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**United States of America
and
India**

Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas of the Republic of India concerning scientific and technical cooperation in the field of gas hydrates research. Washington, 16 December 2008

Entry into force: *16 December 2008 by signature, in accordance with article IX*

Authentic text: *English*

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**États-Unis d'Amérique
et
Inde**

Mémorandum d'accord entre l'Institut d'études géologiques des États-Unis du Département de l'intérieur des États-Unis d'Amérique et la Direction générale des hydrocarbures sous la compétence du Ministère du pétrole et du gaz naturel de la République de l'Inde concernant la coopération scientifique et technique dans le domaine des recherches d'hydrates de gaz. Washington, 16 décembre 2008

Entrée en vigueur : *16 décembre 2008 par signature, conformément à l'article IX*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HYDROCARBONS
UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA
CONCERNING
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF GAS HYDRATES RESEARCH

ARTICLE I. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

1. The U.S. Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior of the United States of America (hereinafter “USGS”), and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of India (hereinafter “DGH”) hereby agree to pursue scientific and technical cooperation in the field of gas hydrates research in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “Memorandum”).
2. The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide a framework for the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and the augmentation of scientific and technical knowledge between the USGS and DGH (hereinafter “Party” or “Parties”) with respect to the studies of Gas Hydrates.
3. This Memorandum is subject to the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter “S & T Agreement”) signed October 17, 2005.
4. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate, where appropriate, the development of direct contacts and cooperation among government agencies, universities, research centers, institutions, private sector companies and other entities of the two countries.
5. Each Party may, with the consent of the other Party and to the extent permitted by laws and policies of each country, invite other government entities or agencies of the United States and India, and other entities, including scientists, technical experts, governmental agencies and institutions of third countries or international organizations, to participate in activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum, subject to such terms and conditions as the Parties may specify.

ARTICLE II. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Forms of cooperation under the Memorandum may consist, without limitation, of exchanges of technical information, visits, training, work associations, and cooperative research consistent with ongoing programs of the Parties. Specific areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to, such areas of mutual interest as:

- A. Marine science investigations, including resource exploration and assessment, hazards, and environmental issues associated with the occurrence of gas hydrate;
- B. Assessment of the energy resource potential of gas hydrates;
- C. Field studies in support of gas hydrate research;
- D. Joint research pertaining to exploration and exploitation of Gas Hydrates; and
- E. Information systems.

2. Activities under this Memorandum shall be undertaken in accordance with the laws, regulations, and procedures of each country.

ARTICLE III. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

Cooperative activities under this Memorandum shall be subject to the availability of personnel, resources, and funds. This Memorandum shall not be construed to obligate any particular expenditure or commitment of resources or personnel. The Parties shall agree in accordance with Article VIII below upon specific Project Annexes in writing before the commencement of any activity pursuant to this Memorandum.

ARTICLE IV. FEE AND TAX EXEMPTION

In accordance with its laws and regulations, each Party shall work toward obtaining, on behalf of the other Party, relief from taxes, fees, customs duties, and other charges (excluding fees for specific services rendered) levied with respect to:

- A. All transfer, ownership, construction, renovation, or maintenance of facilities or property by or on behalf of the other Party to implement this Memorandum.
- B. The import, purchase, ownership, use, or disposition (including export) of goods and services by or on behalf of the other Party in support of activities under this Memorandum; and
- C. Personal property of personnel of the other Party or entities of that Party implementing provisions of this Memorandum.

The Parties do not foresee the provision of foreign assistance under this Memorandum. If they decide otherwise with respect to a particular activity, Article VIII(4) of the S&T Agreement shall apply.

ARTICLE V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The protection and distribution of intellectual property created or furnished in the course of cooperative activities under this Memorandum shall be governed by the provisions of Annex I of the S&T Agreement.

ARTICLE VI. DISCLAIMER

Information transmitted by one Party to the other Party under this Memorandum shall be accurate to the best knowledge and belief of the transmitting Party, but the transmitting Party does not warrant the suitability of the information transmitted for any particular use or application by the receiving Party or by any third party.

ARTICLE VII. PLANNING AND REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Each Party shall designate a principal representative who, at such times as are mutually agreed upon by the Parties, shall meet to review the activities under this Memorandum and develop proposals for future activities, as appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII. PROJECT ANNEXES

Any activity carried out under this Memorandum shall be agreed upon in advance by the Parties in writing. Whenever more than the exchange of technical information or visits of individuals is contemplated, such activity shall be described in an agreed Project Annex to this Memorandum, which shall set forth, in terms appropriate to the activity, a work plan, staffing requirements, cost estimates, funding sources, and other undertakings, obligations, or conditions not included in this Memorandum. In case of any inconsistency between the terms of this Memorandum and the terms of a Project Annex, the terms of this Memorandum shall control.

ARTICLE IX. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT, AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature of both Parties and shall remain in force until terminated at any time by either Party upon ninety (90) days' prior written notice to the other Party. Unless otherwise agreed, the termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of projects under this Memorandum that are initiated prior to such termination. This Memorandum may only be amended by written agreement of the Parties.