

**DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND JAPAN**

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Signed : 19 February 1999  
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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

The Government of Malaysia and the Government of Japan,

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,  
Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

**ARTICLE 2**

1. This Agreement shall apply to the following taxes:

- (a) in Malaysia:
  - (i) the income tax; and
  - (ii) the petroleum income tax(hereinafter referred to as "Malaysian tax");
- (b) in Japan:
  - (i) the income tax;
  - (ii) the corporation tax; and
  - (iii) the local inhabitant taxes(hereinafter referred to as "Japanese tax").

2. This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes, whether national or local, which are imposed after the date of signature of this

Agreement in addition to, or in place of, those referred to in paragraph 1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws within a reasonable period of time after such changes.

### **ARTICLE 3**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the term “Malaysia” means the territories of the Federation of Malaysia, the territorial waters of Malaysia and the sea-bed and subsoil of the territorial waters, and includes any area extending beyond the limits of the territorial waters of Malaysia, and sea-bed and subsoil of any such area, which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Malaysia and in accordance with international law as an area over which Malaysia has sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the natural resources, whether living or non-living;
- (b) the term “Japan”, when used in a geographical sense, means all the territory of Japan, including its territorial sea, in which the laws relating to Japanese tax are in force, and all the area beyond its territorial sea, including the sea-bed and subsoil thereof, over which Japan has jurisdiction in accordance with international law and in which the laws relating to Japanese tax are in force;
- (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Malaysia or Japan, as the context requires;
- (d) the term “tax” means Malaysian tax or Japanese tax, as the context requires;
- (e) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as an entity for tax purposes;
- (f) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (g) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;

- (i) the term “nationals” means:
  - (i) in the case of Malaysia, any individual possessing the citizenship of Malaysia and any legal person, partnership, association and any other entity deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Malaysia;
  - (ii) in the case of Japan, all individuals possessing the nationality of Japan and all juridical persons created or organized under the laws of Japan and all organizations without juridical personality treated for the purposes of Japanese tax as juridical persons created or organized under the laws of Japan; and
- (j) the term “competent authority” means:
  - (i) in the case of Malaysia, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;
  - (ii) in the case of Japan, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative.

2. As regards the application of this Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has at that time under the laws of that Contracting State for the purposes of the taxes to which this Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Contracting State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that Contracting State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of head or main office, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:

- (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home

available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;

- (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State of which he is a national;
- (d) if he is a national of both Contracting States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall determine by mutual agreement the Contracting State of which that person shall be deemed to be a resident for the purposes of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 5**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;
- (e) a workshop; and
- (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

3. A building site, a construction or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, constitutes a permanent establishment only if such site, project or activities lasts more than six months.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Article, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include:

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage or display;
- (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
- (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person – other than an agent of an independent status to whom the provisions of paragraph 6 apply -- is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such a person:

- (a) has and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph; or
- (b) has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned Contracting State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that Contracting State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other Contracting State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

## **ARTICLE 6**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the laws of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting immovable property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources. Ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

## **ARTICLE 7**

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in that other Contracting State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purposes of the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Article, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 8**

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, in respect of the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State, that enterprise, if an enterprise of Malaysia, shall be exempt from the enterprise tax in Japan, and, if an enterprise of Japan, shall be exempt from any tax similar to the enterprise tax in Japan which may hereafter be imposed in Malaysia.

3. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Article shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### 1. Where—

(a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or

(b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State, and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1, in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State – and taxes accordingly – profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State and where the competent authorities of the Contracting States agree, upon consultation, that all or part of the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprise had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those agreed profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, a Contracting State shall not change the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 1 after ten years from the end of the taxable year in which the profits that would be subject to such change would, but for the conditions referred to in paragraph 1, have accrued to that enterprise. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in the case of fraud or wilful default.

## **ARTICLE 10**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which owns at least 25 per cent of the voting shares issued by the company paying the dividends during the period of six months immediately before the end of the accounting period for which the distribution of profits takes place;
- (b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases. The provisions of this paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, as long as Malaysia does not impose a tax on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable on the profits or income of a company, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Malaysia to a resident of Japan shall be exempt from any tax in Malaysia which may be chargeable on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable on the profits or income of the company. However, where Malaysia imposes a tax on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable on the profits or income of a company, the rate as prescribed under the provisions of paragraph 2 shall apply.

4. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other Contracting State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other Contracting State, nor subject the company’s undistributed profits to a tax on the company’s undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that other Contracting State.

## ARTICLE 11

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State and derived by the Government of the other Contracting State, political subdivisions or local authorities thereof, the Central Bank of that other Contracting State or any financial institution wholly owned by that Government shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. For the purposes of the provisions of paragraph 3, the term “financial institution wholly owned by that Government” means:

(a) in the case of Malaysia:

- (i) the Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Berhad; and
- (ii) such other financial institutions the capital of which is wholly owned by the Government of Malaysia as may be agreed upon from time to time between the Governments of the two Contracting States;

(b) in the case of Japan:

- (i) the Export-Import Bank of Japan;
- (ii) the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund;
- (iii) the Japan International Cooperation Agency; and
- (iv) such other financial institutions the capital of which is wholly owned by the Government of Japan as may be agreed upon from time to time between the Governments of the two Contracting States.

5. The term “interest” as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor’s profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

7. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority thereof or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 12**

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including software, cinematograph films and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience, as well as receipts from a bare boat charter of ships or aircraft (other than those dealt with in Article 8).

4. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 shall likewise apply to proceeds arising from the alienation of any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including software, cinematograph films and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, or secret formula or process, except when the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 13 are applicable to the gains to be derived from such proceeds.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties or proceeds, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties or proceeds arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties or proceeds are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties or proceeds, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE 13**

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Gains from the alienation of any property, other than immovable property, forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of any

property, other than immovable property, pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or together with the whole enterprise) or of such a fixed base, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

3. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic and any property, other than immovable property, pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in the paragraph 5 of Article 12 and the preceding paragraphs of this Article and arising in the other Contracting state may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 14**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless:

- (a) he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; or
- (b) he is present in that other Contracting State for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned. If he has such a fixed base or remains in that other Contracting State for the aforesaid period or periods, the income may be taxed in that other Contracting State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base or is derived in that other Contracting State during the aforesaid period or periods.

2. The term “professional services” includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

#### **ARTICLE 15**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Contracting State if:

- (a) the recipient is present in that other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned, and
- (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of that other Contracting State, and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in that other Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 16**

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 17**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other Contracting State. Such income shall, however, be exempt from tax in that other Contracting State if such activities are exercised by an individual, being a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State, pursuant to a special programme for cultural exchange agreed upon between the Governments of the two Contracting States.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised in a Contracting State by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person who is a resident of the other Contracting State, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised. Such income shall, however, be exempt from tax in that Contracting State if such income is derived from the activities exercised by an individual, being a resident of the other Contracting

State, pursuant to a special programme for cultural exchange agreed upon between the Governments of the two Contracting States and accrues to another person who is a resident of that other Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 18**

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

#### **ARTICLE 19**

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivisions or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or a political subdivision or local authority thereof, in the discharge of functions of a governmental nature, shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that other Contracting State who:

- (i) is a national of that other Contracting State; or
- (ii) did not become a resident of that other Contracting State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2. Any pension paid by, or out of funds to which contributions are made by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or a political subdivision or local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or local authority thereof.

#### **ARTICLE 20**

Payments which a student or business apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State,

provided that such payments are made to him from outside that first-mentioned Contracting State.

## **ARTICLE 21**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other Contracting State.

## **ARTICLE 22**

1. Subject to the laws of Malaysia regarding the allowance as a credit against Malaysia tax of tax payable in any country other than Malaysia, the Japanese tax payable under the laws of Japan and in accordance with this Agreement by a resident of Malaysia in respect of income derived from Japan shall be allowed as a credit against Malaysian tax payable in respect of that income. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Japan to a company which is a resident of Malaysia and which owns not less than 25 per cent of the voting shares of the company paying the dividend, the credit shall take into account Japanese tax payable by that company in respect of its income out of which the dividend is paid. The credit shall not, however, exceed that part of the Malaysian tax, as computed before the credit is given, which appropriate to such item of income.

2. Subject to the laws of Japan regarding the allowance as a credit against Japanese tax of tax payable in any country other than Japan:

(a) Where a resident of Japan derives income from Malaysia which may be taxed in Malaysia in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, the amount of Malaysian tax payable in respect of that income shall be allowed as a credit against the Japanese tax imposed on that resident. The amount

of credit, however, shall not exceed that part of the Japanese tax which is appropriate to that income.

- (b) Where the income derived from Malaysia is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Malaysia to a company which is a resident of Japan and which owns not less than 25 per cent either of the voting shares issued by the company paying the dividend, or of the total shares issued by that company, during the period of six months immediately before the end of the accounting period for which the distribution of profits takes place, the credit shall take into account the Malaysian tax payable by the company paying the dividend in respect of its income.

3. For the purposes of paragraph 2, the term "Malaysian tax payable" shall be deemed to include the amount of Malaysian tax which would have been paid if the Malaysian tax had not been reduced or exempted in accordance with the special incentive measures under the Malaysian laws for the promotion of economic development of Malaysia or any other provisions which may subsequently be introduced in Malaysia in modification of, or in addition to, the existing measures, provided that an agreement is made between the two Governments in respect of the scope of the benefit accorded by the said measures.

4. The provisions of paragraph 3 shall cease to have effect in respect of income derived by a resident of Japan in any taxable year beginning after 31 December of the seventh calendar year next following the calendar year in which this Agreement enters into force.

## **ARTICLE 23**

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other Contracting State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States. However, this provision shall not be construed as obliging Malaysia to grant to nationals of Japan who are not resident in Malaysia those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which are available by laws on the date of signature of this Agreement only to nationals of Malaysia who are not resident in Malaysia.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other

Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 of Article 11, or paragraph 7 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned Contracting State are or may be subjected.

#### **ARTICLE 24**

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic laws of those Contracting States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic laws of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in this Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 25**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the provisions of this Agreement, or for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that Contracting State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by this Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).

## **ARTICLE 26**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

## **ARTICLE 27**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of exchange of notes informing each other that their respective legal procedures necessary for entry into force of this Agreement have been completed.

2. This Agreement shall be applicable:

(a) in Malaysia:

- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following the year in which this Agreement enters into force;
- (ii) in respect of other taxes on income, to taxes chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January of the second calendar year following the year in which this Agreement enters into force and subsequent years of assessment;

(b) in Japan:

- (i) with respect to taxes withheld at source, for amounts taxable on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which this Agreement enters into force;
- (ii) with respect to taxes on income which are not withheld at source and the enterprise tax, as regards income for any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which this Agreement enters into force.

3. The Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income signed at Kuala Lumpur on the thirtieth day of January 1970 shall terminate and cease to have effect in respect of taxes on income to which this Agreement applies in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2.

**ARTICLE 28**

This Agreement shall continue in effect indefinitely but either Contracting State may, on or before the thirtieth day of June of any calendar year beginning after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force, give to the other Contracting State, through the diplomatic channel, written notice of termination and, in such event, this Agreement shall cease to have effect:

(a) in Malaysia:

- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following the year in which the notice is given;

- (ii) in respect of other taxes on income, to taxes chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after the first day of January of the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given;
- (b) in Japan:
- (i) with respect to taxes withheld at source, for amounts taxable on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given;
  - (ii) with respect to taxes on income which are not withheld at source and the enterprise tax, as regards income for any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Kuala Lumpur on this nineteenth day of February, 1999, in the English Language.

### **PROTOCOL**

At the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), the undersigned have agreed upon the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Agreement, it is understood that the income from agriculture or forestry shall include the income from a farm or plantation in Malaysia.
2. With reference to Article 19 of the Agreement, it is understood that the provisions of the said Article shall also apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, paid by the Government of Malaysia through any institution which conducts activities of a governmental nature and is wholly owned by the Government of Malaysia.
3. With reference to paragraph 3 of Article 23 of the Agreement, it is understood that, for the purposes of allowing deduction of a payment of expenses to a nonresident, nothing in the said paragraph shall be construed as preventing Malaysia from imposing any obligation to withhold tax from such a payments.

4. For the purposes of the Agreement, it is understood that the term "fixed base" means a centre of activities of a fixed or permanent character from which independent personnel services can be carried out.

5. (a) Where a person (other than an individual), being a resident of a Contracting State, is not conducting substantive activities through a fixed facility in that Contracting State, the exemption or reduction of tax provided for in the Agreement shall not apply to the said person.

(b) The exemption or reduction of tax provided for in the Agreement shall not apply to any person carrying on offshore business activity under the provisions of Section 2(1) of the Labuan Offshore Business Activity Tax Act 1990 of Malaysia as they are in force at the date of the signature of the Agreement, and any subsequent modification of those provisions which shall not affect the general principle hereof, or such other persons who enjoy a similar special fiscal treatment by virtue of the laws of Malaysia as may be agreed upon between the Government of the two Contracting States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Kuala Lumpur on this nineteenth day of February, 1999, in the English Language.

P.U. (A) 165/2010

Signed : 10 February 2010

Entry into Force: 1 December 2010

Effective Date : 1 January 2011

**PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

The Government of Malaysia and the Government of Japan,

Desiring to amend the Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Japan for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on Income, signed at Kuala Lumpur on 19 February 1999 (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”) and the Protocol signed at Kuala Lumpur on 19 February 1999 which forms an integral part of the Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocol of 1999),

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

Article 25 of the Agreement shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

**“Article 25**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.
2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that Contracting State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the

assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other Contracting State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.”

## **Article 2**

There shall be added a new paragraph 3A to the Protocol of 1999, written as follows;

“3A. With reference to paragraph 5 of Article 25 of the Agreement, a Contracting State may decline to supply information relating to confidential communications between attorneys, solicitors or other admitted legal representatives in their role as such and their clients to the extent that the

communications are protected from disclosure under the domestic laws of that Contracting State.”

**Article 3**

1. This Protocol shall be approved in accordance with the legal procedures of each of the Contracting States and shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of exchange of diplomatic notes indicating such approval.
2. This Protocol shall be applicable on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following that in which the Protocol enters into force.
3. This Protocol shall remain in effect as long as the Agreement remains in force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Putrajaya on this tenth day of February, 2010, in the English language.