

Joint Statement
between the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
and the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand

1. We, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, met in Tokyo on 3 April 2006 and exchanged views on how to strengthen partnership between our two countries in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

2. We welcome the Agreement between Japan and the Kingdom of Thailand for an Economic Partnership (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”), signed by the Prime Minister of Japan and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on 3 April 2006, and share the view that the Agreement will bring mutual benefits to the peoples of the two countries, including those who engage in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

3. We also welcome the agreement in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In particular, the agreement relating to cooperation as provided for in Chapter 5 of the Implementing Agreement of the Agreement will provide a mutually agreed framework for cooperation between our two countries, among others, on food safety and development of cooperation at local levels including cooperation between relevant cooperatives of the two countries, and further strengthen the existing cooperation.

4. We look forward to cooperating closely to ensure and expedite the effective implementation of the cooperation under the afore-mentioned Chapter. In this regard, we instruct our respective officials to consult and work closely together for that purpose, including in discussing possible programmes and projects for cooperation, and to undertake necessary preparatory work so that the Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Special Sub-Committees on Food Safety and on Local-to-Local Linkage, which are provided for in the Implementing Agreement, be convened as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Agreement. In doing so, we will take into account the views of relevant agencies with necessary expertise.

We also share the view that pending the convening of the said Sub-Committee and the Special Sub-Committees, respective officials coordinate, as appropriate, through existing mechanisms to discuss possible cooperation programmes as well as carry out any cooperation activities, as may be mutually agreed upon.

5. We are convinced that enhanced partnership between our two countries will extend to closer relations at the people-to-people level and will promote the development of rural areas where most of those who engage in agriculture, forestry and fisheries live. We therefore encourage and support cooperative-to-cooperative activities, including the enhancement of linkages between farmers and relevant cooperatives of both countries.

6. By signing this Joint Statement, we affirm our shared determination to do our utmost to maximize the mutual benefit of the cooperation under the Agreement with a view to improving quality of life and income of those who engage in agriculture,

forestry and fisheries and supporting development of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries in both countries.

Tokyo, 3 April 2006

Toshikatsu Matsuoka
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries of Japan

Thira Sutabutra
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
of the Kingdom of Thailand