

Enhanced Framework for Energy and Minerals Cooperation between Japan and Australia

1. The Japan-Australia High Level Group on Energy Forecasts and Energy Resources Developments (HLG) , which is based on an exchange of letters between Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan and Prime Minister Hawke of Australia in 1985, has served as an effective, non-binding framework to promote cooperation in the field of energy between Japan and Australia for almost 20 years.
 2. The Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources of Australia, recognized at the 27th meeting of the HLG, held in Tokyo on 6 June 2003, the significance of the past achievements and the need to enhance bilateral cooperation to meet changing circumstances.
 3. Recognizing the importance of the actions stated in the Joint Statement "Japan-Australia Creative Partnership" by Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan and Prime Minister Howard of Australia on 1 May 2002, both sides shared the view that the existing HLG should be replaced by an enhanced framework—Japan-Australia High-Level Group on Energy and Minerals Consultations (HLG).
 4. The HLG will hereafter serve as the principal forum for energy and minerals cooperation between Japan and Australia.
 5. The purpose of the HLG is to promote mutual understanding and cooperation in the fields of energy and minerals.
 6. HLG meetings will be held annually, alternately in Japan and Australia.
 7. The agenda for each HLG meeting will be set through close consultations between both sides, covering areas of mutual interest and avoiding, to the utmost extent, overlap and duplication of issues covered in other fora.
 8. Representatives from the private sector and research institutions in the fields of energy and minerals will be invited to participate in the HLG to provide their expertise and observations on specific issues.
 9. Key activities in the HLG will include exchange of information and ideas on :
 - Policies and regulations of Japan and Australia in relation to energy and minerals,
 - Forecasts of energy and minerals supply and demand ,
 - Promotion of a positive environment for bilateral trade and investment, including the exploration and development of energy and mineral resources in Japan and Australia,
 - Promotion of sustainable development as it relates to energy and minerals policies,
 - Promotion of research cooperation and collaboration in fields of mutual interest, to increase the knowledge, understanding and application of energy and minerals technologies,
 - Encouragement of cooperation between Japan and Australia in international energy fora,
- and the holding of meetings of various forms, such as seminars, symposiums and exhibitions.

Signed in Tokyo on 6 June 2003

Masahiro Koezuka

Chair of HLG
Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Japan

John Ryan

Chair of HLG
Department of Industry, Tourism
and Resources
Australia