

Joint Statement between Japan and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Further Synergy of the Future-Oriented Expanded Strategic Partnership

On December 18, 2025, Prime Minister of Japan TAKAICHI Sanae and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart TOKAYEV held a meeting in Tokyo.

The two leaders stressed the importance of maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law, and expressed the continued commitment to upholding the Charter of the United Nations (UN), particularly the principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of all countries. The two leaders expressed their mutual will to promote peace, security, and stability both globally and regionally.

Based on the strategic cooperation that has been achieved so far, the two leaders concurred on promoting concrete projects to strengthen the interconnection between Japan and Kazakhstan.

The two leaders concurred on further development of mutual partnership, including through the implementation of the bilateral cooperation and initiatives exemplified below, as well as the three priority cooperation areas.

I Political Field

1. Both sides will develop bilateral relations through continued political dialogue, including high-level mutual visits, noting successful visit of Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs to Japan and Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs to Kazakhstan in 2025.
2. Both sides will further strengthen inter-parliamentary exchanges, including within the framework of relevant international forums and organizations. The Kazakh side expressed interest in organizing a visit by the Head of one of the houses of the National Diet of Japan.
3. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of political consultations on regional and global issues and determined to hold them on a regular basis.
4. Both sides welcomed the signing by the foreign ministers of both sides of the Action Plan for cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2025-2026 toward strengthening cooperation in various areas.
5. Both sides will foster collaboration between municipalities and cities, and welcomed the signing of the document on exchange and collaboration between the City of Hiroshima and the City of Semey in August 2024, and the dedication by both cities, as Mayors for Peace member cities, in consolidating and enhancing the quality of cooperative initiatives.

6. The Japanese side will continue to facilitate exchanges between public officers of the two countries, including through the Japan International Cooperation Agency programs, with the aim of exchanging experience and knowledge in the field of public and municipal administration.

II Strengthening Security

7. Both sides welcomed the progress in cooperation between the defense authorities.

8. Both sides confirmed that they will continue to cooperate in the areas of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and expressed their commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

9. Both sides have been implementing cooperation in areas such as victim assistance and environmental remediation for people and areas affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons.

Both sides welcomed the signing and exchanging of Notes on Japan's support for victims of nuclear testing through provision of medical equipment.

10. Both sides cooperated within the framework of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning Cooperation for the Destruction of Nuclear Weapons Reduced in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Establishment of a Committee on this Cooperation for almost 30 years. Taking advantage of the opportunity of inviting Kazakhstan officials to Japan to conclude the projects under this framework and subsequent opportunities for exchange of views, both sides discussed the possibility of bilateral cooperation after the termination of this Agreement.

11. Both sides reaffirmed their strong and unequivocal condemnation of any forms of terrorism. In addressing the global drug problem, both sides affirmed the importance of cooperation between counter-narcotics bodies of Japan and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

12. Both sides concurred on continuation of cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism through strengthening border control and law enforcement capacity, intelligence and analysis capabilities, and inter-organizational network collaboration.

13. Both sides welcomed the successful holding of Central Asian Counter-Terrorism Workshop in Tokyo on February 14 this year, hosted by the Government of Japan and attended by law enforcement authorities from five Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan.

14. Both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by the justice authorities, and concurred on the promotion of cooperation to strengthen the rule of law.

III Three Priority Areas of Cooperation

Green and Resilience: Cooperation including new industry development and industrial upgrading consistent with climate change measures-

15. Japan will support strengthening the system for region-wide disaster risk reduction. Both sides welcomed the implementation of measures by Japan with UNDP for the strengthening disaster resilience at regional and national levels, with a specific emphasis on enhancing regional disaster coordination of large-scale disasters and increasing earthquake awareness and readiness. Both sides welcomed the signing of the Exchanging of Notes on Japan's support for "the Project for Improving Flood Control Measures through Integrated Dam Management".

16. Both sides are committed to public-private cooperation toward the formation of concrete projects under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and energy transition and welcomed the holding of the first Joint Committee on the JCM in Astana in January this year.

17. Both sides welcomed the signing of a bilateral Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of environmental protection for further strengthening cooperation in the environmental field, including climate change and air pollution, conserving biodiversity.

18. Both sides concurred on cooperating to support the development of environmental preservation projects between Japan Bank for International and Cooperation (JBIC) the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.

19. Kazakhstan explained the issue of the declining water levels of the Caspian Sea and Lake Balkhash, underscoring their significance as warning signs deserving global attention, not just regional phenomena.

20. Both sides noted the importance of Kazakhstan's initiatives, including efforts to preserve the water resources of the Caspian Sea and the organization of a Regional Ecological Summit in partnership with the United Nations and other international organizations in April 22-24 2026.

21. Both sides welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on energy transition between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the progress of the outcomes of the first Economic and Energy Dialogue of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue held in September 2023 and holding of the second Economic and Energy Dialogue in September 2025.

22. Both sides concurred on recognizing the importance of simultaneously achieving economic growth, energy security and decarbonization, and both sides concurred on the achievement of the common goal of carbon neutrality/net-zero following various pathways. In this regard, both sides welcomed energy transition

roadmap toward the net-zero goal which was presented at the second Economic and Energy Dialogue and the progress of cooperation projects by the private sector in the energy sector.

23. Japan will also support the promotion of energy efficiency in industry and consumer sectors through the dissemination of "energy management system" and "Net Zero Energy Building (ZEB)/ Net Zero Energy House (ZEH)".

24. Both sides will consider cooperation in transition to clean energy, including use of energy saving devices, solar, wind, hydrogen and ammonia, carbon dioxide capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), and sustainable fuels.

25. To contribute to global energy security and achieve carbon neutrality /net-zero, both sides will explore opportunities for cooperation in the field of development of small modular reactor (SMR) technologies.

26. Both sides welcomed growing cooperation between Japan Atomic Energy Agency on one side and National Nuclear Center of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the other side, and they will continue to share experience in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Both sides will support strengthening of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including research of advanced nuclear reactors such as high temperature gas-cooled reactors and fast reactors, and human resource development.

27. Japan will continue to cooperate with Kazakhstan using Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT) series for preparing more accurate and transparent reports of greenhouse gas emission to be submitted within the framework of the Paris Agreement.

28. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation for strengthening the economic resilience of Central Asia through supply chain resilience and cooperation of critical minerals essential for the clean energy transition and manufacturing sectors. Both sides recognized the importance of diversification of supply source of critical minerals. Both sides discussed potential expansion of critical minerals and the role of Kazakhstan to ensure global supply chain security in this regard.

29. Both sides will cooperate for inter-governmental and inter-company coordination in diverse areas such as Green Transformation (GX) and Digital Transformation (DX), focusing on human resource development and sharing of best practices, such as through training programs organized by the Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy (JCCP).

30. Considering Japan's vast experience in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Government of Japan welcomes the establishment of a

corresponding UN Regional Centre for the Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty and expresses its interest to exchange information and explore the possible avenues of cooperation with this Centre.

31. Both sides welcomed the Joint Commission of Government and Private Sectors of Japan and Kazakhstan on Economic Cooperation held in Tokyo in November 2023 and expressed their intention to hold another meeting in 2026. Both sides will continue their efforts to promote trade and investment.

Connectivity: Enhancing logistics, transportation, and people to people exchanges, and addressing social challenges with various technologies and DX.

32. The Kazakh side took note of the efforts of Japan to maximize collective impact of development by to using Official Development Assistance (ODA) more strategically as a catalyst to involve various public and private actors.

Both sides concurred on promoting and expanding cooperation, regarding “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” to enhance connectivity within the region, and from Central Asia to the world.

Kazakhstan explained the importance of the Route which aims to significantly enhance transportation and logistics between the east and west, by leveraging the country’s strategic position at the heart of the Eurasian continent. Japan recognized the historical significance of the Route in promoting the flow of goods, people, and information.

33. As part of the cooperation, both sides welcomed the implementation of training for customs officials in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the decision of the Japanese side to provide support for “the Project for the Improvement of Freight-scanning Equipment at the Aktau Port”.

34. Also, regarding the “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route”, Japan has also implemented a transportation research through a public-private partnership, with the aim of identifying critical logistical challenges. Japan has facilitated official visits to logistics facilities located along this route, with a view to deepening the understanding of Japanese enterprises regarding its operational environment and potential opportunities.

35. Both sides will promote joint research cooperation in the field of rare earth metals under the framework of Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), which is an international joint research program.

Both sides will consider using the “Smart Mining+” technology, which enables efficient management and mine environment measures by effectively utilizing AI and digital technology to promote sustainability-conscious mining

development planning and appropriate mine environment management in Kazakhstan.

36. Both sides welcomed the intention that Air Astana is planning to launch regular direct flights between both sides in 2026 and that Japan Airlines and Air Astana signed a code sharing agreement on the direct flights as well as the domestic network on both sides. Both sides will encourage increasing passengers flow between them through pushing forward the activities for the launch of direct flights.

37. Both sides concurred on the commencement of intergovernmental negotiations for a bilateral air services agreement.

38. Both sides will continue cooperation in the field of animal health protection taking into account the international standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

39. Both sides welcomed the development of cooperation among research institutions and various business projects for the collection and utilization of plant genetic resources and improvement of agricultural soil, and welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by the agricultural authorities, and concurred on the promotion of cooperation in agriculture for promoting sustainable development.

40. Both sides concurred on developing cooperation in the field of agricultural and food product supplies in order to address global food security challenges and facilitate invest and trade in the food and agriculture sector.

41. Both sides concurred on working together to develop and support governance and ecosystem for safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) aimed at harnessing its potential to achieve sustainable economic growth and to address social challenges.

Taking into account the efforts of Japan and Kazakhstan for large-scale digitalization and the integration of AI technologies into the economy, both sides expressed interests to implementation of joint projects in this area, including through newly launched Japan-Central Asia Partnership for AI Cooperation.

42. Both sides welcomed the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and will make joint efforts to expand bilateral trade and support mutual initiatives aimed at further facilitating bilateral economic cooperation.

Human Resource Development: Prospering with Empowered Human Resource through the Partnership between Japan and Kazakhstan

43. Both sides will continue strengthening cooperation in the fields of education, academia, the arts, culture, information, creative industry and other

areas, including sports exchanges between the two nations, animation content, co-production of Japan-Kazakhstan films, etc., and encourage student exchanges, including through intellectual and academic exchanges initiatives such as “MIRAI” program, Japanese language courses jointly run by the Japan Foundation and the Kazakhstan-Japan Center for Human Development.

44. Both sides recognized that science, technology, and innovation (STI) are widely applicable to diverse economic activities, both sides will consider strengthening intellectual, academic and research exchanges and cooperation on STI both bilaterally and multilaterally.

45. Both sides will work together on the “One Village, One Product” (OVOP) movement and accelerating financial inclusion through Limited Liability Company “Microfinance Organization “KMF”, which also contribute to women’s empowerment and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

46. In collaboration with JICA and KazAID, both sides will promote broad-based cooperation in the Central Asia region, including support for entrepreneurs, particularly women entrepreneurs, and development of digitalization in Central Asia and beyond, as well as cooperation in international coordination.

47. Both sides appreciated the cooperation under the framework “Development of advanced industrial human resource through “Japanese Style Engineering Education” of the JICA training program. Both sides will also continue cooperation on Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia (JISPA). The Japanese side highly appreciates the efforts of Kazakhstan to create high-quality human resources and declaration of 2025 as the Year of Working Professions in Kazakhstan.

48. Kazakhstan expressed interest in the Specified Skilled Worker System and the Employment for Skill Development Program. Both sides will continue discussions on the area of labor resources.

49. Both sides reaffirmed that the promotion of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) plays an important role in strengthening Japan-Kazakhstan economic cooperation. Japan will provide know-how for the promotion of SMEs, including technical cooperation such as dispatching experts under the framework of JICA projects, in collaboration with National Chamber of entrepreneurs “ATAMEKEN” and a Kazakhstan-Japan Center for Human Development (KJC).

50. Both sides will promote exchanges between specialized agencies of Japan and Kazakhstan in the sphere of space technology research.

51. Both sides welcomed the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation in the sphere of ICT including postal services.

52. Both sides will continue cooperation in the fields of digital technologies including postal services, healthcare, energy and scientific research, and will encourage higher educational institutions and scientific organizations of both countries for practical collaboration.

53. Both sides welcomed the signing of Memorandum on Cooperation in science and higher education between the relevant authorities.

54. Both sides welcomed the cooperation in the area of culture to preserve and protect World Heritage sites in Kazakhstan such as extending capacity building and helping inscription through UNESCO projects funded by Japan and reaffirmed the importance of continuing to strengthen the cooperation.

55. Japan expressed its intention to promote cooperation in the field of archaeology by encouraging interested Japanese researchers to contribute their knowledge and expertise.

IV Cooperation in other fields

56. Japan expressed appreciation for Kazakhstan's cooperation in collecting the remains of Japanese internees in Kazakhstan and establishing a small-scale cenotaph.

57. Both sides appreciated the cooperation between the two countries for the successful holding of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, which has helped creating innovation through exchange activation and pursuing the contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Both sides welcomed the successful holding of Kazakhstan's National Day on August 10 attended by Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan.

Japan welcomed Kazakhstan's consideration to participate in GREENxEXPO 2027.

58. Japan appreciates Kazakhstan's initiative to lead the regional efforts on the digital solutions for the sustainable development and, in line with the outcome of the discussions at the ESCAP, expresses its interest to exchange information and explore possible avenues of cooperation with Kazakhstan.

59. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the official visit of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and highly appreciated the visit, which made a positive contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to the delegation.

60. Both sides reaffirmed their firm intention to continue high-level contacts between Japan and the Republic of Kazakhstan. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev invited Prime Minister of Japan Takaichi Sanae to pay a reciprocal visit

to Kazakhstan at a time convenient for her. Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae gratefully accepted the invitation.

Signed at Tokyo on 18 December 2025 in two copies in English.

**Prime Minister
of Japan**

**President
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

TAKAICHI Sanae

Kassym-Jomart TOKAYEV