

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THAILAND
AND
THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION**

This Memorandum replaces the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Education and Training (hereinafter referred to as “the Previous Memoranda of Understanding”) which will cease to be in effect on signing of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Ministry of Education of Thailand and the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”);

Referring to the Agreement on Economic Cooperation and the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Australian Government;

Recognising the importance of education and training in the national development of each country;

Mindful of each other’s achievements in this field;

Desiring to strengthen and broaden cooperation and mutual assistance in the provision of education and training in their respective countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This Memorandum of Understanding provides the framework within which detailed proposals for programs of education and training interaction between the Participants are to be jointly considered on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the laws and regulations of each country.

FORMS OF COOPERATION

Under the auspices of the relevant authorities in each country, the Participants will encourage cooperation between government, educational and training institutions. The forms of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may include but are not limited to:

- a. The exchange of information on areas of mutual interest including:
 - Education, and training systems and standards in both countries;
 - Teaching and curriculum materials;
 - Standards, accreditation systems and nomenclature of awards to assist in the interpretation and evaluation of degrees, diplomas and certificates;
 - Policy developments in relation to education and training in both countries;
 - Study opportunities in each country for nationals of the other; and
 - Education reform

- b. The joint planning and implementation of collaborative programs and projects, including in the areas of:
 - Education;
 - Training;
 - Educational standards and quality assurance;
 - Technology transfer;
 - Curriculum development; and
 - Staff Development.

- c. Facilitating links between government and education and training institutions in both countries, including in the form of:
- Interaction through meetings, conferences and symposia;
 - The exchange of students, staff, academics, experts, researchers and administrators;
 - The exchange of officials and/or consultants representing either Participant;
 - Sister-school arrangements;
 - Collaborative programmes; and
 - Attachment programmes, including short term placements in relevant government agencies and education and training institutions.
- d. The development of appropriate bridging courses to facilitate entry by nationals of one country to institutions of the other at appropriate levels.
- e. Facilitating improved mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications and enhanced credit transfer arrangements between the institutions of higher learning of both countries.

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

In order to pursue the above objectives and cooperation, either Participant may propose fields of cooperation of mutual benefit for consideration by the other Participant. Fields of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may include but are not limited to:

- a. Primary and secondary schooling;
- b. Vocational education and training;
- c. Higher education;
- d. Strategic planning and management in education, research and training;
- e. Teacher training and professional development;
- f. Curriculum development and benchmarking of educational outcomes;
- g. School to work transition programs;
- h. Special education;

- i. Distance education;
- j. English and Thai language training;
- k. Student, teacher, education personnel and academic exchange;
- l. Qualifications recognition; and
- m. Education management training.

FUNDING

As a general principle, the costs of cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be funded on a joint basis. However, by mutual arrangement, the Participants may determine alternative arrangements for funding in relation to specific co-operative activities pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

All cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the availability of funds.

IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSULTATION

- a. The Participants will establish a Joint Working Group to implement this Memorandum of Understanding. The Joint Working Group will meet approximately every two years or as the Participants may otherwise mutually determine to review the operation of this Memorandum of Understanding. Each country will host the Joint Working Group meetings on an alternate basis, or as otherwise mutually determined. The host country will chair the Joint Working Group.
- b. The Joint Working Group will be chaired on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand by the Ministry of Education with participation by other government and non-government agencies as appropriate. The Joint Working Group will be chaired on behalf of the Australian Government by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, with participation by other Commonwealth and State and Territory government agencies and non-government agencies as appropriate.
- c. The Participants will be jointly responsible for the implementation and coordination of cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.

- d. Each Participant will facilitate the arrangement of other activities not specifically mentioned in this Memorandum of Understanding which are nonetheless in accordance with the spirit of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- e. All activities, programs and projects which have already commenced under the auspices of the Previous Memoranda of Understanding between the Participants will continue until their expiration.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Disputes or differences arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Participants.

AMENDMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified or amended by mutual consent and in writing through the diplomatic channel. Such amendments will come into effect on such a date as is mutually determined by the Participants and will form an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

EFFECT AND TERMINATION

- a. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of its signing by both Participants (the "Commencement Date") and shall remain in effect:
 - (i) for 5 (five) years from the Commencement Date; or
 - (ii) for any other period that the Participants may (on any one or more occasions) agree in writing through the diplomatic channel; or
 - (iii) until the date either Participant receives through the diplomatic channel a written request by the other Participants for its termination on at least six months notice.

- b. The Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity and duration of any on-going activities, programs or projects entered into under this Memorandum of Understanding.

SIGNED in duplicate in the English language at Canberra, Australia on the 28 of May 2012

**ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION, SCIENCE,
RESEARCH AND TERTIARY
EDUCATION**



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H.E. Prof Suchart Thada-Thamrongvech
Minister of Education

.....
Senator the Hon Chris Evans
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills,
Science and Research