

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF
THE STATE OF ISRAEL
AND
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the State of Israel and The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Sides" or individually as a "Side");

Recognizing the goals and principles stated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, and The Future We Want document as agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in 2012 (Rio +20);

Aware of the importance of cooperative efforts to promote and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including those addressing poverty eradication, provision of sustainable livelihoods as well as the environmentally compatible management of natural resources;

Convinced that cooperation between the Sides in the field of environmental protection, sustainable development and nature conservation is of mutual benefit and will further promote the friendly relations between their respective countries;

Considering the "Belt and Road Initiative" which aims to build a green, harmonious, environmentally and economically beneficial "Belt and Road";

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Establishment of Israel - China Joint Committee on Innovation Cooperation, signed in Jerusalem, on May 19, 2014.

Have reached the following understanding regarding cooperation:

ARTICLE 1 - Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") is to promote environmental cooperation between the Sides on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

ARTICLE 2 – Areas of cooperation

The following areas have been identified by the Sides as the priority areas of cooperation:

1. Water issues, including wastewater treatment, non-point water pollution, protection of aquifers and river restoration;
2. Waste management;
3. Air quality management;
4. Environmental technologies and services;

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5. Environmental monitoring;
 6. Biodiversity and nature protection;
 7. Environmental legislation and enforcement;
 8. Environmental impact assessment, environmental impacts of energy use and exploration;
 9. Public awareness promotion and environmental education; and
 10. Other areas as mutually agreed upon by the Sides.

ARTICLE 3 – Form of cooperation

Cooperation under this MOU may include, but is not necessarily limited to:

1. Exchange of relevant environmental information, practical experiences and documents;
2. Exchange of visits of experts, scholars, and delegations;
3. Jointly organized seminars, workshops and meetings to be attended by scientists, experts, regulators and others concerned;
4. Other forms of cooperation as mutually agreed upon by the Sides.

ARTICLE 4 - Implementation

1. The Sides will appoint an official respectively as the coordinator for the implementation of this MOU. Coordinators may organize meetings to discuss cooperation as agreed upon by the Sides;

2. To implement this MOU, both Sides shall encourage environmental protection organizations, enterprises and local authorities as well as research institutions in both countries to establish and develop direct contacts with each other in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

ARTICLE 5 - Framework

The provisions of this MOU shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Sides deriving from any treaty, convention, regional or global agreement related to the environment. This MOU shall be implemented in accordance with the domestic laws, Regulations, Procedures and Mechanisms of the Sides.

ARTICLE 6 - Funding

Cooperative activities under this MOU shall be subject to availability of appropriate funds and other resources of each Side. Each Side shall bear its own costs and expenses arising from the implementation of this MOU.

ARTICLE 7 – Confidential Information

Any information created or furnished in the course of cooperative activities under this MOU and business-confidential information obtained and/or exchanged pursuant to this MOU, designated by either Side as confidential, is to be treated by the other Side as such.

ARTICLE 8 - Interpretation

Any dispute between the Sides arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MOU shall be settled amicably through consultation between the Sides.

ARTICLE 9 - Modification

This MOU may be modified at any time through mutual written consent by the Sides. Such modifications shall come into effect on the date determined by the Sides and shall form an integral part of this MOU.

ARTICLE 10 – Final Provisions

1. This MOU will come into effect on the date of signature. This MOU will remain in force for a period of 5 (five) years and after which it shall be automatically extended for a further period of 5 (five) years, unless terminated in terms of sub-Article 2;
2. This MOU may be terminated by either Side by giving at least 6 (six) months written notice to the other Side;
3. The termination of this MOU will not affect any arrangement or activity that has already been made or commenced before the termination, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Sides in writing;
4. This MOU will apply equally to any successor bodies or agencies of either Side.

DONE at Beijing on March 14, 2017 in duplicate in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.



FOR THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL



FOR THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA