

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN  
AND  
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OF LAO PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
ON ENVIRONMENT**

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Lao PDR , (hereinafter referred to individually as “side” and collectively as "both sides"),

DESIRING to strengthen the existing friendly relations between both sides;

CONSIDERING their common interest in promoting cooperation for sustainable development;

NOTING the importance of conservation and improvement of the environment for present and future generations.

RECOGNIZING that the effective protection of the environment requires global cooperation, coordination and effort, and that those activities to protect the environment should be carried out at the regional, national and local levels; and

PURSUANT to the laws and regulations in their respective countries,

HAVE reached the following recognitions:

**Paragraph I  
Objective**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “this MOC”) is to strengthen, facilitate and develop mutual cooperation in the field of environment, reaffirming the importance of the actions towards the swift and successful implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Paragraph II  
Areas of Cooperation**

Cooperative activity may be decided in mutually confirmed areas pertaining to environmental protection and climate change responses as listed below:

Climate Change:

- 1) Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
- 2) Transparency and implementation of reduction of GHG emission
- 3) Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement including Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)
- 4) National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- 5) Loss and Damage

Pollution Control:

- 1) Air pollution management

Biodiversity

- 1) Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP); and

Other areas of the environment protection as mutually decided upon.

The cooperation can also be carried out in other areas decided by the both sides.

### **Paragraph III Implementation and Forms of Cooperation**

Both sides will encourage and facilitate cooperation through appropriate forms, to the extent of resources prepared by both sides, including:

- Holding dialogue meetings;
- Exchanging information and expertise;
- Conducting training and capacity building;
- Encouraging research projects, analysis and pilot projects; and
- Other forms of cooperation including seminars, workshops and meetings to be mutually decided upon.

The implementation of cooperation under this MOC is elaborated further into a plan of action (hereinafter referred to as "PoA") as a separate arrangement. Any modification of the PoA will be proposed by either Side, and mutually confirmed by the focal point of both Sides in writing.

**PARAGRAPH IV**  
**FOCAL POINT**

To assure effective operation of activities under this MOC, both sides will appoint Focal Point, which will act as a representative of each side in all matters concerning this MOC. For the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Focal Point will be the office of Director for International Cooperation for Transition to Decarbonization and Sustainable Infrastructure, Global Environment Bureau. For the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the Focal Point will be Department of Planning and Cooperation.

**Paragraph V**  
**Modification**

This MOC may be modified at any time through mutual written consent of the both sides. Such modifications will commence in line with the matter on commencement under Paragraph VII hereof and will be an integral part of this MOC.

**Paragraph VI**  
**Difference Settlement**

In case of any differences regarding the interpretation or application of the matters of this MOC, the both sides will resolve and settle amicably by consultations.

**Paragraph VII**  
**Commencement, Duration, Discontinuation and other matters**

The cooperation under this MOC will commence on the date of its signature and continue for a period of five (5) years and may be extended by mutual written consent of the both sides or discontinued at any time by a Participant by giving a written notification, at least six (6) months prior to the date of the intended discontinuation.

The discontinuation of the cooperation will not affect the duration of any ongoing projects or activities until the completion of such projects or activities, unless the both sides decide otherwise.

This MOC will not affect any legal rights and obligations under domestic and international law.

Signed, on..... in duplicate, in the English, Lao and Japanese language.

<div>For the Ministry of the Environment of Japan</div> <div></div>	<div>For the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Lao PDR</div> <div></div>
<div>ASAO Keiichiro</div> <div>Minister of the Environment</div>	<div>Linkham Douangsavanh</div> <div>Minister</div>