



Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource
Development



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

AND

**THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

ON

COOPERATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter referred to as the Parties) Desirous to strengthen the deep diplomatic relations between them through strong cooperation;

Realizing that enforcement of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be in accordance with their national policies and should not contradict with national law of the two countries and should not hinder their international commitments;

Taking into consideration that provisions of this MoU should not affect the Parties' obligations stipulated in other international agreements and should not be used against the interests and security of the Parties or other States;

Have reached the following understanding: -

ARTICLE 1

Purpose

The Purpose of this MoU is for cooperation in the area of Human Resource Development which will contribute to develop bilateral relations and beget mutual benefits for the two countries.

ARTICLE 2

Fields of Cooperation

The areas of cooperation offered by Government of India in the field of Human Resource Development shall be as follows: -

1. Sharing of Online Education Platform, named 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) developed by Government of India:
 - i) Facilitate use of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) available in the SWAYAM Platform by the students and faculty of the Educational Institutions in Afghanistan.

- ii) Imparting training to the faculty and students in the Educational Institutions in Afghanistan for using the SWAYAM Platform and Capacity building of Afghanistan faculties and related staff in e-learning. Assisting in Uploading and Publishing of existing courses developed by Educational Institutions in Afghanistan on the SWAYAM Platform.
 - iii) Assisting Ministry of Higher Education, Afghanistan to develop/set up Afghanistan's own MOOC platform.
2. Sharing and access of National Digital Library of India (NDLI) with the Higher Educational Institutions of Afghanistan.
 3. Sharing and access of VIRTUAL LABS with Higher Educational Institutions of Afghanistan.
 4. Sharing of experience and participation of Higher Educational Institutions of Afghanistan on Robotic projects and symposiums held under e-Yantra.
 5. Sharing and access of Spoken tutorials for Higher Educational Institutions of Afghanistan.
 6. Establishment of Joint Educational Programmes between Higher Educational Institutions of Government of India and Higher Educational Institutions of Afghanistan, wherever applicable.
 7. Assisting the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to carry out the curriculum development process including sharing of curriculum developed by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India.
 8. Capacity Development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) teaching staff.

9. Promoting mobility of students between the two countries. Both the parties agree for the Mutual recognition of academic qualifications prevalent in both the countries. An instrument for implementation shall be signed separately.
10. Facilitating the Afghan students to study in reputed higher educational Institutions of India, under the Study in India Programme.
11. Assisting Ministry of Higher Education in Quality Assurance and Accreditation Processes, Administrative Reform of MoHE structures, Joint Academic Journal Establishment, Joint Research Program with Indian Institutes, Document Attestation, sharing experience on Control and Monitoring of Private Institutes and other academic programs.
12. Any other activity in the area of Human Resource Development as mutually agreed by both the Parties.

ARTICLE 3

Competent Authorities

Competent Authorities entrusted with implementing this MoU are: -

1. For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Ministry of Higher Education
2. For the Government of the Republic of India: Ministry of Human Resource Development

ARTICLE 4
Joint Committee

A Committee shall be formed and named as Joint Committee (JC) responsible for following cooperation between the Parties and its development and preventing any obstacles arising from implementing this MoU. Each Party shall designate its representatives for the JC. The Committee shall hold its meetings when necessary pursuant to a request of either Party and the members of this committee shall bring its recommendations to their Competent Authorities for consideration. The Committee may also form sub-groups as may be agreed to with representatives of both Parties to implement any activities undertaken under this MoU.

ARTICLE 5
Confidentiality of Information

Both sides decide not to provide to other organizations the documents exchanged between them as part of the cooperation under this Memorandum, except under the circumstances of the mutual consent, without the prior consent of the Authority from which it originated in writing.

ARTICLE 6
Intellectual Property Rights

Protection of Intellectual Property shall be pursuant to national laws of both Parties and pursuant to international agreements to which they are a party.

Further, both the Parties agree for compliance of adoption of Standard Creative Commons Licenses (CC-BY-NC-SA) as per the Revised MOOCs Guidelines issued by Ministry of HRD for developing Course Content for SWAYAM Platform.

ARTICLE 7
Financial Matters

Each Party will bear its own expenses arising out of the implementation of this MoU, or as otherwise mutually agreed to.

ARTICLE 8
Dispute Settlement

Any dispute pertaining to interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be settled through mutual consultations between the Parties without resorting to any local or international court or a third party for its settlement.

ARTICLE 9
Validity, Termination and Amendments

1. This MoU shall come into force on the date of its signing by both the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of 3 years. It shall be renewed for a further period of 3 years at a time on mutual consent.
2. This MoU may be amended at any time with the consent of the Parties through an exchange of written notes between them regarding this matter. Any revision or amendment agreed to by both parties shall be received in writing and shall form part of this MoU, such revision or amendment shall come into effect on such date as may be determined by both Parties.
3. Each Party reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of this MoU. Suspension has to be agreed to by both Parties and notified formally three months prior to suspension, unless suspension warrants immediate operation.
4. Termination of this MoU shall not affect completion of cooperation programs already agreed upon prior to its termination.

5. Either Party may conclude other agreements either general or specific for strengthening effective implementation of this MoU or to any issue related to it.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorized thereto have signed this MoU. This MoU is signed in three originals in English, Hindi and Pashto, all three texts being equal in authenticity, in case of divergence in interpretation the English text shall prevail. This Memorandum is signed at Chennai on this 15th day of March, 2019.

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



Dr. N. Saravana Kumar
Joint Secretary, Department of
Higher Education
Ministry of Human Resource
Development

**For the Government of the
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**



Abdul Tawab Balakarzai
Deputy Minister of Higher Education
Ministry of Higher Education