

**Memorandum of Cooperation
in the field of the sustainable forest management
and the use of wood and wood products
between
the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
and
the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
of the Republic of Austria**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria (hereinafter referred to singularly as a “side” and collectively as the “sides”) regarding cooperation on sustainable forest management and use of wood and wood products.

Acknowledging the importance of sustainable forest management and use of wood and wood products as a foundation for making available the numerous benefits and services that forests provide to society and the environment;

Reiterating that forests contribute significantly to climate change mitigation, provide wood as an environmentally friendly building material and raw material for renewable energy;

Acknowledging that sustainable forest management and use of wood and wood products also contribute to securing employment and income throughout the value chain at each stage of wood production, distribution and consumption – being of benefit to both rural and urban areas;

Recognizing cooperation serves their common interests and is of mutual benefit to the sides;

have come to the following recognition:

ITEM I

Objectives

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “this Memorandum”) is to enable the sides to foster cooperation in the field of the sustainable forest management and the use of wood and wood products.

ITEM II

Areas of Cooperation

Through this Memorandum the sides reaffirm the critical importance of sustainable forest management as well as use of wood and wood products, and express their willingness to conduct beneficial exchanges on the following matters for the pursuit of common interests on the sides:

- a) Exchange of information and learnings of policies of the sides related to sustainable forest management and use of wood and wood products;
- b) Exchange of knowledge and learnings on innovations and techniques related to wood construction and wood utilization (including material and energy use of forest resources);
- c) Exchange of knowledge and learnings on prevention and management of mountain hazards;
- d) Exchange of knowledge and learnings on training, education and research;
- e) Facilitation of technical exchanges for scientific, training and educational purposes; and
- f) Other forms of cooperation mutually decided by the sides related to the promotion of sustainable forest management and use of wood and wood products.

ITEM III

Settlement of differences

Any differences concerning the interpretation, implementation and/or application of any of the matters of the Memorandum will be resolved amicably by the sides through bilateral consultations and may make changes to this Memorandum upon mutual decision when the need arises.

ITEM IV

Commencement, duration, extension and discontinuation

This Memorandum will commence on the date of its signature and will remain in operation until either of the sides notifies the other side of its intention to discontinue this Memorandum through written notification at least six (6) months before its intended date of discontinuation.

ITEM V

Final Matter

This Memorandum does not create any legal or financial rights or obligations and does not constitute an international agreement.

Signed in two original copies in Tokyo, Japan on February 26th, 2024, in English language.

Sakamoto Tetsushi
Minister
of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
of Japan

Norbert Totschnig
Federal Minister
of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water
Management
of the Republic of Austria