

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN
AND
THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION,
METEOROLOGY & GEO-HAZARDS, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND
DISASTER MANAGEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
ON
ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management of the Republic of Vanuatu, hereinafter referred to as "the Sides",

Expressing the desire to strengthen friendly relations between the two ministries and to develop cooperation in the field of environmental protection,

Noting/Considering the effective cooperation requires more than just the two ministries working together; it must also involve active partnerships with private sector, NGOs, and other relevant institutions and authorities in both countries,

Realising the importance of environmental protection for the well-being of present and future generations,

Recognizing that solving environmental problems requires cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels and that such cooperation can contribute to environmental protection not only at the national level but also at the global level, have reached the following recognition:

**Paragraph 1
Objective**

The Sides, in accordance with the national legislation of their states, as well as with the obligations arising from international treaties applicable to them, will strengthen mutual cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

**Paragraph 2
Areas of Cooperation**

The areas of the cooperation under this Memorandum will be as follows:

- a. Climate change mitigation and development of adaptation and mitigation mechanisms;
- b. Environmental management including water quality management;
- c. Sustainable waste management and resource efficiency, including hazardous and toxic industrial waste;
- d. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and management of protected areas;
- e. The other areas of the cooperation may be mutually decided by the Sides.

Paragraph 3
Implementation of Cooperation

The cooperation under this Memorandum may take the following forms:

- a. Exchange of information on best practices and environmental policies, research and development, and available technologies;
- b. Exchange of visits involving experts and delegations from relevant institutions and authorities;
- c. Invitation of key representatives and specialists to participate in conferences, seminars, study tours and similar events on environment-related issues;
- d. Other forms of cooperation may be mutually decided by the Sides.

Paragraph 4
Expense

Each Side will bear its own costs that may arise in the implementation of this Memorandum, unless otherwise arranged on a case-by-case basis.

Paragraph 5
Intellectual Property Right

Any intellectual property rights resulting from the operation of activities under this Memorandum will be exercised in line with the laws and regulations of each Side and will be further elaborated in separate documents if necessary.

Paragraph 6
Other matters

This Memorandum is not legally binding and does not create any legal rights and obligations. Contents of this Memorandum will not affect any legal rights and obligations of the Sides under international law.

The cooperation under this Memorandum will be implemented within the respective resources of both Sides.

This Memorandum does not impose any financial or legal obligations on the Sides.

Paragraph 7
Resolution of Differences

Any differences that may arise between the Sides relating to the implementation of this Memorandum will be resolved through consultation and negotiation between the Sides.

Paragraph 8
Modification

This Memorandum may be modified and supplemented by mutual consent of the Sides.

Paragraph 9

Commencement, Duration and Discontinuation

The cooperation under this Memorandum will commence on the date of its signature.

The cooperation will continue for years or discontinued at any time by either Side by giving a written notification at least six months prior to the date of the intended discontinuation.

The discontinuation of the cooperation will not affect the duration of any ongoing project or activity until the completion of such project or activity unless the Sides decide otherwise.

Signed on March 10th 2026 in Tokyo in two original copies in English.

**For the Ministry of the
Environment of Japan**

**For the Ministry of Climate Change
Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-
Hazards, Energy, Environment and
Disaster Management of the Republic
of Vanuatu**

**ISHIHARA Hirotaka
Minister**

**REGENVANU Ralph
Minister**