

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
ON HYDROGEN
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN
AND
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. PARTICIPANTS TO THE MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “this MoC”) is prepared between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as “the Participant(s)”, based on the shared recognition that renewable and low carbon hydrogen is a key contributor to achieving net zero emissions.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Japan and the EU are committed to accelerate the clean energy transition contributing to their objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, as outlined in the EU-Japan Green Alliance.
- 2.2 Japan and the EU strongly support global efforts to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact. In line with these, countries across the world are expected to commit to the clean energy transition towards climate neutrality, to which a global scale-up of renewable and low carbon hydrogen can crucially contribute.
- 2.3 The Participants have a strong shared interest in developing cooperative relationships that will support the Participants in the deployment of renewable and low carbon hydrogen in the context of the clean energy transition and of strengthening energy security.
- 2.4 The Participants announced hydrogen strategies to accelerate efforts towards the clean energy transition, and there are already good examples of cooperation in the field of hydrogen, including through Mission Innovation and the Clean Energy Ministerial. Therefore, this MoC is intended to lay the foundations to nurture further cooperation on renewable and low carbon hydrogen development in Japan and the EU.

3. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 3.1 The intended purpose of this MoC is to support the Participants’ cooperation with respect to a sustainable and affordable production, trade, transport, storage, distribution and use of renewable and low carbon hydrogen, and to promote a global rules-based and transparent hydrogen market based on the absence of distortions to trade and investment, in particular export restrictions.
- 3.2 This MoC will provide a framework within which detailed proposals for programmes of cooperation between the Participants can be developed.
- 3.3 The Participants will endeavour to encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the advancement of linkages and cooperation between their respective governments, industry and research agencies.

4. AREAS OF COOPERATION

4.1 Under this MoC, the Participants welcome the existing EU – Japan cooperation on hydrogen and will encourage the governments, industrial players and research institutes, regions and local entities of Japan and the EU to explore further cooperation in this field, including:

- Exchanging information and exploring coordination, where appropriate, of hydrogen policies, regulations, incentivising measures and subsidies to promote the uptake of renewable and low carbon hydrogen in various sectors and to develop and use the required infrastructure, taking into account environmental conditions and the sustainable use of water resources
- Cooperation with regard to the development, uptake and promotion of renewable- and low carbon hydrogen to make it competitive vis-à-vis other energy resources and to enable its role in energy system integration, in particular in the context of increasing deployment of renewables
- Cooperation on the role of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen in the power sector and on promoting the use of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen in hard-to-abate industrial and transport applications.
- Cooperation towards the creation of international supply chains of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen
- Sharing best practices and lessons learnt in renewable and low-carbon hydrogen research, development and demonstration projects conducted by each Participant
- Sharing information and best practices on hydrogen safety to enable safe, sustainable and affordable production, transport, delivery, storage, and infrastructure operation, including in support of the development of international standards for hydrogen-related equipment.
- Enhancing the development and uptake in national and international regulation and certification frameworks of a methodology to determine greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and transport of a unit of hydrogen, including through cooperation in the International Partnership for Hydrogen in the Economy
- Enhancing secure and rules-based international renewable and low-carbon hydrogen trade, based on open markets, absence of export restrictions and cooperation on standards for qualifying hydrogen as ‘renewable’ or ‘low carbon’ and the associated certification.
- Collaboration on streamlining activities and developing projects in the context of multilateral cooperation initiatives, including with a view to supporting countries around the world to accelerate their efforts to deploying renewable-and low carbon hydrogen in the context of their clean energy transition, in line with the EU – Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure.
- Developing cooperation through the Clean Energy Ministerial Hydrogen Initiative on ports and trade, on developing global renewable and low-carbon hydrogen targets and on developing 100 Hydrogen Valleys by 2030 under the Mission Innovation activities on Clean Hydrogen.
- Developing cooperation on skills necessary for developing a renewable and low-carbon hydrogen economy in Japan and the EU, through education, upskilling, reskilling and vocational education and training, and promoting exchanges between education and training institutes to that effect.

5. Implementation

5.1 It is anticipated to implement cooperation under this MOC mainly through various meetings including dedicated meetings with representatives of the Participants that are expected to be held periodically, as well as meetings or events expected to be held by relevant organizations. Other activities such as dedicated workshops, business-to-business events, pilot projects may be also considered.

5.2 In all cases, efforts will be made to avoid duplication of other collaborations in international fora such as Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting, Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation and the International Partnership for Hydrogen in the Economy.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

6.1 The Participants should ensure that any data and information or documents provided to each other under this MoC, including the result(s) of joint research carried out under this MoC, are not transferred or supplied to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Participant.

6.2 The Participants should not use the data, information or documents exchanged under this MoC for any purpose other than those set out in this MoC. The Participants should not transfer the data, information or documents to a third party without prior written consent of the other Participant.

6.3 The Participants acknowledge that certain information may not be able to be provided under this MoC, for example on the basis that the data, information or document was received by a Participant in confidence, or in order to protect the privacy of an individual.

6.4 The Participants intend to ensure that any caveat or security restriction that appears on a document or that is used in relation to information will be retained in any subsequent use or disclosure.

7. RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES

7.1 If any issues arise concerning the application or interpretation of the contents of this MoC, the Participants endeavour to settle them amicably through mutual consultation, promptly and in good faith. The Participants will not refer any such issue to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 This MoC does not create any binding legal or financial rights or obligations between the Participants or in relation to any third party under domestic or international law.

8.2 This MoC does not constitute an obligation to provide funding for any separate or joint work by the Participants.

8.3 The cooperation under this MoC is expected to commence on the date of its signature. This MoC may be reviewed and revised in writing as mutually decided by the Participants.

8.4 The cooperation under this MoC may be terminated at any time by either Participant. A Participant intending to end cooperation should endeavour to provide a notice in writing to this effect three (3) months in advance. The Participants intend that matters in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 survive termination of this MoC.

SIGNATURES

For the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
of Japan

For the European Commission

NISHIMURA Yasutoshi

Kadri Simson