isticioaia-Budura of the European Union to Japan. This Joint Declaration covers a strategic cooperation on the future generation of communication networks (5G).

The Joint Declaration aims to commercialize 5G by 2020, when the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Japan, and includes Japan-EU cooperation in the field of research and development and coordination in the discussions at international institutions, such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In the Joint Declaration, MIC and the European Commission Directorate General Communication Networks, Content and Technology (hereinafter referred to as “both sides”) agreed on the following matters.

- Both sides recognized that the communications infrastructure is the backbone of the future digital economy, creating more and better jobs, and contributing a sustainable economic growth for the mutual benefit of Japan and the European Union (EU). Both sides consequently concurred with the great importance of timely developing the next generation of global communication networks (5G).
- Both sides intend to enhance cooperation on the following points for preparing global standardization for 5G, harmonizing radio spectrum policy to ensure global interoperability and in developing further research activities of common interest in order to speed up technological progress in telecommunications.
 - To strive to reach a common understanding, on the broad definition, the key functionalities, and target time table for 5G.
 - To jointly cooperate to facilitate the emergence of global standards for 5G, in view of supporting harmonized standardization approaches in relevant fora.
 - To cooperate to facilitate the identification of globally harmonized radio frequency bands.

- To join forces to support and facilitate the development of new applications and ecosystems which offer high potential societal value.

- Both sides recognized the importance of public-private partnerships for 5G, and expressed support for deepening of interactions and exchanges between industry associations dealing with 5G in Japan and in the EU.

Joint Declaration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan and the European Commission Directorate General Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect) on a Strategic Cooperation on the Future Generation of Communication Networks (5G) http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000360938.pdf