

Statement of Intent
between
The Department of Energy of the United States of America
and
The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
for Cooperation in Methane Hydrates

The Department of Energy of the United States of America (DOE) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) (hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”),

DESIRING to cooperate to increase understanding of the geologic occurrence of, and the potential for methane production from, methane hydrates in both Japan and the United States;

SHARING a long tradition of scientific cooperation under the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan on Cooperation in Research and Development in Science and Technology of June 20, 1988, as extended and amended; and

NOTING their countries’ participation in international methane hydrate research and development projects, including the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program and the methane hydrate production test wells in 2002 in the Canadian Arctic.

State their intention as follows:

Section 1. Objective

The proposed cooperation between the METI and the DOE under this Statement of Intent (Statement) aims to enhance and accelerate the understanding of the geologic occurrence, distribution, exploration and production of methane hydrates in the Arctic and along the continental margin of Japan and the United States of America.

Section 2. Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to exchange scientific and technical information and scientific personnel; conduct workshops, seminars and other meetings; and plan cooperative research with respect to the following broad areas of cooperation:

- Methane hydrate exploration and resource assessment;
- Laboratory analysis and characterization of sediments containing methane hydrate;
- Modeling for producibility of natural gas from hydrated reservoirs;
- Field testing of producibility from Alaskan North Slope hydrate reservoirs;
- Environmental studies of the impacts of methane hydrate in the global carbon cycle, global climate change and seafloor stability.

Section 3. Participating Organizations

By mutual consent, the Participants may invite organizations in their respective countries to work together collaboratively on methane hydrates under this Statement.

Section 4. Exchange of Information

The Participants may exchange scientific and technical information, documents and results of research and development. Such information should be limited to that which the Participants have the right to disclose, either in their possession or available to them. Information to be exchanged under this Statement includes, but is not limited to, available technology, knowledge sharing, seismic data, well logs, core analysis, and other related laboratory analysis.

Section 5. Management

Each Participant should designate a coordinator for the activities under this Statement. Each coordinator may appoint technical coordinators to manage specific cooperative activities under this Statement. The coordinators may meet at such times and places as they may jointly determine.

Section 6. General Matters

1. Implementation of this Statement may commence upon signature by both Participants and continue for three years, subject to paragraph 3 below. This Statement may be extended for additional periods as determined in writing by both Participants.
2. This Statement may be modified in writing at any time by the Participants' mutual consent.
3. If either Participant wishes to discontinue its cooperation under this Statement, it should endeavor to provide ninety (90) days written notice to the other Participant.
4. Each Participant is responsible for its costs of participating in the cooperative activities under this Statement.
5. This Statement does not create any legally binding obligations.
6. Each Participant should conduct the activities provided for under this Statement in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations to which it is subject, and subject to the availability of personnel and appropriated funds.

Signed at Aomori on the sixth day of June, 2008, in duplicate.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY,
TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN:

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