A memorandum of understanding was signed on the 26th of July 2003 by the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Nanyang Technological University and Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo to conduct joint research on Underwater Mobile Robotics. Following which, a joint seminar was organized on Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs).

The theme of the seminar was “AUV/ROV Technologies in Singapore”. University of Tokyo presented their recent sea trials with the newly developed AUV called ‘R2D4’. Three ROV manufactures in Singapore presented their work on underwater construction, surveillance and inspection carried out in this region. The participants (about 80), had the opportunity of getting a glimpse of the in-house constructed NTU AUV called the ‘NTU-UAV’. Under the MOU, R&D work in the area of Underwater Robotics will be carried out jointly with Japan through staff exchange, joint sea trials, and conducting joint seminars, courses and conferences.