



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND

TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN

ON COOPERATION FOR PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta (hereinafter referred to as “Malta”) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”);

Recalling that the Malta-Japan relationship has at its heart shared values, culture and people-to-people connections which support mutual understanding;

Recognising that strong and sustainable connections and exchanges between our institutions, peoples and businesses are critical to our ability to address shared challenges and harness opportunities;

Have reached the following recognition -

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the “MoC”) is to further develop mutual friendship and cooperation between Malta and Japan through enhancing the people-to-people connections between the two countries.
2. The Participants will foster new ties between the **young people** of the two countries - the future of the bilateral relationship - and promote youth mobility between the two countries. To that end, the Participants will affirm to accelerate coordination between the two countries towards the establishment of Working Holiday Programme between Malta and Japan.
3. The Participants will encourage collaboration and promote dialogue among Maltese and Japanese **businesses** to enhance the exchange of information, best practice and personnel that help create shared prosperity and increase trade and investment.
4. The Participants will share best practices around education and exchanges so that the **skills** the two countries need to **tackle global challenges and secure a sustainable and resilient future** can be grown. These are well aligned with the theme of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”, and Malta’s presence at the Expo will also create the platform for, and a lasting legacy of, even deeper bilateral connections and exchanges.
5. The Participants welcome the increasing trend of personal exchanges, including tourists and language students between Malta and Japan in recent years. Building upon such connections between people, the Participants will make efforts to grow the thriving bilateral links. The Participants will continue to amplify the work of individuals and groups carrying out exchanges and connections through **sport**, including those that promote health and diversity and inclusion.
6. The Participants intend to use their best efforts in good faith to work together to achieve the objectives of this MoC.

7. The Participants acknowledge that this MoC is non-binding. Each Participant accepts that this MoC does not create rights or obligations for the Participants under international law.
8. Any divergence concerning the interpretation and/or application of this MoC between the Participants will be settled amicably by means of consultations and negotiations through the established diplomatic channels.
9. This MoC may be revised in writing by the mutual consent of the Participants. Any accepted revision will become effective on the date mutually determined by the Participants, and will form part of this MoC.
10. This MoC will come into operation on the date of the signature and will remain in operation for a period of one (1) year. Either Participant may give a written notice, by no later than three (3) months before the end of operation, of its intent to renew this MOC. This MOC may be renewed in writing upon a mutual consent of the Participants. This MOC may be discontinued by either Participant at any time by written notice of intention to discontinue by no later than three (3) months prior to the date of discontinuation. The discontinuation of this MoC will not affect the implementation of the actions and cooperation activities that have been formalized during its operation.

The foregoing represents the recognitions reached between the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the matters referred to therein.

Signed in Valletta, Malta on 26 February 2024, in two originals in English, both copies having equal value.

For the

**Ministry for Foreign and European
Affairs and Trade of the Republic of
Malta**



Christopher Cutajar

Permanent Secretary for Foreign and
European Affairs and Trade

For the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Fukazawa Yoichi

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign
Affairs