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For immediate release

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A memorandum on mutual collaboration among the three organizations of the Japan Evangelical Association (JEA), the Asia Theological Association Japan (ATA/J), and the Japan Lausanne Committee (JLC) will be signed on June 7, 2021, in the evening of the first day of the JEA Annual Meeting scheduled to be held at the Tsumagoi Resort Sai no Sato in Kakegawa City, Shizuoka Prefecture. The three organizations have been serving the evangelical community in the spheres of churches, theological education, and missions, while partnering with evangelicals in Asia and the world. All parties are ready to sign a memorandum to specify for the first time, areas of collaboration including information exchange, personnel networking and fellowship. The signing of the memorandum is anticipated both within Japan and overseas, to boost mutual understanding and trust among the three organizations, leading to deeper collaborative partnership in working on common issues.

The idea of the memorandum was initially proposed for 2020 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Asia Theological Association (ATA), of which Japan is one of the three permanent member countries. The memorandum was going to confirm the mutual collaboration between ATA/J and JEA. Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the 2020 Annual Meeting of JEA was held on a reduced scale. The signing of the memorandum, which was going to take place during the Annual Meeting of JEA, was therefore postponed. Meanwhile, the postponement providentially allowed JLC to join as a party to make the memorandum tripartite. During the upcoming signing ceremony, videos will be shown to give an overview of each party. Dr. Theresa Lua, General Secretary of ATA, will deliver a commemorative address, and Dr. Andreas Himawan, Chairperson of ATA, and Dr. Paul Cornelius, General Secretary of ATA-India, will give congratulatory speeches.

The memorandum sets forth as its objectives that, in order to fulfill their respective callings in the arenas of church, theological education and global mission, the three parties are committed to promoting collaborative partnership through mutual respect, deepening of fellowship, facilitation of information exchange and learning from each other. Specifically, in order to achieve these objectives, the parties shall partner and collaborate in (1) mutual understanding and information exchange among denominations, churches, and organizations, and in matters of theological education and global mission; (2) mutual learning and working on common issues among the JEA, ATA/J, and JLC; (3) involvement in and fellowship with World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA), International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), ATA, the global Lausanne Movement and Asia Lausanne Committee (JLC), among others; and (4) any other matters necessary to achieve the objectives above.

The memorandum will be signed on June 7 by Toshinori Ishida, Chairperson of the Board of JEA, Atsuko Tateishi, Secretary of JLC, and Masanori Kurasawa, Chairperson of the Board of ATA/J. In commemoration of the signing, three pieces of artwork by Misako Oba, an artist who is a Christian, have been purchased. The three paintings are going to be rotated among the parties so each party will hold and appreciate one at a time as a symbol of collaboration.

This kind of memorandum on tripartite collaboration is a pioneering one in the world. As such, notes of blessings have been received from WEA, AEA, ICETE, ATA, the global Lausanne Movement and Asia Lausanne Committee (ALC). Plans for an Asia-wide consultation have been developed since 2019 as a collaborative effort of AEA, ATA, and ALC. At a time like this, the signing of the memorandum in Japan will show a model of unity sharing the goal with the Asian and global churches.



ローザンヌ運動

English translation of the Memorandum

Memorandum on Collaboration among Japan Evangelical Association (JEA), Asia Theological Association Japan (ATA/J), and Japan Lausanne Committee (JLC)

Objectives

In order to fulfill their respective callings
in the arenas of church, theological education and global mission,
the three organizations hereby express their commitment to promoting collaborative partnership
through mutual respect, deepening of fellowship, facilitation of information exchange and
learning from each other.

Specific Areas of Collaboration

In order to achieve the objectives above, the parties shall partner and collaborate in the following areas.

- (1) Mutual understanding and information exchange among denominations, churches, and organizations, and in matters of theological education and global mission.
- (2) Mutual learning and working on common issues among the JEA, ATA/J, and JLC.
- (3) Involvement in and fellowship with World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA), International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), Asia Theological Association (ATA), the global Lausanne Movement and Asia Lausanne Committee, among others.
- (4) Any other matters necessary to achieve the objectives above.

Notes of blessings from friends around the world

The Memorandum of Collaboration of JEA with ATA/J and JLC is an answer to the prayer of our Lord Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. This will result in the significant advancement of the Gospel that will usher in personal, family, and national transformation in Japan and beyond.

Efraim M. Tendero
Global Ambassador, World Evangelical Alliance

I want to congratulate and extend my best wishes to JEA on the signing of the landmark Memorandum on Collaboration signed between JEA, ATA/J and JLC. All three of these movements have much to contribute to building God's Kingdom in Japan and beyond. I believe, therefore, this collaboration will result in far-reaching dividends for the Kingdom. I greatly welcome this move and pray that God will use this collaboration to bless the nations.

Godfrey Yogarajah
Chairman, Asia Evangelical Alliance

ICETE celebrates this collaborative agreement as a model of mutuality for others worldwide to notice.

Michael A. Ortiz
International Director, ICETE

Congratulations JEA, ATA/J, and JLC for your great example of unity in the Body of Christ and of Kingdom collaboration!

Theresa Lua, ATA General Secretary

With the painful division and ugly polarization facing the world, this memorandum shows forth the power of the gospel to unite the family of God to humbly serve, generously love, and effectively engage in His mission in Japan and to the rest of the world.

Michael Oh
Global Executive Director/CEO, Lausanne Movement

Congratulations in the Name of Christ on the signing of this memorandum of collaboration which would certainly help advance the cause of the Gospel in Japan for His glory!

Hwa Yung
Chair, Asia Lausanne Committee