

MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT
between
THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN
and
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OF
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to individually as “side” and collectively as “both sides”),

WILLING to further strengthen the friendly relations and the strategic partnership between both sides;

DESIRING to strengthen the existing friendly relations between both sides;

CONSIDERING to further develop cooperation on environmental protection and nature conservation;

CONVINCED to act in pursuance of goals of sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING the importance of cooperative efforts to promote the environmentally better management of natural resources as part of sustainable development;

DETERMINED to promote closer and long-term cooperation in the field of environment and deepening on cooperation interaction;

PURSUANT to the laws and regulations in their respective countries; and

RECALLING the three policy dialogues in 2015, 2016, and 2017;

HAVE accepted to cooperate as follow:

PARAGRAPH 1

OBJECTIVE

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

PARAGRAPH 2

INTERPRETATION

This MOC describes general measures to be taken in order to further cooperation between both sides.

PARAGRAPH 3

SCOPE OF COOPERATION

Scope of cooperation will consist of the following fields:

- 1) Air Pollution Prevention, including Dust Haze Phenomenon/Dust and Sand Storms;
- 2) Water Quality Control;
- 3) Climate Change, and Protection of Ozone Layer;
- 4) Conservation of Biodiversity including unique natural eco-systems, particularly which contain endangered species and wetlands in the list of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), as well as the species of special concerned such as invasive alien species;
- 5) Development of Ecotourism especially in national parks and protected areas;
- 6) E-Waste Management;
- 7) Low Carbon Economy including the information on eco-friendly products and environment technology;
- 8) Research and Development in field on new technologies;
- 9) Empowerment and Capacity Building for the Experts of the Department of Environment;
- 10) Information Exchange and Cooperation between the natural history museums and other environmental education centers; and
- 11) Other areas of environmental protection and improvement as may be confirmed by both sides.

PARAGRAPH 4
FORMS OF COOPERATION

In order to achieve the objective, referred to in Paragraph I, both sides will encourage and facilitate cooperation through appropriate forms, to the extent of resources prepared by both sides, including:

- 1) Holding consultations, among the participants of joint commissions including authorized representative of both sides;
- 2) Exchanging the information and expertise;
- 3) Organizing seminars, workshops, training courses, and field visits for the experts; and
- 4) Other forms to be mutually decided upon.

PARAGRAPH 5
FOCAL POINT

Both sides appoint a focal point for the purpose of implementing this MOC.

For the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Focal Point will be the International Cooperation Office, Global Environment Bureau.

For the Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran, the Focal Point will be Center for International Affairs and Conventions.

PARAGRAPH 6
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Any intellectual property resulted from the operation of activities under this MOC will be exercised in accordance with the laws and regulations of the respective countries. Neither side can use the deliverable without the prior permission of the responsible department of each country in writing.

PARAGRAPH 7
OBLIGATIONS

This MOC does not affect the rights and obligations of both sides, stemming from international conventions, Protocols, Programs and agreements which they are a party to.

PARAGRAPH 8
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any dispute between both sides arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this

MOC will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between both sides via the diplomatic channels.

**PARAGRAPH 9
MODIFICATION**

This MOC may be modified at any time through mutual written consent by both sides. Such modifications will commence on such date as may be determined by both sides and form an integral part of this MOC.

**PARAGRAPH 10
COMMENCEMENT, DURATION, AND TERMINATION**

- 1) This MOC will commence on the date of the signatures.
- 2) This MOC will continue for a period of 3 (three) years and may automatically be extended by the mutual consent of both sides or terminated at any time by either side by giving written notification at least 6 (six) months prior to the date of the intended termination.
- 3) The termination of this MOC will not affect any ongoing project or activity until the completion of such project or activity.

The foregoing represents the recognitions reached between both sides on the matter referred to in this MOC.

SIGNED in Triplicate at Tehran on 29 April 2017, in the English and Persian languages. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR
THE MINISTRY OF
THE ENVIRONMENT
JAPAN**

**FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**H.E. MR. KOUICHI YAMAMOTO
MINISTER**

**H.E. DR. MASOUMEH EBTEKAR
VICE PRESIDENT AND
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**