

Statement of Intent
concerning
technical cooperation
between
ECHA and METI /MHLW /MOE/NITE

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the relevant Japanese authorities, namely the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), and the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE), hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”,

Whereas:

1. It is within the Participants’ common interest as well as in the public interest to enhance their technical cooperation in contributing to a high level of protection of human health and of the environment from risks derived from chemicals and free circulation of substances on the Japanese and EU markets while enhancing competitiveness and innovation of both industries;
2. The Participants take note with satisfaction of their initial contacts dedicated to identifying possible areas of mutual interest and cooperation;
3. The Participants remain conscious that this Statement of Intent (Sol) focuses on issues of technical cooperation and the exchange of views on regulatory tasks within their respective mandates; and
4. The Participants, within these boundaries, decide that professional peer contacts between them should be strengthened,

Mutually recognise the following:

1. Purpose of the “Sol”

The purpose of this Sol is to enhance technical cooperation between the Participants to share knowledge and exchange experience and best practice on matters of mutual interest through the various means described below.

2. Scope

In accordance with their respective mandates, cooperation between the Participants will relate to the following areas:

- scientific collaboration and information exchange, in particular with regard to the registration (i.e. inventory) as well as hazard and risk assessment of chemical substances;
- exchange of implementation issues and operational experience as well as of experience in strengthening regulatory capacities;
- active dissemination of public information and publications related to each other's activities;
- information exchange on matters of common interest, including emerging risks from chemical substances or guidance development; and
- sharing information and experience on risk identification, risk assessment and risk management tools and other similar products and related expertise.

This Sol will be implemented through a rolling Work Plan .

3. Means of cooperation

The Participants intend, where possible and appropriate within the resources and the mandates of the Participants, to pursue the objective of this Sol through the following means:

- (a) General knowledge exchange: The Participants will share and communicate materials or technical guidance on programmes and approaches established within their institutional mandates, as appropriate. They will provide each other with contact lists indicating staff members employed on matters of mutual interest to promote informal discussions on issues relevant to their execution of regulatory or institutional tasks, and update these lists at reasonable intervals;
- (b) Missions and exchange of staff: The Participants will, subject to available resources, promote the exchange of experience by continuing to enable personal contact of their staff members through missions to each other's institutions, focusing on priority areas of interest and on an "as needed" basis. Such missions may also be complemented or replaced by tele-conferences and/or video-conferences. They will also investigate the legal and practical possibilities for a potential exchange of staff for a longer period of time;
- (c) Cooperation on communication: The Participants will exchange public information and best practice related to their activities to address stakeholders including the general public;
- (d) Participating institutions: In addition to the Participants, other Japanese government-related agencies can be joined in this Sol activity through mutual written consensus by the Participants; and
- (e) Any other feasible means: The Participants may furthermore identify any other appropriate means within their mandates to further their cooperation on the rolling Work Plan.

4. Formalization of cooperation

On the basis of this Sol, the Participants will draw up a Rolling work plan. It will be updated at reasonable intervals by mutual consent, in particular when the tasks outlined in the Work Plan are exhausted or should be complemented by new or additional actions.

5. Exchange of information

All exchange of information between the Participants will take place for the purpose of and in accordance with the contents of this Sol. The Participants will designate one staff member, each, as a co-ordinator for the maintenance of close, direct and continuing contacts with a view to ensuring the implementation of the contents of the present Sol. These main contact persons will keep, and update as necessary, the contact lists of staff members mentioned as 3. (b) Missions and exchange of staff.

6. Use of Information

Each party will ensure that information received on the basis of this Sol will be treated in accordance with any applicable legislation. Sharing of information will safeguard the rights of third parties, including their intellectual property rights. This Sol is not to be construed as authorising the disclosure, use and processing of information for other purposes than provided under respective legislative mandates or described in this Sol.

7. Divergences of implementation

The Participants are determined to make their best efforts with a view to resolving any divergence that may arise in the implementation of this Sol. The Sol is not intended to be legally binding.

8. Modifications

The Participants may modify this Sol by mutual written consent at any time.

9. Termination

The Participants may terminate the cooperation under this Sol giving at least three months written notice, or by mutual written consent.

10. Commencement

The cooperation under this Sol will commence upon signature by all Participants.

Signed at

Geert Dancet, Executive Director
European Chemicals Agency

Mitsuaki KOMOTO, Director,
Chemical Management Policy Division,
Manufacturing Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade
and Industry

Arimichi HANDA, Director,
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