

Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Mining Sector
Between The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
and The Minister of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Namibia

On 8th of August 2023, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan H.E. Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi and the Minister of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Namibia H.E. Mr. Thomas Kavaningilamo ALWEENDO met in Windhoek to discuss bilateral cooperation in the mining sector, particularly rare earth elements, copper, and lithium.

Both Ministers affirmed that the following principles are important for expanding the bilateral cooperation in the mining sector in the future:

- (1) Securing critical minerals essential for energy transitions, while addressing economic security risks caused by monopolization and lack of diversity of supply chains;,,
- (2) Creating responsible and resilient supply chains of critical minerals by applying higher Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) standards and committing to open, transparent, rule- and market-based trade in critical minerals, as well as by opposing market-distorting measures and monopolistic policies on critical minerals;,,
- (3) Developing concrete, mutually beneficial projects through a step-by-step approach, including information sharing, mutual visits and technical cooperation;,, and
- (4) Cooperating not only in the development of mining projects themselves but also in the development of human resources, infrastructure, and supply chains necessary for mining projects.

Based on these principles, the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Namibia has decided to cooperatively formulate “Namibia Rare Earth Industry Master Plan” with JOGMEC as a result of “Scope of Works between Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security and the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Namibia on Research on the Namibian Rare Earth Metals Supply Chain”, and both Ministers agreed to cooperate closely to realize the master plan after its formulation.

Both Ministers also decided to organize a seminar on investment in Namibia’s mining sector in Japan for wider Japanese audience by inviting Namibian experts in this field hopefully in a year as a next step to deepen the bilateral cooperation.

In addition, The Ministers also discussed the possibility to collaborate in the areas of the production of clean hydrogen and its associated derivatives.

The Ministers witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Itochu and Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, two leading companies in Japan and Namibia, exploring the possible production and use of clean hydrogen and its derivatives to decarbonize hard to abate sectors, buttress regional energy security and combat the impacts of climate change.

Signed in Windhoek, in duplicate in the English language, on 8th of August 2023.
This statement neither creates any legally-binding obligations, nor confers any rights.

**Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
of Japan**

**Minister of Mines and Energy of the
Republic of Namibia**

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Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of
Japan

Thomas Kavaningilamo ALWEENDO
Minister of Mines and Energy of the
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