

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FORESTS AND
FORESTRY BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST and CLIMATE CHANGE, INDIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, JAPAN**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan (hereinafter referred to as "both sides"),

RECOGNISING the desire to address the global environmental issues, such as the role of forests in climate change and the resilience of forests against natural disasters;

EMPHASISING the need to enhance the bilateral cooperation in the field of forests and forestry; and

STRENGTHENING the ties of the existing friendship between both sides,

Have recognized the following:

1. Both sides will endeavor to enhance cooperation in following areas under this Memorandum of cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "Memorandum"):
 - a) Human resource development and institutional exchange between training institutes;
 - b) Sustainable forest management;
 - c) Enhancement of forest conservation and forest disaster prevention;
 - d) Conservation of biodiversity;
 - e) Effective utilization of forest resources;
 - f) Exchange of relevant policies on forests and forestry and technologies; and
 - g) Research and development in forestry sector.

2. Within the framework of this Memorandum, in order to exchange views and draw a road map for enhancing cooperation, both sides may constitute a Joint Working Group. Such a Joint Working Group may conduct periodical meetings, preferably annually, in the respective countries alternately.
3. For Joint Working Group meetings, the sending country will bear all expenses on delegation's travel, boarding and lodging (subject to the availability of the resources). All expenses for organizing the meetings will be borne by the host country (also subject to the availability of resources).
4. This Memorandum will commence on the date of its signature by both sides.

This Memorandum will continue for a period of five (5) years. Thereafter, it will automatically stand renewed for the same successive periods, unless either side terminates the present Memorandum by giving a written notice of its intention to terminate to the other at least three (3) months in advance. This Memorandum may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of both sides.

Signed at Delhi on December 11th, 2015 in two (2) Original Copies, in the English language.

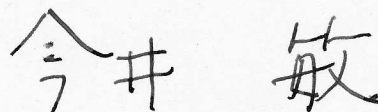
For and on behalf of MoEF&CC



Dr. Sharad Singh Negi

Director General of Forests and
Special Secretary

For and on behalf of MoAFF



Mr. Satoshi Imai

Director General Forestry Agency