

Memorandum of Cooperation on Energy and Minerals Cooperation between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Department of the Environment and Energy of Australia

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) and the Department of the Environment and Energy of Australia (DOEE) (hereinafter referred to individually as a 'Participant' and collectively as 'Participants'),

AFFIRMING the long-running, strong bilateral relationship between Participants built on decades of resources trade and investment that was formally established in 1985 through the *Japan Australia High Level Group on Energy Forecasts and Energy Resources Developments High Level Group* and continued as the *Japan-Australia High Level Group on Energy and Minerals Consultations (HLG)* from 2003;

RECOGNISING Participants' interests and commitment to addressing resources and energy security;

RECOGNISING that Participants are working to meet their climate change commitments and are investing in the research of new energy technologies that produce fewer emissions;

RECOGNISING that Participants will continue to rely on LNG and coal while increasing their proportion of renewables, and that Australia will continue to be one of Japan's largest suppliers of energy for the foreseeable future;

RECOGNISING that energy security in Japan, Australia and the region forms an important pillar of a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific and Participants have committed to work together as part of their respective strategies for the region as outlined in Japan's concept of Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Australia's Foreign Policy White Paper;

RECOGNISING that successful resources and energy supply relies on a strong sector, underpinned by holistic cooperation on related education, skills building, infrastructure development and community engagement; and

DESIRING that the *Japan-Australia High Level Group on Energy and Minerals Consultations* be updated to the *Japan-Australia Energy and Resources Dialogue (JAERD)* including more contemporary energy and resources issues that will support a more multi-layered resources and energy relationship,

The Participants intend to progress the JAERD according to the following guiding goals and themes:

1. Concept and Strategic Goals

- a) Identifying resources and energy security challenges and new opportunities for collaboration.
- b) Identifying opportunities for bilateral trade and investment cooperation in the energy and resources sectors, including in conjunction with the private sector.
- c) Promoting affordability, reliability, and sustainability within Participants' energy and resources sectors.
- d) Supporting the exchange of information and views on energy and resources between Participants.
- e) Supporting the development of innovative technologies, R&D, and services in the energy and resources sectors.

- f) Promoting research cooperation and collaboration in fields of mutual interest to increase the knowledge, understanding, and application of energy and resources technologies.

2. Content and Themes

- a) Developments in the energy and resources markets (including coal, critical minerals, rare earths, hydrogen, Liquefied Natural Gas, oil, and uranium).
- b) Cooperation in establishing a future hydrogen supply-chain and industry, including in new policies and regulations, research, and new trade and investment opportunities.
- c) Advances in energy and mining equipment, technology and services, and commensurate upskilling of the sector workforce.
- d) Trade and investment opportunities in the energy and resources sectors.
- e) Domestic and international policies and regulatory frameworks in the energy and resources sector.
- f) Energy and resources security and governance across the region and globe.
- g) The energy sector transition, including the research, development, deployment and role of innovative low emissions technologies (including hydrogen, carbon capture usage and storage, and carbon recycling).
- h) Energy systems management, including grid management, renewables integration and the development and deployment of smart technologies (particularly energy storage).
- i) Cooperation in the energy efficiency sector such as sharing best practices, including the concepts of the ZEB (Net-Zero Energy Building) and the ZEH (Net-Zero Energy House).
- j) Cooperation on resources and energy in the third countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

3. Means of Cooperation

- a) Participants will hold JAERD meetings annually with the host rotating between Participants.
- b) Where possible, JAERD meetings will be aligned with other events or meetings where relevant officials, industry stakeholders and/or members of the research community will be in attendance.
- c) The JAERD meeting format may include heads of delegation meetings, opening remarks, thematic sessions of presentations and discussions, working lunches, closed Government-only sessions, closing remarks, networking sessions, site visits and official dinners.
- d) The host of each year's JAERD meeting may propose additional events in the margins of the JAERD itself consistent with the themes for that particular JAERD meeting, such as industry/stakeholder roundtables, jointly decided with the visiting delegation.
- e) The primary intent of the JAERD is Government-to-Government dialogue, but it can include industry, state government and academia where their involvement supports or adds value to the agenda.

- f) Participants will cooperate in multilateral, regional and trilateral fora on areas of mutual interest.

4. Legal Considerations

- a) This Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is not legally binding and does not restrict cooperation with any third parties, including bilaterally between Participants.
- b) This MOC does not create any legal, contractual, or financial rights or obligations for each Participant.
- c) Participants intend for activities under this MOC to be conducted in accordance with their respective domestic laws and regulations.

5. Duration, Modifications and Discontinuation

- a) This MOC supersedes the 2003 *Enhanced Framework for Energy and Minerals Cooperation between Japan and Australia*.
- b) The cooperation under this MOC commences on the date of its signature by both Participants.
- c) This MOC may be modified by mutual written consent by Participants.
- d) Any Participant may discontinue this MOC at any time through written notice to the other Participant at least thirty (30) days prior to the proposed date of discontinuation.

Signed in Karuizawa, Japan, on the 16th of June 2019, in duplicate in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of Economy, Trade
and Industry of Japan

For the Department of the Environment and
Energy of the Commonwealth of Australia

Hiroshige Seko
Minister

Angus Taylor
Minister for Energy and Emissions
Reduction