

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Japan Foundation, Japan on the Cooperation for the Japanese-Language Learning Assistance Programs of “The WA Project”

Based upon the Japanese language learning assistance programs of “The WA Project” announced by the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe on the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorating Summit Meeting in Tokyo on December 14, 2013,

Recalling successful development of the Japanese-Language education in Thailand through the close cooperation thus far between the Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Thailand (hereinafter referred to as the MOE) and the Japan Foundation (hereinafter referred to as JF),

Appreciating the efforts of the MOE to promote the development of Japanese-Language education and to increase the recruitment of local Japanese-Language teachers in secondary schools in Thailand in cooperation with JF, also desiring that these efforts will continue,

Wishing to further develop and strengthen the Japanese-Language education system and activities in Thailand,

The MOE and JF confirmed to cooperate on the Japanese-Language learning assistance programs in the framework of the WA Project as follows:

Paragraph 1 The Japanese-Language Learning Assistance Programs of the WA Project

Based on the achievements of the past and on-going Japanese language assistance activities such as teacher training and joint development of teaching materials carried out in Asia, JF will launch new programs towards 2020 in order to further strengthen its Japanese language learning assistance in the following four areas:

(1) Dispatch of NIHONGO Partners

JF will dispatch native Japanese speakers as “NIHONGO Partners”(hereinafter referred to as "Partners") mainly to secondary-level educational institutions for a certain period of time so that Partners assist local Japanese-language teachers in classrooms to enrich and make classroom learning more attractive, and at the same time Partners will help motivate student learning. Furthermore, Partners are expected to contribute to cultural exchange through activities such as the introduction of Japanese culture in and out of classrooms and learning local culture and language to deepen their understanding.

(2)Capacity Building of Japanese-Language Teachers

JF has thus far provided local Japanese language teachers with opportunities for training in Japan as well as in their own countries. WA Project will further increase and enrich such opportunities.

(3)Advocacy Invitation of Educators for Better Understanding of Japan's Language and culture

JF will invite educators such as high school principals who play a key role in introducing Japanese language in schools so that they will have better understanding of Japan and the importance of Japanese language learning.

(4)Development and Provision of the Comprehensive Japanese-Language-Learning Course

JF will develop and provide learners with comprehensive on-line Japanese language learning site consisting of live lessons, learning management system and learning contents developed by JF.

Paragraph 2 Cooperation and Collaboration between the MOE and JF

In implementing the Japanese-language learning assistance programs mentioned in Paragraph 1 in Thailand, and in order for these programs to be truly effective and meaningful to both learners and teachers, the MOE and JF will closely cooperate in the following manner:

(1)Joint Committee

The MOE and JF will establish a Joint Committee, with the participation of the Embassy of Japan and other parties, to discuss the program planning throughout the project period and deliberate on necessary measures and actions to ensure smooth and effective program implementation. The MOE and JF will utilize the Joint committee when necessary.

(2)Cooperation for Smooth Visa Issuance

The MOE will cooperate for the smooth issuance of visas for those personnel participating in the programs, such as Partners, in order to ensure smooth and effective program implementation.

(3)Other matters

Other matters relating to actual implementation will be decided through discussion between the MOE and JF.

Paragraph 3 Program Evaluations

Both sides will conduct an annual evaluation of programs through the Joint Committee established under Paragraph 2-1 and other appropriate organizations as necessary and the results of evaluation will be duly reflected in the programs in the following year.

Paragraph 4 Points of Contact

With regard to the implementation of the program and to this Memorandum,

The point of contact of MOE is: The Bureau of International Cooperation

The point of contact of JF is: The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

***Paragraph 5 Modification of This Memorandum ***

This Memorandum may be modified through discussion between MOE and JF.

***Paragraph 6 Term ***

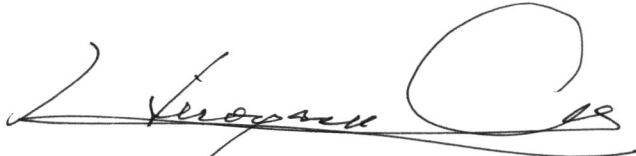
This Memorandum will continue till the end of the WA Project.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Thailand



Suthasri Wongsamarn
Permanent Secretary for Education

On behalf of the Japan Foundation, Japan



Hiroyasu Ando
President

May 1st 2014