

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON COOPERATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
BETWEEN  
THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE  
AND TRAINING**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THAILAND**

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*This Memorandum replaces the 1991 Memorandum of Understanding on Educational and Research Cooperation and the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding on Educational Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Previous Agreements") which will cease to be in force on signing of this Memorandum of Understanding.*

The Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training and the Ministry of Education of Thailand (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

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

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

MINDFUL of each others 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:

Paragraph 1  
**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

This Memorandum of Understanding provides the framework within which detailed proposals for programs of education, research and training interaction between the Parties 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.

Paragraph 2  
**FORMS OF COOPERATION**

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

- a. The exchange of information on areas of mutual interest including:
  - Education, research 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;
  - Research;
  - Educational standards and quality assurance;
  - Technology transfer; and
  - Curriculum 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 Party;
  - 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 Australian and Thai institutions of higher learning.

Paragraph 3  
**FIELDS OF COOPERATION**

In order to pursue the above objectives and cooperation, either Party may propose fields of cooperation of mutual benefit for consideration by the other party. Fields of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may include but will not be 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.

Paragraph 4  
**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 Parties 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.

## Paragraph 5

**IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSULTATION**

- a. The Parties 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 Parties 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.
- b. The Joint Working Group will be chaired on behalf of the Australian Government by the Department of Education, Science and Training, with participation by other Commonwealth and State and Territory government agencies and non-government agencies as appropriate. 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.
- c. The Parties will be jointly responsible for the implementation and coordination of cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.
- d. Each Party will facilitate the arrangement of other activities in its territory 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 Agreements between the Parties will continue pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

## Paragraph 6

**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 Parties.

## Paragraph 7

**AMENDMENT**

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

## Paragraph 8

**EFFECT AND TERMINATION**

- a. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of its signing and shall remain in effect for 5 (five) years from the date of Signature, or until either Party requests its termination on six months notice and in writing.
- 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.

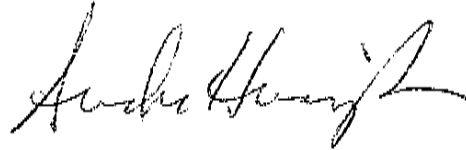
SIGNED in duplicate in the English language at Canberra, Australia on the <sup>5<sup>th</sup></sup>  
day of *July* 2004

**ON BEHALF OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

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



H.E. Mr Miles Kupa  
Australian Ambassador  
to Thailand



H.E. Miss Suchitra Hiranprueck  
Ambassador of Thailand