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## Memorandum of Understanding

*between*

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KHARAGPUR (IIT-KGP), INDIA**

*and*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA at OMAHA (UNO), USA**

### **Preamble**

Indian Institute of Technology, hereinafter referred as IIT-KGP, and University of Nebraska at Omaha, hereinafter referred as UNO, have expressed interest to create a long-term institutional partnership in education and research. The primary objective is to promote contact and collaboration between faculty, staff and students, carry out joint research programmes, and exchange experience in education and research. The partnership also aims at enhancing the technological, social and cultural relations of both countries/states/regions. This document presents a general framework for such a partnership. It also includes some specifically identified areas of cooperation, which shall be updated from time to time.

### **Participation and Coordination**

The partnership shall initially be between the following :

- For UNO :
  - College of Information Science & Technology
  - College of Business Administration
  - College of Arts and Sciences
  - College of Engineering and Technology
  - College of Public Administration and Social Work
- For IIT – KGP :
  - Departments
    - Computer Science and Engineering
    - Biotechnology
    - Geology and Geophysics
    - Architecture & Regional Planning
    - Civil Engineering



- Schools/Centres/Laboratories
  - School of Information Technology
  - G. S. Sanyal School of Telecommunications
  - School of Medical Science & Technology
  - Advanced VLSI Design Laboratory
  - Centre for Educational Technology
  - Vinod Gupta School of Management (VGSOM)

Professor and Chair, Department of Information Systems, College of Information Science & Technology shall be the Coordinator from UNO and Dean, Vinod Gupta School of Management shall be the Coordinator from IIT-KGP. The participants and coordinators may change from time to time as decided by competent authority of the respective institutions.

### **Areas of Cooperation**

The following have been identified as possible starting points of the partnership. The areas of cooperation can be further increased by the mutual consent. In many cases, specific programmes will require other agreements to be separately detailed out and documented.

- (i) *Exchange of information and experience* : Representatives of both partners should arrange joint meetings at least once per year to exchange experiences in education and research and to prepare joint projects. A joint seminar/workshop may be held once in two years to present the results of this partnership. These workshops could also include a business session involving executives/administrators from both the institutions.
- (ii) *Faculty and student exchange programmes* : The partners will examine the possibility of creating one or two Visiting Faculty positions at respective institutions for faculty exchange. A Student Exchange Programme will be formulated (like summer/winter training or short courses or certificates courses). It is expected that students will flow in both directions. A detailed document on this (including credit transfer issues) will be examined and prepared. This has to be ratified by the highest academic bodies of the two institutions before this programme starts. To be eligible for this exchange, students from either institutions must be nominated by the home institution and academically acceptable to the host institution.





- (iii) *Cooperative research projects* : The two partners will define joint collaborative research projects between faculty and/or research groups. Collaborating faculty will approach various funding agencies to submit joint project proposals. Focus will be given to industry-funded projects and those funded by international funding agencies.
- (iv) *Coordinated graduate degree programme* : A joint MS/PhD programmes with stress on research in areas of mutual interest will be explored and formulated. A detailed document on this will be prepared and ratified by the highest academic bodies of the two institutions before this programme starts.
- (v) *Continuing and distance education* : IIT-KGP and UNO will formulate a joint distance education programme based on the expertise available in both institutions. One of the goals of this programme will be to explore the development and/or sharing of courses via distance education. The partners will also explore joint research opportunities in technology for distance and e-learning.

### **Intellectual Property**

Each institution will adhere to the intellectual laws of their respective nations. Intellectual property developed during the visit of an exchange student or faculty member will be governed by the rules of the host institute unless otherwise specified by an alternate agreement. The two institutions shall jointly own results of clearly defined collaborative projects. Whenever one institution receives any information from the other partner under a clearly defined non-disclosure agreement, necessary steps will be taken to protect the intellectual property received.

### **Financing**

The two institutions will investigate the possibility of creating a funding pool from various sources to carry out this partnership. They will not only try to arrange some funding from their own resources, but also vigorously approach their own governments, international funding agencies and industries. Special attention will be given to obtain funded projects

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from industry and international funding agencies to support this collaboration. Funding from alumni will also be solicited for some of the programmes.

Both the institutes will provide tuition and <sup>application</sup> ~~service~~ fee waivers to the visiting exchange students. Both institutions agree to an approximately equal number of such waivers to balance the student exchange process. The host institute will arrange accommodation. Travel costs and living costs at both institutions are the responsibility of the exchange student. However, various external funding sources shall be approached to support/supplement this cost.

### Validity

The agreement is valid for an initial period of five years and becomes effective from the date it is signed by the partners. The partnership period may be extended by mutual consent. In case one partner wishes to terminate the agreement from a specific date, intimation will have to be sent at least six months in advance.

Signed in

, on behalf of



*Nancy Belch*

Chancellor

Indian Institute of Technology  
Kharagpur



*[Signature]*

Director

on

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