

## **Joint Statement between the Ministry of Human Resources Development of the Government of India and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on behalf of the Government and the Devolved Administrations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The third India-UK Education Forum took place in New Delhi on 12 November 2010. Shri. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development of India, and Mr. David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science of the United Kingdom co-chaired the meeting (hereinafter referred to as Both Sides). They reviewed Indo-UK educational relations, welcomed the progress made since the last Forum, and discussed priorities for further promoting educational co-operation and exchange.

### **Context**

The UK and India have a lot to gain from cooperation and continue to share a special relationship in the fields of education, research and innovation.

The Prime-Ministerial summit held in New Delhi on 29 July 2010 emphasised a joint commitment to take the bilateral relationship to a new level in future, and in particular agreed that India and the UK have much to gain from cooperation in education, science and research.

Both sides recognised that the strength of our partnership reflects successful collaboration across a range of government departments, devolved administrations and institutions in our countries, and reaffirmed their recognition of individual programme successes set out in the Joint Statement from the Second Forum in January 2010.

Both Sides acknowledged that since the last Forum, the newly established joint working group has been able to report substantial achievements against the action plan; and over 17 new areas of collaboration were undertaken.

Both Sides focused on the next phase of their work together and how they could tackle mutual challenges while recognising that alongside the new avenues of collaboration India and the UK also have a well established partnership to strengthen India's education system.

### **Schools**

It was acknowledged that cooperation in the school sector had provided the largest contribution to the development of national programmes in India, specifically the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. With the introduction of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, the need for continued partnership in school education was recognised by both sides.

Both Sides agreed that cooperation will continue and be extended into the areas of universalization of secondary education, school leadership and management, practical support and advice in the implementation of vocational education and a teacher development programme that will utilise the latest technologies to extend the scale and reach of training to millions of teachers.



### **Further Education and Skills Development**

It was acknowledged that cooperation in the further education and skills sector had led to strong partnership working between government bodies, institutions, training providers, and small sections of industry. With India's need to ensure that their population gets the training and skills they need for employment, it was agreed that cooperation will not only continue but be extended.

Both sides agreed that cooperation will extend to policy dialogues between governments and lead agencies; practical support and advice in the implementation of key sector skills infrastructure including that for skill development at the higher secondary stage; and Institutional partnerships and collaborations. In all these areas, strong links with industry will be forged.

### **Higher Education, Research and Innovation**

It was acknowledged that at university level, links between the UK and India were strong and long standing, and the rapid expansion of scientific and research collaboration between the UK and India was helping to find solutions to local and global problems – and in turn supporting innovation and driving economic growth. It was also recognised that the major new research agreements reached in 2010 represent a scaling up of the UK India partnership.

Both sides agreed that cooperation will continue specifically in the areas of developing excellence in innovation; building partnerships between institutions and industry and in supporting the next generation of academics and researchers. A two way focus on student mobility will be encouraged.

### **Policy and reform challenges**

It was acknowledged by both sides that some of the above areas of collaboration would be dependent on furthering discussions and establishing recognition for qualifications.

Both sides agreed that the quality of education is crucial and agreed to undertake further discussions and cooperation on quality assurance in trans-national education in India in the light of the education policies and mechanisms to be implemented by India.

Both sides agreed that particularly in higher education and research, effectively managed intellectual property rules are important for the success of international collaboration, and committed to use the Joint Working Group or other bilateral mechanisms as necessary to achieve this.

### **UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)**

To build on the work and collaborative experience the Prime Ministers had agreed to launch a new phase of UK-India Education and Research Initiative starting in 2011 and to intensify bilateral exchanges at all levels.



The evaluation of the first phase of UKIERI has been completed and initial findings were presented to both Ministers. Findings of this evaluation will feed into development plans for the second phase of UKIERI.

Both sides agreed that UKIERI continues to make a significant contribution to enhancing educational links between the UK and India. In its first phase UKIERI has delivered over 475 mutually beneficial, partnerships between Indian and UK partners, in Schools, Colleges and in Higher Education.

Both sides are determined to build on this success through phase 2 of UKIERI. The consultation process for this second phase has resulted in agreement to fund 4 new strands of work over 5 years beginning in April 2011. The four new strands for engagement will be:

- a. Building a new generation of leaders
- b. Innovation partnerships
- c. Skills development
- d. Building harmony, enhancing mobility

Both sides confirmed that UKIERI will be funded with contribution from both Governments, and expressed their hope that private sector partners would again support UKIERI, with private partners welcome from both countries.

During the next four months the UKIERI Board, the UK-India Joint Working Group and the partnership in India and the UK will work to ensure that the programme is developed to create maximum impact for both Countries.


The next annual meeting of the Forum will take place in the United Kingdom.

Signed in New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010.



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