

FINAL DRAFT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
On Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training
between
the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
of the Republic of India
and
the Department of Education, Skills and Employment
of the Government of Australia

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India (MSDE) and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment of Australia (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants")

Recognising the importance of vocational education and training (VET) in national development

Desiring to strengthen and broaden cooperation in VET between the two countries

Acknowledging the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Training and Research between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of India signed on 24 August 2015.

Have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1-Objective

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU") provides the framework and general principles to support strengthened cooperation in VET and skills development on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Paragraph 2- Fields and Form of Cooperation

Cooperative activities under this MoU will be subject to the laws and regulations of each country. The fields and forms of cooperation under this MoU may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Exchange of information on areas of mutual interest, including:
 - (i) VET policy developments and reforms, including career guidance and lifelong learning
 - (ii) VET quality assurance and qualification framework
 - (iii) VET data and labour market information systems

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- (iv) VET in schools, including school-based apprenticeships
- (v) recognition of prior learning
- (vi) VET applied research, including the establishment of a research and analysis unit
- (b) Joint planning and implementation of collaborative programs and projects, including in the areas of:
 - (i) development of occupational standards in priority industry sectors, building on the work undertaken through the Indian Rim Ocean Association
 - (ii) enhancing capacity and quality of trainers and assessors
 - (iii) internships and apprenticeship exchanges
- (c) Facilitation of linkages between VET providers and between industry and VET providers in both countries through collaborative programs, and interaction such as reciprocal visits, meetings, conferences and symposia.

Paragraph 3- Funding

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

Nothing will diminish the full autonomy of either Participant, nor will any constraints or financial obligations be imposed by either Participant upon the other, in the implementation of this MoU. The Participants understand that costs will be covered individually.

Paragraph 4- Implementation

The Participants will establish a Joint Working Group to facilitate the implementation of this MoU. The Joint Working Group will be co-chaired by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment of Australia, with participation by other relevant government agencies as appropriate. The Joint Working Group will meet at least once a year or as the Participants may mutually determine to review the implementation of this MoU. Each country will host the Joint Working Group meetings on an alternate basis or as otherwise mutually determined.

The Participants will be jointly responsible for the implementation and coordination of cooperative activities under this MoU.

Paragraph 5- Dispute Settlement

Any disputes or differences which may arise in relation to the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through negotiation or consultation between the Participants.

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Paragraph 6- Amendment

Either Participant may request in writing for a revision or amendment of the MoU. Such revision or amendment will come into effect on such a date as is mutually determined by the Participants and will form part of this MoU.

Paragraph 7- Effect and Termination

- (a) This MoU takes effect on the date of signing by the Participants and will remain in effect for a period of five years. Each Participant may, for reasons of security, public order or health, to suspend temporarily either in whole or in part the implementation of this MoU after giving at least six months advance notice in writing of its intention to suspend.
- (b) Each Participant may terminate this MoU after giving at least six months advance notice in writing of its intention to terminate. Termination of this MoU may not affect any programmes and projects undertaken prior to the termination of this MoU, unless otherwise mutually decided by the Participants.
- (c) Unless one of the Participants requests changes, alterations or cancellation of the MoU six months prior to its expiry, this MoU will be automatically renewed for a further period of five years at a time.

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

Signed at Canberra and New Delhi in two originals, each in Hindi and English languages, all texts being equally valid. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text will prevail.

Juthika Patankar

Date: 3/6/2020

Ms Juthika Patankar

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Skill Development and
Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India.

Nadine Williams

Date: 3/6/20

Ms Nadine Williams

Deputy Secretary, Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment
of the Government of Australia.