



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 02 2015

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Mr. Mitsuaki Komoto, Vice President
National Institute of Technology and Evaluation
2-49-10 Nishihara, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 151-0066 Japan

Re: EPA and NITE Exchange of Information and Personnel Concerning Chemical Management

Dear Mr. Komoto:

By this letter, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics ("OPPT") intends to memorialize our intentions and our understanding of the intentions of the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation ("NITE") with respect to the exchange of information and personnel between OPPT and NITE in the field of chemical management. Any exchange of information and personnel would be made in accordance with our respective national laws, and with the existing agreement between the governments of the United States of America and of Japan on cooperation in the field of environmental protection (signed and entered into force on August 5, 1975) ("the 1975 agreement").

1. **Overview.** OPPT and NITE believe it is in our common interest as well as in the public interest to enhance our information and personnel exchanges in the field of chemical risk reduction to support sustainable growth and a high level of protection of human health and of the environment. As an example of the types of exchanges and activities contemplated by this letter, OPPT will continue the hosting of a visiting scholar from NITE for training purposes, organize periodic video- or teleconferences to enhance mutual understanding of our respective regulatory schemes on a practical level and to share other knowledge, and to exchange with NITE written materials concerning experiences and best practices on matters of mutual interest.
2. **Activities.** OPPT and NITE intend, where possible and appropriate considering legal, resource, and other constraints, to undertake the following types of activities:
 - i. **General knowledge exchange:** This includes sharing and communicating materials or technical guidance on programs and approaches established within OPPT and NITE's institutional mandates, as appropriate, including through periodical video/teleconferences with each other;
 - ii. **Personnel Exchanges:** Exchange of experience by exchange or acceptance of a visiting scholar for mutually agreed periods of time;

- iii. Cooperation on communication: Exchange of public information (i.e., information that may be lawfully disclosed to the public under the laws of each respective government) and best practices related to activities to address and inform stakeholders including the general public on matters of common interest;
- iv. Participating institutions: Invitation of interested and appropriate personnel (e.g., persons from other government departments or academic institutions) to participate in meetings or share informational materials as appropriate; and
- v. Any other feasible means: Identification of additional appropriate means to further our cooperation.

3. Types of Information. In accordance with our respective mandates, contents of information and personnel exchange between OPPT and NITE may relate to the following areas:

- i. scientific and practical information exchange, in particular with regard to non-testing approaches for data gap filling such as (Q)SAR as well as hazard and risk assessment of chemical substances;
- ii. exchange of implementation issues and operational experience as well as of experience in strengthening both capacities and efficiencies;
- iii. active dissemination of public information and publications related to each other's activities;
- iv. information exchange on matters of common interest, including practical guidance or manual development; and
- v. sharing information and experience on risk identification, risk assessment and risk management tools and other similar products and related expertise.

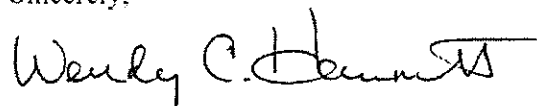
4. Use of Information. Each party will ensure that information received pursuant to the exchanges discussed in this letter will be handled and disseminated in accordance with applicable laws, including confidentiality and intellectual property laws. The exchanges of information and personnel contemplated in this letter are not to be construed as authorising the disclosure, use and processing of information for which disclosure is otherwise prohibited by the laws of the respective countries.

5. General Limitations. The activities and communications contemplated in this letter are limited to exchange of information and of personnel, consistent with our respective national laws, the 1975 agreement, and our respective internal policies and resource availability.

6. Disputes, Modifications, and Termination. This letter is not intended to be legally binding. OPPT and NITE resolve to make best efforts at resolving any dispute or disagreement that may arise in the course of carrying out the activities described in this letter. The parties may at any time, by mutual written consent, modify the terms or scope of the exchanges discussed in this letter. Finally, the parties may terminate the exchange activities discussed in this letter by giving at least 3 months written notice, or by mutual written consent.

Please indicate your mutual understanding of the expected cooperation outlined in this letter by written and signed reply. Our understanding contemplated by this letter will become effective on the date that we receive this return letter from you and expire five years from that date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy C. Hamnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett, Director
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics