

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH**

The Government of India and the Government of Australia (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"); "Recalling the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture and Science between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia signed on 21st October 1971 and the Educational Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the fields of Education and Training signed on 22 October 2003"

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

The Parties acknowledge their ongoing bilateral cooperation in education, training and research and mutually consent to increase cooperation across all education sectors – schools, vocational education and training (VET) and higher education including technical and professional education.

Article 2

The Parties acknowledge and confirm ongoing support for the existing formal mechanisms for engagement between India and Australia, including:

I. The Australia India Education Council

The Parties reaffirm this bi-national Council, which meets annually, as the principal body for guiding the Australia-India education, training and research cooperation agenda through the Council's agreed priority areas. These include:

- Higher education and research
- student mobility and welfare
- quality assurance and qualifications recognition
- school education and
- skills in the formal education system and through the National Skills Qualification Framework.

II. The Annual India-Australia Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation

III. The Annual India-Australia Joint Working Group of Officials

IV. The Parties will re-constitute Joint Working Group to implement this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This will be chaired, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India, by a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and on behalf of the Government of Australia, by a representative of the Department of Education and

Training along with the participation of representatives of the other agencies of the Parties as appropriate. The Joint Working Group will meet alternately in India and Australia once a year or as the parties may otherwise mutually determine, to review the implementation of this MoU.

Article 3

The Parties will encourage, as appropriate, the development of cooperation between the education institutions of the two countries based on their respective academic and educational needs. This may include any or all of the following activities:

- I. Consideration of expansion of Australia India Education Council membership from time to time to ensure appropriate representation from academia, policy makers and industry as required and agreed;
- II. Strengthening policy dialogue and exchange in areas of mutual benefit, including qualification and quality frameworks and standards for education, research and training;
- III. Supporting the mobility of students and faculty members through formal exchange programs, internships and other modalities;
- IV. Improving credit transfer arrangements and work towards qualifications recognition between Australia and India;
- V. Supporting and organising professional development programmes for subject experts, educational administrators, faculty members and teachers;
- VI. Encouraging twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning and the organisation of joint research programmes and publications;
- VII. Encouraging research collaboration between institutions of higher learning to enlarge the scope for joint research, joint Ph. D. programmes and joint degrees;
- VIII. Sharing best practice education materials including research materials, publications, and educational literature;
- IX. Supporting skills development through joint conferences, seminars, policy dialogue and technical cooperation in national standards development;
- X. Strengthening communication for exchange of information on new policy initiatives and opportunities for development of education, training and research activities of both countries;
- XI. Further develop bilateral programmes between institutions of educational excellence in technical, vocational, schools and higher education, subject to availability of funds; and
- XII. Any other activity as mutually determined by the Parties, within the scope of this MoU.

Article 4

The substance, scope and implementation of activities or cooperation within the terms of this MoU may be the subject of more specific arrangements concluded between selected institutions of the two countries on the basis of and within the provision of this MoU.

Article 5

Nothing shall diminish the full autonomy of either party, nor will any constraints or financial obligations be imposed by either party upon the other, in carrying out this MoU.

Article 6

The costs of the co-operative activities under this MoU will be funded on terms to be mutually determined and will be subject to the availability of funds.

Article 7

Either Party may request in writing for a revision of or amendment of the MoU. Any revision or amendment mutually consented to by both parties will be received in writing and will form part of the MoU. Such revision or Amendment will come into effect on such date as may be determined by both Parties.

Article 8

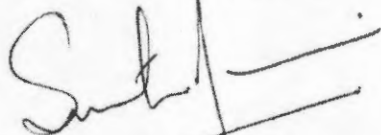
The MoU will become operational on the date of signing by the Parties and will remain in force for a period of five years. Each party reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or health, to suspend temporarily or terminate either in whole or in part the implementation of this MoU after giving at least six months advance notice of its intention to suspend or terminate. Unless one of the Parties request changes, alterations or cancellation of the MoU six months prior to the expiry of the MoU, this MoU will be automatically renewed for a further period of five years at a time

Signed at New Delhi on 24 August 2015 in two original copies in English and Hindi language, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in Interpretation the English text shall prevail.

In witness whereof the duly authorised representation of the Parties have signed this MoU.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF

INDIA



MRS SMRTI ZUBIN IRANI

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA



MR CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,

AND TRAINING