

Terms of Reference

For the Indo-Norwegian Joint Working Group on Environment (JWG-E)

Introduction

1. In the agreement between the Government of Norway and the Government of Republic of India (July 2004) regarding establishment of a Joint Commission on cooperation Article 3 (b), environment is referred to as one of the specific areas of co-operation between the two countries.
2. In pursuance of the common global concerns in the field of environment and the Agreement mentioned in para (1), the Norwegian Minister of Environment Ms Helen Bjørnøy and the Indian Minister for State for Environment and Forests, Mr N N Meena, in a meeting in Dubai in February 2006, have agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Environment (JWG-E)
3. The Joint Working Group on Environment (JWG-E) falls within the purview of two Ministries mentioned above, but will for the purpose of coordination inform the Indo-Norwegian Joint Commission about its decisions and actions embarked upon.

Composition

4. Each Party (Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and Ministry of Environment, Government of Norway) shall have the freedom to decide the composition of the respective sides of the JWGE, but will for the purpose of coordination, as a minimum, invite the respective Ministries of External Affairs /Foreign Affairs and/or the Embassies to participate as observers in meetings of the JWG-E

Representation

5. The JWGE will be co-chaired by the appropriate level officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Government of India and the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Norway. Each Party will nominate members of their choice to the JWG and will, when found appropriate have the opportunity invite experts/observers on special topics under deliberation.

Meetings of the JWGE are to be held as and when the Parties jointly find appropriate but at least once a year, alternately in respective countries.

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Objectives

6. The Objectives of the JWGE are

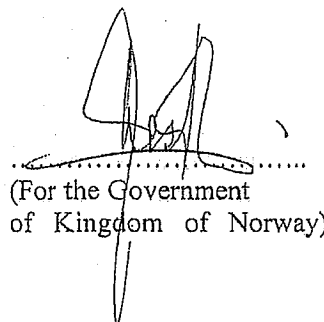
- to facilitate dialogue and interaction between the two countries on global environmental issues, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Conventions, and so forth for their effective implementation
- to promote cooperation aimed at mutual transfer of knowledge and development of clean technology in the area of environment through joint research, joint projects, seminars, workshops etc
- to enhance capability for environmental management in both countries
- to promote cooperation in the area of climate change and CDM, including research and development, capacity building and creation of awareness
- to promote contact between governmental, knowledge and private sector institutions relevant to environment
- to promote commercial cooperation in the area of environmental management

7. The proceedings of the meetings of the JWGE shall be reflected in the minutes signed by the Co-chairs.

8. The expenses related to the meetings of the JWGE will be covered in accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Republic of India pertaining to the establishment of Joint Commission of Cooperation.



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of Republic of India)



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of Kingdom of Norway)

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