



# Japan Canada Chambers Council

## **COMMUNIQUÉ ON REKINDLING THE RELATIONSHIP: THE 2nd JAPAN CANADA CHAMBERS COUNCIL SYMPOSEUM**

The Japan-Canada Chambers Council was founded in 2014 by the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC). The JCCC's purpose is to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between both business communities and to promote trade and investment, technical cooperation, tourism, culture, and the people-to-people exchanges.

The JCCC's held its second joint meeting in Vancouver, Canada on March 21, 2016. The 200 participants discussed new growth and cooperation between the two countries, and also explored measures for promoting mutual investment exchange and people-to-people ties to build relationships that last.

Based on this meeting, we confirmed to issue a joint statement (Communiqué) for the development of a next step on Canada-Japan relationship.

Canada and Japan have built a good relationship through their shared fundamental values. Yet despite the potential benefits, trade between Canada and Japan has stagnated. Exports from Canada to Japan have grown little more than 3% over the last decade, while Canada's imports from Japan have declined. The total trade volume between us peaked in 2000, was reduced 7% until 2014.

We believe that now is the time to take action to seize the opportunity to rekindle the Canada-Japan relationship. We strongly support the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) as a means of promoting closer Canada-Japan's ties, and expect that TPP will be ratified as earliest as possible. But the TPP is not enough. Canada and Japan should continue bilateral trade negotiations through the Economic Partnership Agreement.

Both governments need to place a higher priority on building a distant-if-friendly relationship into a close and mutually beneficial partnership.

While all aspects of Canada and Japan's economic relationship are important, there is a unique urgency around need to build energy (LNG) export infrastructure to take advantage of a large but fleeting opportunity. Canada is the world's 3rd largest producer of natural gas, while Japan is the second largest net importer of fossil fuels in the world. There is an opportunity to expand energy trade, but it will not take place unless the requisite export infrastructure is constructed.

We are confident that early realization of LNG exports from Canada to Japan will contribute to both countries interests. For this purpose, it is necessary to accelerate the development of infrastructure facilities such as ports and pipelines in Canada.

In addition, we expect to promote with mutual cooperation of public and private sectors, in areas such as science & technology, digital contents which future development has been expected, also tourism, education.

20, May 2016

Japan-Canada Chambers Council

Shohei Utsuda, Japan-Chair

Steve Dechka, Canada-Chair

The Japan Canada Chambers Council is a partnership between