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G-211

Launch of the “Joint Study on the Possibility of a Japan-Canada
Economic Partnership Agreement”

1. “The Japan-Canada Joint Study on Benefits and Costs of Further Promotion of Bilateral Trade and Investment” covering overall economic relationship between Japan and Canada completed in October 2007 states that: “Canada and Japan decided to revisit the possibility of a FTA to follow up the Joint Study report, through appropriate channels such as the next Joint Economic Committee(JEC).”

2. Accordingly, the possibility of a Japan- Canada Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) has been discussed on various occasions. Based on the “Basic Policy on Comprehensive Economic Partnerships” announced last year, Prime Minister Kan concurred with Prime Minister Harper to positively consider promotion of economic partnership between the two countries in their meeting in November 2010.

3. In light of the above development, the two sides discussed the issue of a joint study at the JEC meeting on February 17th in Ottawa, Canada. Based upon the discussion, the Government of Japan and the Government of Canada have reached a consensus to launch a “Joint Study on the Possibility of a Japan-Canada Economic Partnership Agreement.”

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*This is a provisional translation. The above date denotes the date of the issue of the original press release in Japanese.

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