

LETTER OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN

AND

**THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT**

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (MONRE) (hereinafter referred to respectively as “side” and collectively as “both sides”),

CONSIDERING *the existing close relationship and the intense discussions between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on their mutual and long-standing cooperation in the field of environment and maritime affairs;*

ALSO CONSIDERING *the continuation of the Letter of Intent between MOEJ and MONRE on cooperation in the field of monitoring of marine litter that was signed in 2020;*

DESIRING *to strengthen the existing institutional relationship between both sides;*

CONFIRMING *their common interest in a solution for the marine litter issue; and*

AFFIRMING *to implement under this Letter of Intent (hereinafter referred to as “this LOI”) within the competence of each side in accordance with their respective countries’ laws and regulations and the international agreements to which each country is a party,*

HAVE REACHED *the following common recognitions:*

PARAGRAPH I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this LOI is to strengthen the cooperation in the field of the management of marine litter.

PARAGRAPH II. SCOPE OF COOPERATION

The following activities are within the scope of cooperation:

1. Developing joint pilot projects/Researches regarding marine litter around Viet Nam;
2. Conducting Training Courses/Workshops for Vietnamese participants to develop human resources on the marine litter management including monitoring and treatment;
3. Exchanging knowledge and experiences between Japan and Viet Nam to develop a manual and/or guidelines on the marine litter management;

4. Collaborating in the multilateral fora on a plastic waste issue including Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) of UNEA Resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”;
5. Sharing monitoring data of marine litter including micro-plastics collected and/or published including detailed metadata; and
6. Other related areas of cooperation to be mutually decided upon by both sides.

All activities under this LOI should be implemented under the mutual consent of both sides, and the details of the cooperation stated above should be specified in the Working Programme based on the signed LOI, which will be reviewed annually.

PARAGRAPH III. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. Both sides acknowledge that any intellectual property for the implementation of activities under this LOI will remain the property of respective sides.
2. In the event that specific arrangements, programmes or projects under this LOI result in creating new intellectual property, both sides will put in place separate arrangements between themselves in accordance with their respective applicable laws and regulations.

PARAGRAPH IV. CONFIDENTIALITY

Both sides will respect the confidentiality of data and information that are mutually provided or shared under this LOI. Each side will ensure such data and information will not be transferred or supplied to any third party without prior written consent of the other side.

PARAGRAPH V. FOCAL POINT

To assure effective operation of activities under this LOI, both sides will appoint a focal point, which will act as representative of each side in all matters concerning this LOI. For MONRE, the Focal Point will be the Department of International Cooperation, whereas for MOEJ, the Focal Point will be Office of Policies against Marine Plastics Pollution, Marine Environment Division.

PARAGRAPH VI. SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS

Any conflict arising out of or in connection with the implementation of this LOI will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between both sides.

PARAGRAPH VII. MODIFICATION

The LOI may be modified at any time through mutual written consent by both sides.

PARAGRAPH VIII. COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. The cooperation under this LOI will commence on the date of its signature by the representatives of both sides and continue for the period of 5 (five) years and will be automatically renewed, unless both sides decide otherwise.
2. Either side may terminate the cooperation under this LOI at any time by giving written notification 6 (six) months prior to the intended date of the termination to the other side.
3. The termination and/or discontinuation of the cooperation under this LOI will not affect any activities made under this LOI and the implementation of Confidentiality under Paragraph IV, unless both sides decide otherwise.

Signed in duplicate at Ha Noi on 25 August, 2023 as a non-legally binding document in the English language.

**FOR
THE MINISTRY OF THE
ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN**

**FOR
THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM**

**NISHIMURA Akihiro
Minister**

**Dang Quoc Khanh
Minister**