

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of Republic of India

and

The Ministry of Oil/Gas Industry and Mineral Resources of Turkmenistan

on

Cooperation in the field of Oil and gas

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India and The Ministry of Oil/Gas Industry and Mineral Resources of Turkmenistan (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

Noting the opportunities for enhanced economic and commercial cooperation between both countries,

Recognizing the importance of long-term cooperation relationship and joint economic projects for their people;

Desiring to strengthen the friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between both countries;

Desiring to establish and develop relations in the field of new technologies, scientific researches and exchange of information in the field of oil and gas;

Have reached the following understandings:

Article 1

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a cooperative institutional relationship to develop bilateral cooperation on the issues of assisting in development of oil and gas on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Article 2

The Parties will cooperate to enhance ties in the oil and gas sector, in conformity with their domestic laws and regulations. Subject to this Memorandum of Understanding, the areas of cooperation between the Parties may include, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Tie-up between the Parties to assist in undertaking exploration and development activities of hydrocarbon resources of Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea, on implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project and its further extension to India and carrying out service contracts in the oil/gas sector;

- b) Substantiating and attracting investments into the projects of oil/gas industries;
- c) Exchange of information on concerned laws and regulations in the area of oil and gas;
- d) Exchange of information in the area of new technologies, scientific research , R&D and setting up of data base;
- e) Organization of educational and training programs for scientific and technical personnel
- f) Organization of seminars and meetings to substantiate and attract investments; and
- g) Other forms of cooperation as may be agreed upon the Parties

Article 3

The Parties agree to strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest, particularly those relating to trade in natural gas and refined products of oil and gas, investments for development of oil and gas industry.

Article 4

All joint activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be carried out in accordance with laws and regulations of the Parties.

The Parties may use information exchanged in conformity with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, except in the case where the Party or authorized persons providing such information have previously made known the restrictions and reservations concerning its use and dissemination.

The Parties will take all appropriate measures in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations to preserve the restrictions and reservations and to protect intellectual property rights including commercial and industrial secrets transferred between authorized persons within the jurisdiction of the State of either Party.

Article 5

For discussion of the issues of implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties may set up a Joint Working Group on oil and gas, consisting of representatives of the Parties

Article 6

The Joint Working Group consisting of the representatives of the Parties may meet annually on mutually determined dates by the Parties alternately in India and Turkmenistan. Each Party will cover its expenses relating to its participation in the meetings of Joint Working Group.

Article 7

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of provisions in this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably by negotiations on the basis of mutual understanding and goodwill between the Parties.

Article 8

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties, specifying the date of entry into force of such amendments.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the day of its signing and shall remain in force unless either party gives notice, in writing, to the other of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding, with 90-day notice.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the completion of cooperation activities initiated while this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect, unless otherwise mutually determined in writing by the Parties.

Article 9

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the rights and obligations of the parties arising from other international agreements to which they are Party.

Signed in the city of Ashgabat on 5th April of the year 2008 in two originals each in English, Turkmen and Russian languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

On behalf of the Ministry of
Petroleum and Natural Gas of
Republic of India

Minister of State for External
Affairs

E. Ahamed



On behalf of the Ministry of
Oil/Gas Industry and Mineral
Resources of Turkmenistan

Deputy Chairperson of Cabinet of
Ministers

T. Tagiev

