AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT

Japan and the Republic of Iraq (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties"),

Desiring to further promote investment in order to strengthen the economic relationship between the Contracting Parties;

Intending to further create stable, equitable and favourable conditions for greater investment by investors of a Contracting Party in the Area of the other Contracting Party;

Recognising the growing importance of the progressive liberalisation of investment for stimulating initiative of investors and for promoting prosperity in the Contracting Parties;

Recognising that these objectives can be achieved without relaxing health, safety and environmental measures of general application;

Recognising the importance of the cooperative relationship between labour and management in promoting investment between the Contracting Parties; and

Convinced that this Agreement will contribute to the further development of the overall relationship between the Contracting Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement,

- (1) The term "investments" means every kind of asset owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by an investor, which has the characteristics of an investment, such as the commitment of capital or other resources, the expectation of gain or profit, or the assumption of risk, including:
 - (a) a juridical person and a branch of a juridical person;

- (b) shares, stocks or other forms of equity participation in a juridical person, including rights derived therefrom;
- (c) bonds, debentures, loans and other forms of debt, including rights derived therefrom;
- (d) rights under contracts, including turnkey, construction, management, production or revenue sharing contracts;
- (e) claims to money and to any performance under contract having a financial value;
- (f) intellectual property rights, including copyrights and related rights, patent rights and rights relating to utility models, trademarks, industrial designs, layout-designs of integrated circuits, new varieties of plants, trade names, indications of source or geographical indications and undisclosed information;
- (g) rights conferred pursuant to laws and regulations or contracts such as concessions, licences, authorisations and permits, including those for the exploration and exploitation of natural resources; and
- (h) any other tangible and intangible, movable and immovable property, and any related property rights, such as leases, mortgages, liens and pledges.

Investments include the amounts yielded by investments, in particular, profit, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties and fees. A change in the form in which assets are invested does not affect their character as investments.

- (2) The term "investor of a Contracting Party" means:
- (a) a natural person having the nationality of that Contracting Party in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations; or
- (b) a juridical person of that Contracting Party,

that seeks to make, is making or has made investments in the Area of the other Contracting Party.

- (3) The term "juridical person of a Contracting Party" means any legal entity duly constituted or organised under the applicable laws and regulations of that Contracting Party, whether or not for profit, and whether private or government owned or controlled, including any enterprise, corporation, trust, partnership, sole proprietorship, joint venture, association, organisation or company.
- (4) The term "investment activities" means operation, management, maintenance, use, enjoyment and sale or other disposal of investments.
- (5) The term "Area" means with respect to a Contracting Party:
 - (a) the territory of that Contracting Party; and
 - (b) the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf with respect to which that Contracting Party exercises sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with international law.
- (6) The term "freely usable currency" means freely usable currency as defined under the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund.

Article 2 Promotion and Admission of Investment

Each Contracting Party shall promote as far as possible investment by investors of the other Contracting Party and, subject to its rights to exercise powers in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations including those with regard to foreign ownership and control, admit such investment.

Article 3 National Treatment

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to its own investors and to their investments with respect to investment activities.
- 2. It is understood that the obligation of each Contracting Party under paragraph 1 will be implemented by its applicable laws and regulations, in conformity with the said paragraph.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, each Contracting Party may prescribe special formalities in connection with investment activities of investors of the other Contracting Party in its Area, provided that such special formalities do not impair the substance of the rights of such investors under this Agreement.

Article 4 Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to investors of a non-Contracting Party and to their investments with respect to investment activities.
- 2. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area endeavour to accord to investors of the other Contracting Party and to their investments treatment no less favourable than the treatment it accords in like circumstances to investors of a non-Contracting Party and to their investments with respect to the establishment, acquisition and expansion of investments. For this purpose, the former Contracting Party shall, upon request by the other Contracting Party, hold consultations in good faith.
- 3. It is understood that the treatment referred to in paragraph 1 does not include treatment accorded to investors of a non-Contracting Party and their investments by provisions concerning the settlement of investment disputes such as the mechanism set out in Article 17, that are provided for in other international agreements between a Contracting Party and a non-Contracting Party.

Article 5 General Treatment and Improvement of Investment Environment

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security.
- 2. Neither Contracting Party shall, within its Area, in any way impair investment activities of investors of the other Contracting Party by arbitrary measures.
- 3. Each Contracting Party shall observe any obligation it may have entered into with regard to investments and investment activities of investors of the other Contracting Party.

4. Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate measures to further improve investment environment in its Area for the benefit of investors of the other Contracting Party and their investments. In this regard, each Contracting Party shall endeavour to reduce or eliminate its restrictive measures, existing on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement, vis-à-vis the investors of the other Contracting Party and their investments with respect to investment activities as well as the establishment, acquisition and expansion of investments.

Article 6 Access to the Courts of Justice

Each Contracting Party shall in its Area accord to investors of the other Contracting Party treatment no less favourable than the treatment which it accords in like circumstances to its own investors or investors of a non-Contracting Party with respect to access to the courts of justice and administrative tribunals and agencies in all degrees of jurisdiction, both in pursuit and in defence of such investors' rights.

Article 7 Prohibition of Performance Requirements

- 1. Neither Contracting Party shall impose or enforce, as a condition for investment activities in its Area of an investor of the other Contracting Party, without prior consultation with the other Contracting Party, local content requirements, export requirements, export-import balancing requirements or technology transfer requirements.
- 2. Paragraph 1 does not apply to the technology transfer requirements which are imposed or enforced by a court, administrative tribunal or competition authority to remedy an alleged violation of competition laws, or which concerns the transfer of intellectual property rights which is undertaken in a manner not inconsistent with the multilateral agreements in respect of protection of intellectual property rights to which the Contracting Party imposing or enforcing such transfer is a party.

Article 8 Transparency

1. Each Contracting Party shall promptly publish, or otherwise make publicly available, its laws, regulations, administrative procedures and administrative rulings and judicial decisions of general application as well as international agreements which pertain to or affect the implementation and operation of this Agreement.

- 2. Each Contracting Party shall, upon request by the other Contracting Party, promptly respond to specific questions and provide that other Contracting Party with information on matters set out in paragraph 1, including that relating to contract each Contracting Party enters into with regard to investment.
- 3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to disclose confidential information, the disclosure of which would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or which would prejudice privacy or legitimate commercial interests.

Article 9 Measures against Corruption

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that measures and efforts are undertaken to prevent and combat corruption regarding matters covered by this Agreement in accordance with its laws and regulations.

Article 10 Entry, Sojourn and Residence

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations, give sympathetic consideration to applications for the entry, sojourn and residence of a natural person having the nationality of the other Contracting Party who wishes to enter the territory of the former Contracting Party and to remain therein for the purpose of business activities in connection with investments.

Article 11 Expropriation and Compensation

- 1. Neither Contracting Party shall expropriate or nationalise investments in its Area of investors of the other Contracting Party or take any measure equivalent to expropriation or nationalisation (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") except:
 - (a) for a public purpose;
 - (b) in a non-discriminatory manner;
 - (c) upon payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4; and

- (d) in accordance with due process of law and Article 5.
- 2. The compensation shall be equivalent to the fair market value of the expropriated investments at the time when the expropriation was publicly announced or when the expropriation occurred, whichever is the earlier. The fair market value shall not reflect any change in value occurring because the expropriation had become publicly known earlier.
- 3. The compensation shall be paid without delay and shall include interest at a commercially reasonable rate, taking into account the length of time until the time of payment. It shall be readily realisable and freely transferable, and shall be freely convertible into the currency of the Contracting Party of the investors concerned and into freely usable currencies, at the market exchange rate prevailing on the date of expropriation.
- 4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 17, the investors affected by expropriation shall have a right of access to the courts of justice or administrative tribunals or agencies of the Contracting Party making the expropriation to seek a prompt review of the investors' case and the amount of compensation in accordance with the principles set out in this Article.

Article 12 Compensation for Losses or Damages

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall accord to investors of the other Contracting Party that have suffered loss or damage relating to their investments in the Area of the former Contracting Party due to armed conflict or a state of emergency such as revolution, insurrection, civil disturbance or any other similar event in the Area of that former Contracting Party, treatment, as regards indemnification, compensation, restitution or any other settlement, that is no less favourable than that which it accords to its own investors or to investors of a non-Contracting Party, whichever is more favourable to the investors of the other Contracting Party.
- 2. Any payment as a means of settlement referred to in paragraph 1 shall be effectively realisable, freely transferable and freely convertible at the market exchange rate prevailing at the time of payment into the currency of the Contracting Party of the investors concerned and into freely usable currencies.

Article 13 Subrogation

If a Contracting Party or its designated agency makes a payment to any investor of that Contracting Party under an indemnity, guarantee or insurance contract, pertaining to investments of such investor in the Area of the other Contracting Party, the latter Contracting Party shall recognise the assignment to the former Contracting Party or its designated agency of any right or claim of such investor on account of which such payment is made and shall recognise the right of the former Contracting Party or its designated agency to exercise by virtue of subrogation any such right or claim to the same extent as the original right or claim of the investor. As regards payment to be made to that former Contracting Party or its designated agency by virtue of such assignment of right or claim and the assignment of such payment, Articles 11, 12, and 14 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Article 14 Transfers

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that all transfers relating to investments in its Area of an investor of the other Contracting Party may be freely made into and out of its Area without delay, in compliance with the procedures established by its laws and regulations. Such transfers shall include, in particular, though not exclusively:
 - (a) the initial capital and additional amounts to maintain or increase investments;
 - (b) profits, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties, fees and other current incomes accruing from investments;
 - (c) payments made under a contract including loan payments in connection with investments;
 - (d) proceeds of the total or partial sale or liquidation of investments;
 - (e) earnings and remuneration of personnel engaged from the other Contracting Party who work in connection with investments in the Area of the former Contracting Party;
 - (f) payments made in accordance with Articles 11 and 12; and

- (g) payments arising out of the settlement of a dispute under Article 17.
- 2. Each Contracting Party shall further ensure that such transfers may be made without delay in freely usable currencies at the market exchange rate prevailing on the date of each transfer.
- 3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, a Contracting Party may delay or prevent a transfer through the equitable, non-discriminatory and good-faith application of its laws and regulations relating to:
 - (a) bankruptcy, insolvency or the protection of the rights of creditors;
 - (b) issuing, trading or dealing in securities;
 - (c) criminal or penal offences; or
 - (d) ensuring compliance with orders or judgments in adjudicatory proceedings.

Article 15 Temporary Safeguard Measures

- 1. A Contracting Party may adopt or maintain measures not conforming with its obligations under Article 3 relating to cross-border capital transactions and Article 14:
 - (a) in the event of serious balance-of-payments and external financial difficulties or threat thereof; or
 - (b) in cases where, in exceptional circumstances, movements of capital cause or threaten to cause serious difficulties for macroeconomic management, in particular, monetary and exchange rate policies.
- 2. Measures referred to in paragraph 1:
 - (a) shall be consistent with the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, so long as the Contracting Party taking the measures is a party to the said Articles;
 - (b) shall not exceed those necessary to deal with the circumstances set out in paragraph 1;
 - (c) shall be temporary and shall be eliminated as soon as conditions permit;

- (d) shall be promptly notified to the other Contracting Party; and
- (e) shall avoid unnecessary damages to the commercial, economic and financial interests of the other Contracting Party.
- 3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be regarded as altering the rights enjoyed and obligations undertaken by a Contracting Party as a party to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund.

Article 16 Settlement of Disputes between the Contracting Parties

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall accord sympathetic consideration to, and shall afford adequate opportunity for consultations regarding, such representations as the other Contracting Party may make with respect to any matter affecting the operation of this Agreement.
- 2. Any dispute between the Contracting Parties as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement, not satisfactorily adjusted by diplomacy, shall be referred for decision to an arbitration board. Such arbitration board shall be composed of three arbitrators, with each Contracting Party appointing one arbitrator within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of receipt by either Contracting Party from the other Contracting Party of a note requesting arbitration of the dispute, and the third arbitrator to be agreed upon as President by the two arbitrators so chosen within a further period of sixty (60) days, provided that the third arbitrator shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.
- 3. If the third arbitrator is not agreed upon between the arbitrators appointed by each Contracting Party within the further period of sixty (60) days referred to in paragraph 2, the Contracting Parties shall request the President of the International Court of Justice to appoint the third arbitrator who shall not be a national of either Contracting Party. If the President of the International Court of Justice is prevented from performing the abovementioned duty or is a national of either Contracting Party, the necessary appointment shall be made by the Vice-President. If the Vice-President is prevented from performing the above-mentioned duty or is a national of either Contracting Party, too, the necessary appointment shall be made by the next senior judge who shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.

- 4. The arbitration board shall within a reasonable period of time reach its decisions by a majority of votes. Such decisions shall be final and binding.
- 5. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own arbitrator and its representation in the arbitral proceedings. The cost of the President of the arbitration board in discharging his or her duties and the remaining costs of the arbitration board shall be borne equally by the Contracting Parties.

Article 17
Settlement of Investment Disputes between a Contracting Party and an Investor of the Other Contracting Party

- 1. For the purposes of this Article, an "investment dispute" is a dispute between a Contracting Party and an investor of the other Contracting Party that has incurred loss or damage by reason of, or arising out of, an alleged breach of any obligation of the former Contracting Party under this Agreement with respect to the investor of that other Contracting Party or its investments in the Area of the former Contracting Party.
- 2. Subject to subparagraph 7(b), nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent an investor who is a party to an investment dispute (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "disputing investor") from seeking administrative or judicial settlement within the Area of the Contracting Party that is a party to the investment dispute (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "disputing Party").
- 3. Any investment dispute shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through consultations between the disputing investor and the disputing Party (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the disputing parties").
- 4. If the investment dispute cannot be settled through such consultations within three months from the date on which the disputing investor requested in writing the disputing Party for consultations, the disputing investor may, subject to subparagraph 7(a), submit the investment dispute to one of the following international conciliations or arbitrations:

- (a) conciliation or arbitration in accordance with the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, done at Washington, March 18, 1965 (hereinafter referred to in this Article as "the ICSID Convention"), so long as the ICSID Convention is in force between the Contracting Parties;
- (b) conciliation or arbitration under the Additional Facility Rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, so long as the ICSID Convention is not in force between the Contracting Parties;
- (c) arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; and
- (d) if agreed with the disputing Party, any arbitration in accordance with other arbitration rules.
- 5. (a) Except for investment disputes regarding the obligation of the disputing Party under paragraph 3 of Article 5, each Contracting Party hereby consents to the submission of investment disputes by a disputing investor to conciliation or arbitration set forth in paragraph 4 chosen by the disputing investor.
 - (b) For investment disputes regarding the obligation of the disputing Party under paragraph 3 of Article 5, necessary consent for the submission to the conciliation or arbitration will be given by the disputing Party on a case-by-case basis.
- 6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5, no investment disputes may be submitted to conciliation or arbitration set forth in paragraph 4, if more than five years have elapsed since the date on which the disputing investor acquired or should have first acquired, whichever is the earlier, the knowledge that the disputing investor had incurred loss or damage referred to in paragraph 1.

- 7. (a) In the event that an investment dispute has been submitted to courts of justice or administrative tribunals or agencies or any other binding dispute settlement mechanism established under the laws and regulations of the disputing Party, any conciliation or arbitration set forth in paragraph 4 can be sought only if the disputing investor withdraws, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the disputing Party, its claim from such domestic remedies before the final decisions are made therein.
 - (b) In the event that an investment dispute has been submitted for resolution under one of the conciliations or arbitrations set forth in paragraph 4, the same dispute shall not be submitted for resolution under courts of justice, administrative tribunals or agencies or any other binding dispute settlement mechanism established under the laws and regulations of the disputing Party.
- 8. The disputing Party shall deliver to the other Contracting Party:
 - (a) written notice of the investment dispute submitted to the arbitration no later than thirty (30) days after the date on which the investment dispute was submitted; and
 - (b) copies of all pleadings filed in the arbitration.
- 9. The Contracting Party which is not the disputing Party may, upon written notice to the disputing parties, make submissions to the arbitral tribunal on a question of interpretation of this Agreement.
- 10. Unless the disputing parties agree otherwise, the arbitration shall be held in a country that is a party to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done at New York, June 10, 1958.
- 11. The award rendered by the arbitral tribunal shall be final and binding upon the disputing parties. This award shall be executed by the applicable laws and regulations concerning the execution of award in force in the country where such execution is sought.

Article 18 Prudential Measures

- 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, a Contracting Party shall not be prevented from taking measures relating to financial services for prudential reasons, including measures for the protection of investors, depositors, policy holders or persons to whom a fiduciary duty is owed by a juridical person supplying financial services, or to ensure the integrity and stability of its financial system.
- 2. Where the measures taken by a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 1 do not conform with this Agreement, they shall not be used as a means of avoiding the obligations of the Contracting Party under this Agreement.

Article 19 Intellectual Property Rights

- 1. The Contracting Parties shall grant and ensure adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, and promote efficiency and transparency in administrations of intellectual property protection system. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall promptly consult with each other at the request of either Contracting Party. Depending on the results of the consultations, each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations, take appropriate measures to remove the factors which are recognised as having adverse effects to the investments of investors of the other Contracting Party.
- 2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to derogate from the rights and obligations under multilateral agreements in respect of protection of intellectual property rights to which the Contracting Parties are parties.
- 3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to oblige either Contracting Party to extend to investors of the other Contracting Party and their investments treatment accorded to investors of a non-Contracting Party and their investments by virtue of multilateral agreements in respect of protection of intellectual property rights, to which the former Contracting Party is a party.

Article 20 Taxation

- 1. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of either Contracting Party under any tax convention. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any such convention, that convention shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 2. Paragraph 1 of Article 3 does not prevent either Contracting Party from differentiating between treatments accorded in accordance with its laws and regulations relating to taxes.
- 3. Paragraph 1 and 2 of Article 4 shall not be construed so as to oblige a Contracting Party to extend to investors of the other Contracting Party special tax advantages accorded to investors of a non-Contracting Party, on the basis of reciprocity with the non-Contracting Party or by virtue of any agreement relating to taxes in force between the former Contracting Party and the non-Contracting Party.

Article 21 Joint Committee

- 1. The Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") with a view to accomplishing the objectives of this Agreement. The functions of the Committee shall be:
 - (a) to discuss and review the implementation and operation of this Agreement; and
 - (b) to share information on and to discuss any other investment-related matters concerning this Agreement, for the purpose of encouraging favourable conditions for investors of the Contracting Parties.
- 2. The Committee may, as necessary, make appropriate recommendations by consensus to the Contracting Parties for the more effective functioning or the attainment of the objectives of this Agreement.
- 3. The Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Governments of the Contracting Parties. The Committee may, upon mutual consent of the Contacting Parties, invite representatives of relevant entities other than the Governments of the Contracting Parties with the necessary expertise relevant to the issues to be discussed, and hold joint meetings with the private sectors.

- 4. The Committee shall determine its own rules of procedure to carry out its functions.
- 5. The Committee may establish sub-committees and delegate specific tasks to such sub-committees.
- 6. The Committee and the sub-committee established pursuant to paragraph 5 shall meet upon the request of either Contracting Party.

Article 22 Health, Safety and Environmental Measures and Labour Standards

Each Contracting Party recognises that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by investors of the other Contracting Party and of a non-Contracting Party by relaxing its health, safety or environmental measures, or by lowering its labour standards. To this effect each Contracting Party should not waive or otherwise derogate from such measures and standards as an encouragement for the establishment, acquisition or expansion of investments in its Area by investors of the other Contracting Party and of a non-Contracting Party.

Article 23 Denial of Benefits

- 1. A Contracting Party may deny the benefits of this Agreement to an investor of the other Contracting Party that is a juridical person of the other Contracting Party and to its investments if the juridical person is owned or controlled by an investor of a non-Contracting Party and the denying Contracting Party:
 - (a) does not maintain diplomatic relations with the non-Contracting Party; or
 - (b) adopts or maintains measures with respect to the non-Contracting Party that prohibit transactions with the juridical person or that would be violated or circumvented if the benefits of this Agreement were accorded to the juridical person or to its investments.

2. Subject to prior notification and consultation, a Contracting Party may deny the benefits of this Agreement to an investor of the other Contracting Party that is a juridical person of the other Contracting Party and to its investments if the juridical person is owned or controlled by an investor of a non-Contracting Party and the juridical person has no substantial business activities in the Area of the other Contracting Party.

Note: For the purposes of this Article, a juridical person is:

- (a) "owned" by an investor if more than fifty (50) percent of the equity interest in it is owned by the investor; and
- (b) "controlled" by an investor if the investor has the power to name a majority of its directors or otherwise to legally direct its actions.

Article 24 Review

Upon the request of either Contracting Party, the Contracting Parties shall undertake a review of this Agreement, with a view to further promoting progressive liberalisation of investment.

Article 25 Headings

The headings of the Articles of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

Article 26 Final Provisions

- 1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of exchange of diplomatic notes between the Governments of the Contracting Parties informing each other that their respective legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been completed.
- 2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten (10) years after its entry into force and shall continue in force unless terminated as provided for in paragraph 3.

- 3. A Contracting Party may, by giving one year's advance notice in writing to the other Contracting Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten (10) year period or at any time thereafter.
- 4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, in respect of investments acquired prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall continue to be effective for a period of ten (10) years from the date of termination of this Agreement.
- 5. This Agreement shall also apply to all investments of investors of either Contracting Party acquired in the Area of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of that other Contracting Party prior to the entry into force of this Agreement.
- 6. This Agreement shall not apply to claims arising out of events which occurred, or to claims which had been settled, prior to its entry into force.
- 7. Either Contracting Party may request consultations with the other Contracting Party for the purpose of amending this Agreement, at any time or as a result of the review under Article 24. Such amendment shall be approved by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective legal procedures and shall enter into force on such date as the Contracting Parties may agree.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in two originals at Baghdad, on this seventh day of June, 2012, in the Japanese, Arabic and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For Japan: For

For the Republic of Iraq:

長谷川 晋 Sami Al-Araji