

Preamble

The Kingdom of Thailand and Japan (hereinafter referred to in this Agreement as “the Parties”),

Conscious of their warm relations and strong economic and political ties, including shared perceptions on various issues, that have developed through many years of fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation;

Recognising that the economic partnership of the Parties would create larger and new markets, and would improve their economic efficiency and consumer welfare, enhancing the attractiveness and vibrancy of their markets, and expanding trade and investment not only between them but also in the region;

Bearing in mind their rights and obligations under other international agreements to which they are parties, in particular those of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, done at Marrakesh, 15 April 1994;

Recalling Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, respectively in Annex 1A and Annex 1B to the above-mentioned Agreement;

Desirous to jointly develop and strengthen cooperation with nations in Southeast Asia for prosperity and well-being of the people thereof;

Recognising the need to develop and enhance cooperation between people and business communities of the Parties for mutual benefits;

Bearing in mind each Party’s specific needs and differences in the level of development as well as the common goal of early achievement of progressively higher levels of liberalisation;

Bearing in mind the Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, signed in Bali, Indonesia on 8 October 2003;

Convinced that stronger economic linkages between the Parties would provide greater opportunities, larger economies of scale and a more predictable environment for economic activities not only for Japanese and Thai businesses but also for other businesses in Asia; and

Determined to create a legal framework for an economic partnership between the Parties;

HAVE AGREED as follows: