

Memorandum of Cooperation
Between
The Digital Agency of Japan
And
the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
in Information Technology, Communication and Digital Economy

The Digital Agency of Japan and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and (**hereinafter referred to individually as a “participant” and collectively as “the participants”**), in appreciation of the deep-rooted and strong bilateral relationship between Japan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and their desire to collaborate in the fields of information and communication technology and digital economy;

Have reached the following views:

Paragraph I

Objective

This Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “this memorandum”) aims to promote and encourage cooperation, knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences between the participants in the field of communication technology and the digital economy in accordance with the national laws and the capabilities of both countries.

Paragraph II

Areas of cooperation

The participants will cooperate -within the framework of this Memorandum - in the following areas:

1. Digital Government

- Exchange of information on best practices, policies and regulations on issues related to digital transformation, digital government industry development, interoperability standards, and emerging technologies.

- Joint initiatives to promote the growth of digital government services and standards, including but not limited to digital platforms, e- signatures and authentication.
- Exchange of information on the development of digital government services.
- Capacity-building in the areas of digital government.
- Exchange of knowledge in the areas of e-Participation and benefit from the digital government services for vulnerable groups such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- Cooperation in the areas of research and innovation, and establishment of research teams to study issues of common interest to develop digital government services.
- Collaboration in the development and exchange of knowledge in the areas of providing digital identity and trust services.

2. Emerging Technologies

- Exchange of best practices and policies that enable businesses utilization of emerging technologies and improve customer experience.
3. Other areas of cooperation decided by the participants.

Paragraph III

Means of Cooperation

In order to achieve cooperation in line with Paragraph II, this Memorandum will be implemented by the following means:

1. Exchange of expertise and best practices in the fields of information technology, communication, and digital economy.
2. Developing joint programs related to the field of cooperation, including capacity-building research projects, and joint research projects.
3. Organizing visits, meetings, seminars and workshops.
4. Any other means of cooperation decided by the participants.

Paragraph IV

Implementation Mechanism

1. Each participant will designate an official to facilitate the procedures and to follow up on the activities mentioned in this Memorandum, and when a participant changes its designated official, it will inform the other participant.
2. The participants meet alternately based on the need to consult on the implementation of this Memorandum.
3. The participants may invite any individual or entity to participate in the meetings after coordination between each other with the consensus of both participants.
4. The implementation of this Memorandum in the areas mentioned in **Paragraph II** will be in line with a program decided by the participants in which the matters on costs and responsibilities of each participant will be determined.

Paragraph V

Legal Aspects

This Memorandum does not affect or prejudice any rights and obligations arising from international agreements applicable to the participants. The participants acknowledge that this Memorandum does not intend to be legally binding or create any rights or obligations for the participants under international law.

Paragraph VI

Financial Obligations

The signing of this Memorandum does not entail any financial obligation on the participants, and each participant will bear its own expenses related to its participation in achieving the objective of this Memorandum.

Paragraph VII

Intellectual Property

The participants will take the necessary measures to protect the intellectual property rights resulting from any activity within the framework of this Memorandum, in accordance with the laws and regulations in each country and the international agreements applicable to the participants.

Paragraph VIII

Confidentiality of Information

The participants will only use the information and documents exchanged between them for the purposes mentioned in this Memorandum, and will not transfer such information and documents to a third party without written consent of the participants. The matters of this Paragraph will remain operative even after the discontinuation of this Memorandum.

Paragraph IX

Settlement of Disputes

Disputes arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum will be settled amicably through direct contacts between the participants. In the event that no settlement is reached, the dispute will be settled through the diplomatic channels, and it will not be submitted to any court, authority, or any other body for settlement.

Paragraph X

Commencement, Duration, Modification and Discontinuation

1. This Memorandum will commence on the date of the notification from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through diplomatic channels, - confirming the completion of the legal procedures necessary for its commencement.
2. The duration of this Memorandum is 3 (three) years and it is automatically renewed for a similar period or periods, unless one of the participants notifies the other participant in writing, through diplomatic channels, of its desire to discontinue it or not to renew it at least 6 (six) months before the date specified for its discontinuation.
3. This Memorandum can be modified by mutual confirmation of the participants in line with the regulatory procedures followed by each of them.
4. The discontinuation of this Memorandum does not affect ongoing projects and programs implemented under this Memorandum, unless the participants decide otherwise.

This Memorandum was signed in Tokyo on 11/10/2023, corresponding to 26/03/1445 AH, in two original copies in the Japanese, English, and Arabic languages, and all texts have equal value. In case of difference in interpretation, the English text will prevail.

For the Digital Agency of Japan

**For the Ministry of Communications and
Information Technology of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia**

H.E. Taro Kono

Minister for Digital Transformation

H.E. Abdullah Amer Alswaha

**Minister of Communications and
Information Technology**