



Memorandum of Understanding towards cross-border QR Payment Interconnection between KHQR and JPQR

The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) and the Payments Japan Association (PJA) have signed and exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on establishing mutual interconnection of unified payment QR code schemes between Cambodia and Japan. This MOU is expected to promote and strengthen cooperation towards implementing cross-border QR payment linkage between KHQR, Cambodia's unified payment QR standard, and JPQR, Japan's unified payment QR standard, thereby increasing consumer convenience and boosting tourism consumption in both countries.

1. Background

In its pursuit of promoting digital payments, PJA is working on establishing cross-border interconnectivity between JPQR and unified QR code standards of other nations. This MOU builds on the foundation of a prior Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation (MOC) signed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the National Bank of Cambodia on December 18, 2023, and is aimed to further the collaboration between Cambodia and Japan.

2. Details of the Cooperation

Recognizing the unique regulatory and economic environments surrounding payments in each country, this MOU outlines mutual expectations at the fundamental level, including compliance with relevant laws and regulations such as AML/CFT measures. It clarifies the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the interconnection and provides a framework for smooth and efficient communication. Under this MOU, a Working Group is established among stakeholders of KHQR and JPQR to facilitate collaboration and progress tracking.

3. Expected effects of this MOU

Cross-border QR payment interconnection is expected to increase trade opportunities, thereby contributing to the economic development of partnering countries. This reciprocal arrangement aims to enhance consumer convenience, as well as stimulate inbound consumption for businesses in Cambodia and Japan.

The KHQR-JPQR interconnection will provide tourists with the option to make payments using the QR code payment service they are accustomed to using in their own country, without the need to prepare and carry local currency. For local businesses, regardless of size or location, being equipped with cross-border QR payment acceptance through KHQR in Cambodia or JPQR in Japan will increase their ability to meet the needs of foreign travelers, add value to their services, and increase foot traffic.

4. Outlook

The initiative is taking a phased approach. In the first phase, users of participating KHQR-enabled payment applications will be able to pay by scanning JPQR displayed by merchants in Japan. In the second phase,

users of participating JPQR-enabled payment applications will be able to pay by scanning KHQR displayed by merchants in Cambodia.

Currently, the Working Group aims to launch the first phase in time for implementation during the Osaka-Kansai Expo in 2025, which is an event that is expected to attract a significant number of inbound tourists.

NBC and PJA will continue to work together and with public agencies, payment service providers, and other related organizations of Cambodia and Japan to further increase the use and acceptance of KHQR and JPQR, in the aim to establish and maintain a safe, secure and seamless payment environment.

(KHQR Logo)



(JPQR Logo)



5. Reference

[METI and the National Bank of Cambodia Sign and Exchange Memorandum of Cooperation \(MOC\) in the Area of Unified QR Code-Based Payments](#)

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