

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”);

Reiterating their interest in strengthening the bilateral relations in the field of higher education;

Recalling the profound impact of education on human resource, economic and social development;

Recognizing that greater linkages between the countries in the field of higher education would be mutually beneficial;

Substituting the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Parties on cooperation in the field of education, signed on 14th February 2014;

Referring to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology, signed on 14th November 2006;

Recalling the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Norway, signed on 19th April 1987;

Have reached the following understanding:

Article I

The scope of the MoU is to stimulate and facilitate academic cooperation and partnerships between higher education institutions in the two countries, while underlining the importance of linking cooperation in higher education with cooperation in research and innovation. The cooperation will be based on the principles of quality, reciprocity and relevance.

Article II

The Parties shall encourage, as appropriate, the development of contacts and cooperation between the higher education institutions in the countries, based on their respective academic and educational interests and needs.

The cooperation may include all or some of the following activities:

- i. organization of joint conferences, exhibitions and seminars;
- ii. organization of joint education programmes;
- iii. exchange of academic and administrative staff;
- iv. exchange of students;
- v. exchange of views on international educational practices and innovations;
- vi. activities linking higher education collaboration and research collaboration;
- vii. twinning arrangements between higher education institutions;
- viii. development of bilateral programmes between institutions of educational excellence in higher education and in the professional educations;
- ix. establishment of adjunct professorships;
- x. setting up of chairs on contemporary studies and languages;
- xi. examination of the possibility of mutual recognition of educational qualifications;
- xii. any other activity as agreed by both parties.

Article III

Both Parties will make available to the other the necessary information concerning their education system, quality assurance, recognition and licensing requirements and

assist in developing mutual understanding and appropriate procedures for facilitating evaluation and recognition of academic credentials.

Both Parties will strive to make available to the other party information on national funding schemes relevant for the strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

Article IV

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

Article V

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 the MoU.

Article VI

The Parties will seek to establish a bilateral programme for the enhancement of higher educational cooperation. The costs of co-operative activities under this MoU shall be funded on terms to be mutually determined and shall be the subject to the availability of funds.

Article VII

The Parties shall uphold the established Joint Working Group (JWG) to concretize this MoU. The JWG will be chaired on behalf of the Republic of India, by a representative of the Ministry of Education, and on behalf of the Kingdom of Norway, by a representative of the Ministry of Education and Research, along with the participation of representatives of the other agencies of the Parties, as appropriate. The Joint Working Group shall meet alternately in India and Norway and discuss an annual working programme.

The JWG will seek a coordinated follow-up of this MoU with the Agreement on Science and Technology between the Government of India and the Government of Norway and other relevant agreements between the countries.

Article VIII

The JWG shall review and discuss the development of mutual relations in higher education and activities under this MoU, but also exchange views on international education policies in this field.

Article IX

The Parties shall establish mutual points of contact for regular consultations on matters related to the bilateral education relations between the Parties, and establish contact procedures to facilitate communication.

The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HKDIR) and University Grants Commission (UGC) or any agency delegated to such responsibilities will have a coordinating role in the follow-up of the MoU and decisions made by the JWG.

Article X

Any dispute arising out concerning the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this MOU shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the parties.

Article XI

Neither Party shall publish or transfer to a third party information received or created within the framework of this MoU and concerning which the requirement of confidentiality is established by the other Party without prior written consent of the other Party.

Article XII

The MoU shall come into force from the date of its signing by both the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of five years. The MoU may be terminated at any time by either Party giving six months written notice in advance of its intention to terminate this MoU through the diplomatic channel. The termination of this MoU shall not affect the completion of any unfulfilled obligation at the moment of its termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

Before expiration, the Parties will discuss whether to prolong, revise or terminate the MoU. Thereafter, the MoU will be renewable by mutual written consent of the Parties for a term as agreed by the parties, unless either of the Parties terminates the present MoU by giving a written notice of its intention to the other Party at least six (6) months in advance. The MoU may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this MoU.

Done at New Delhi on **25.04.2022** in two originals, each in the Hindi and the English languages, all text being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of
the Kingdom of Norway**

(Hans Jacob Frydenlund)
Ambassador of Norway
to India

**For the Government of
the Republic of India**

(K. Sanjay Murthy)
Secretary,
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education