



VAMAS

**VERSAILLES PROJECT ON ADVANCED
MATERIALS AND STANDARDS**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

25th May 2007

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COLLABORATION ON ADVANCED MATERIALS AND STANDARDS

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES

CONSIDERING:

- *The agreement of the Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment established by the Economic Summit meeting held in Versailles, 1982;*
- *The recommendations of the Working Group on collaborative research aimed to promote improvements in advanced materials and standards*
- *The endorsement of the report of the Working Group by the Heads of Government at the Economic summit meeting in Williamsburg, in 1983;*
- *The spirit of cooperation as it derives from the Summit Declaration, namely, a common commitment to encourage the setting of codes of practice and specifications on an internationally coordinated basis, as a contribution to removing technical barriers to, and promoting the development of trade in new technologies:*

PROPOSE:

Based on a mutual desire for cooperation in the development of measurement techniques, standards, and reference materials, the parties mutually accept the arrangements set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research into Advanced Materials and Standards.

This MOU represents a continuation of the collaboration begun pursuant to the agreement under which VAMAS and its parties (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA, and the European Commission (EC)) currently operate, and provides the means to increase the number of parties in the VAMAS initiative per Article VII below.

ARTICLE I: SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION

The scope of this cooperation embraces work on enabling scientific and technological research in advanced materials, the work having the clear aim of providing the technical basis for drafting Standards, Codes of Practice, and Specifications in these materials.

ARTICLE II: SCOPE OF INVOLVEMENT

Each of the parties is free to enter into one or more of the individual work projects.

ARTICLE III: MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

The manner of collaboration is to be on a work-sharing research basis, in which each party carries out a specific complementary component of a larger project, and in turn obtains access to the total research output of that project.

A Steering Committee (SC) composed of delegates from each country and the EC is to be responsible for setting up and implementing the appropriate technical structures for cooperative research.

ARTICLE IV: FUNDING SOURCES

The activities carried out under this Memorandum are subject to, and dependent upon, funds and staffing available to the parties.

ARTICLE V: PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Steering Committee, which should meet at least once each year, should review and report progress on all the activities carried out under this Memorandum. The Steering Committee should also exchange views and act upon proposals for future activities.

ARTICLE VI: RESEARCH OUTPUT

There should be a free exchange of research output among the parties in the technical subject areas. Each party is free to use the total information in order to help prepare standards or specifications directly with their national standards organization(s). With the concurrence of all of the delegates, the Steering Committee may recommend draft standards to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International

Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and other international, national, and regional standard-setting organizations.

All parties are to respect confidentiality in the research output unless or until otherwise mutually decided. Further specific conditions relating to the confidentiality of results may be imposed by agreement according to the particular project.

ARTICLE VII: PARTICIPATION BY OTHER COUNTRIES

Additional countries/institutions may enter into this collaboration as parties. Such countries/institutions should make an application to the Steering Committee describing their proposed contribution to the purpose of VAMAS and their technical capabilities in the relevant fields.

ARTICLE VIII: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

No party to this Memorandum should accept a liability nor assert a claim against any other for damages arising from activities under this Memorandum.

ARTICLE IX: DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum becomes effective upon signature by all parties. Any party may cease its cooperation under this Memorandum upon providing six months' written notice to the other parties.

This Memorandum allows the joining of new parties under the provisions of Article VII, with all other provisions remaining the same.

This MOU is a statement of intent of the parties to cooperate and is not legally binding upon the parties. This MOU does not create legally enforceable rights or obligations.

Signed: Tameton Tokunaga Date: October 11 2007
TOKUNAGA, Tamotsu

Position: Director-General, Research Promotion Bureau
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Signed: 石田 徹 Date: October 11 2007
ISHIDA, Toru

Position: Director-General, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and
Environment Bureau
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Member State: JAPAN