

## 【NEWS RELEASE】

December 16, 2019

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Signing of an Agreement of Cooperation on Business Collaboration with Asaka Bank

TOKYO, December 16, 2019 --- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC, President and CEO: Makoto Takashima) signed an Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) with Asaka Bank (Asaka), effective December 16, 2019, during President Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev's first state visit to Japan.

SMBC signed its initial AoC (originally referred to a Memorandum of Understanding) with Asaka on November 1, 2012, with the aim of promoting collaborations in trade finance. Business collaborations between the two banks steadily grew in the years that followed, with the AoC undergoing regular review. The scope of collaborations between the banks expanded to include areas such as export agency finance.

The new AoC further expands collaborations between Asaka and SMBC to include areas such as reciprocity transaction, deposit and JPY clearing. In addition, the banks will work together to identify opportunities in which frameworks put in place by international financial institutions can be applied to support the sustainable growth of Uzbekistan.

By further enhancing the Asaka-SMBC partnership through the conclusion of the new AoC, SMBC will be able to better support clients to expand trade with Uzbek counterparts and their local business needs.

SMBC will continue enhancing its ability to support clients' various business needs on a global basis.

## &lt;Overview of Asaka&gt;

Established 1995

Head Office Tashkent, Uzbekistan