

Joint Statement
between
Ministry of Economy and Finance of France, Ministry of State for
the Digital Sector of France and Ministry of Economy, Trade and
Industry of Japan
on
Bilateral Cooperation in the fields of innovation and digital
economy

Ministry of Economy and Finance of France, Ministry of State for the Digital Sector of France and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (hereinafter mentioned as the Participants) hereby express their intent to strengthen their collaboration in the fields of innovation and digital economy, based on the principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The Participants recognize the growing role of digital technologies in the lives of their citizens and in the routine functions of government and business, and understand their potential to transform society and empower people to lead meaningful and fulfilled lives. The Participants share the desire to harness technology to improve peoples' experiences, create economic opportunities, build closer communities, and circumscribe and manage the risks that arise from the use of these technologies to States as well as to their citizens and businesses.

Preamble

Emphasizing that the Participants are engaged to use disruptive innovation and digital technologies to provide a role model to the world for an open, competitive, inclusive and sustainable society, and to solve economic and social challenges such as ageing society, environmental issues and to strengthen industrial competitiveness;

Taking into consideration that in order to tackle those issues, the Participants have recently launched similar initiatives to modernize

and digitalize their industrial sectors (Alliance Industrie du Futur in 2015 (France), French Fab in 2017 (France), Connected Industries in 2017 (Japan)), on startups support (French Tech in 2015 (France), J-Startup in 2018(Japan)) and on Artificial Intelligence (AI Technology Strategy published in 2017 (Japan), AI Strategy – Villani Report in 2018 (France));

Recognizing that the Participants also share the same views on the importance of open and fair market environments, including the promotion and protection of free flow of information, for further stimulation of innovation, and to encourage, among others, integration of cybersecurity solutions;

Considering the complementarities between French and Japanese companies and technologies,

The Participants agree that

1/ They will benefit from stronger and deeper industrial, research and policy collaboration in startup support and in new technologies, specifically Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Internet of Things and 5G, and their applications such as robotics, transport-mobility and healthcare.

2/ They will strengthen collaborations between stakeholders involved in J-Startup and La French Tech initiatives.

These collaborations will aim to promote each other's startup ecosystems through:

- Establishing a global hub in each other's country;
- Sharing network and knowledge, and facilitating access to each other's incubators and accelerators;

- Dispatching business missions in both countries including startups through Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and Business France;
- Encouraging startups presence from both sides in events such as Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies (CEATEC) in Japan and VIVA Technology in France.

3/ They will strengthen the existing industrial cooperation frameworks between Direction Générale des Entreprises (DGE) and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and support technological collaborations between French and Japanese companies. They will also:

- Exchange on issues such as startup cooperation and new technologies in the existing France-Japan Industrial Cooperation Committee between DGE and METI which is held annually.
- Strive to promote project-finding such as under joint call R&D program between Bpifrance and New Energy Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). For the purposes of increasing the number of supported projects, and of expanding the scope of such projects, the Participants shall work to find solutions to harmonize projects' evaluation and applicants' eligibility.

4/ They will encourage and strengthen research and development programs and cooperation between French and Japan's research institutes including on artificial intelligence.

Specifically, the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) and the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), as major scientific research stakeholders, will foster further connections and cooperation.

5/ They will constantly exchange views and information on both countries' digital policies and strategies at governmental, business, and academic levels.

6/ They will work on including a chapter on digital economy into the next 5 year roadmap for the cooperation between France and Japan;

7/ They will hold bilateral talks on digital economy issues in the preparation of G20 and G7 meetings.

8/ They will pursue bilateral discussions on international disciplines and standards on digital economy.

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Signed on the 13th day of July 2018 in two originals in English.