

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

1. The second Indian-UK Education Forum took place in London on 13 January 2010. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development of India, and Pat McFadden, Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills 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 first Forum, and discussed priorities for further promoting educational co-operation and exchange.

Context

2. Both sides acknowledged that the UK and India are facing unprecedented social and economic challenges and also have tremendous opportunities in cooperation, particularly in the education sector. As the world emerges from a global recession, those who have invested in the skills and talents of their people will be far better equipped to create a stronger, more innovative and competitive economy. The shared challenges that both sides face in the global knowledge economy, make collaboration in education between the UK and India more relevant than ever.
3. The UK and India share a special relationship in the fields of education, research and innovation. The annual Prime-Ministerial summits have increased the impetus for collaboration. Institutional links are going from strength to strength at all levels of the education sector; elementary education, secondary education, post-secondary higher and professional education.

UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)

4. Both sides agreed that UKIERI has made a significant contribution to enhancing educational links between the UK and India. UKIERI is delivering mutually beneficial, sustainable partnerships between Indian and UK partners. In four years, UKIERI has linked over 380 UK and Indian schools as well as creating further education and higher education links between both countries.
5. Both sides are determined to build on this success and to continue to work together to strengthen collaboration. Both sides welcomed the establishment of a Joint Working Group to help set that strategic direction for UK-India education collaboration.

Higher Education

6. Institutions of higher learning have a vital role in our collective life, both shaping our communities and how we engage with the world. They play an important role in our communities in passing on and preserving a set of shared societal values, including tolerance, freedom of expression and civic engagement. They have the capacity to provide intellectual leadership in our

society, in such areas as the transition to an environmentally sustainable economy.

7. Higher education is an area of long-term collaboration between India and UK. The principal activities include promoting research partnerships between centres of excellence, encouraging research collaboration at the doctorate and post-doctorate levels through fellowships and scholarships and developing and delivering joint and dual courses. UKIERI has provided 6 major research awards, 97 standard research awards, 20 PhD scholarships, 43 research fellowships and 27 Collaborative Programme Delivery awards.
8. The awards have supported staff and student exchanges, staff secondments, exchange of postdoctoral and other research workers and support to postgraduate research students in both the UK and India. The initiative is associated with high-quality, innovative research and academic excellence, bringing together world-leading expertise in diverse subject areas. The collaborations are successfully engaging with business and industry to enable transfer of technology and ideas as also to ensure application of the research. Both sides agreed to continue to work together to develop and strengthen long-term strategic partnerships across a range of activities including research and knowledge transfer, transnational education and online distance learning.
9. Both sides welcome the ongoing UK-India collaborative research initiatives and acknowledge that effectively managed **Intellectual Property** rules are important for the success of international collaboration. Both sides agreed to use the mechanism of Joint Working Group to assist collaborators manage their intellectual property more effectively.
10. Funding under the **Collaborative Programme Delivery** strand has supported over 27 UK and Indian institutions in the development and delivery of UK degrees and professional qualifications in India.
11. Both sides acknowledge that **quality assurance** mechanism facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications obtained at graduate and higher levels of learning. Through the Joint Working Group, both sides shall endeavour to work towards obtaining a mechanism for mutual recognition and equivalence framework for qualifications in higher education.
12. Both sides welcomed the extension of the successful **India-UK Higher Education Leadership Development Programme**. The programme enables participants to gain first hand experience of senior management and leadership roles, governance issues and processes in Indian and UK Higher Education Institutions; and to enable them to share experiences through study visits, group workshops, structured reports and a range of other networking opportunities.
13. Both sides noted the successful launch of the **Study India Programme**, which has allowed 200 undergraduates from universities across the UK to spend three weeks in India during 2009 and a further 200 in 2010. The programme

enables UK students to visit India to gain experience of her people, history and culture.

14. Both sides are pleased with the establishment of **the Indian Graduate Work Experience Programme**. The programme will give over 100 of India's top graduates the opportunity to take part in internships with companies in the UK.

15. Both sides welcomed the Memoranda of Understanding agreed between the two Indian institutions, IIT Ropar and IISER Pune, and UK institutions, as well as the Memoranda of Understanding agreed between Universities Scotland and the Association of Indian Universities. This will allow for collaboration across a range of areas, including:

- Exchange visits of faculty, management and students;
- Support for faculty development;
- Dialogue on policy and developing collaborations;
- Joint research and academic collaborations;
- Partnership schemes for setting up laboratories.

Vocational Education and Training

16. Both sides agreed that providing people with the skills they need to increase their employability is one of the most important challenges in developing a competitive economy. Both parties recognised the benefits of a joint approach to this agenda and agreed to:

- Participate in a series of **policy exchanges** involving vocational education in the areas such as curriculum development, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship.
- Develop a joint approach to initiative of **Skills for Employability**.
- Explore the possibility of developing programmes to jointly fund partnerships to work on shared problems in employability and entrepreneurship.
- The Joint Working Group will report to the next Forum on collaborations achieved, and will make recommendations for future work areas.

Schools

17. Both sides acknowledged the centrality of good-quality elementary and secondary schooling to building human capital for the modern knowledge economy.

18. Both sides welcomed India's outstanding achievements over the last decade in expanding access to elementary education (6-14 years), made possible by the Government of India's **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Basic Education for All) programme**, to which the UK Department for International Development (DFID) has also made contributions.

19. The UK welcomes India's launch of a **National Secondary Education Mission (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abiyhan)**. Following the UK Government's 2009 White Paper 'Building our Common Future', DFID plans to increase investment in education and work-force skills. The Ministry of Human Resources Development has already involved DFID in the planning for the secondary education sector. The UK is ready to provide on-going assistance for RMSA so as to universalise access and to improve quality.
20. Both sides noted the success of the **School Partnerships** Strand of UKIERI. It has built enduring relationships between young people in the UK and India and has helped them to understand that they are global citizens living in a global economy. All of the partnerships are supported by joint curriculum projects which have helped to embed the international dimension into the curriculum. This work has been strengthened by the success of the **International School Awards** in both India and the UK.
21. Both sides welcomed the successful **Leadership Development Seminars** and **ICT Workshops** for head teachers and agreed to extend Seminars on Leadership and ICT for enhanced teaching and learning experiences to more schools teachers as well as head teachers. Both sides invited the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services to discuss developing a new programme with both countries.
22. Both sides welcomed the signing of an MOU to extend the co-operation between Ministry of Human Resource Development and the British Council on the furtherance of **PEC India** (Physical Education Cards). Developed through the International Inspiration programme these resources are transforming how physical education is being taught in Primary Schools. The programme will extend its reach to more schools in India, will work to develop resources for grades 6-10, and will develop new in service and pre service training programmes for teacher and for development of materials.
23. Both sides also welcomed the British Council's **Connecting Classrooms** programme which aims to create sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships between schools and school systems in the UK and India. These partnerships build trust and understanding between people in different societies and develop in young learners the cultural awareness and skills they need to mature into global citizens – positive contributors, in life and work, to the global society.
24. Keeping in view the fact that English has become a global language of communication, the British Council is conducting programmes in collaboration with Indian Government to develop English language teaching skills among Indian school teachers. This partnership will be further strengthened so as to cover a much larger number of States, Schools and Teachers and to provide quality training to English language teachers to enable them to impart better English Communication skills to the students and enhance their global competitiveness.

25. Recognising the need to increase the number of UK students coming to India, and in order to develop the global understanding of the UK's young people the Prime Minister has established a **Global Fellowship** scheme to nurture outstanding talent and enterprise through international exposure to different countries and their way of life, cultures and business environments. 70 Fellows have so far participated. It is proposed that the next batch of 30 Fellows will visit India in July-August 2010. Both sides welcomed the continuation of this programme.

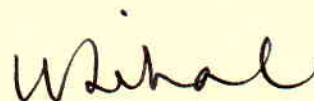
The Joint Working Group

26. The Working Group is jointly led by the UK Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Indian Ministry for Human Resource Development. It comprises of UK and Indian Ministry officials and representatives for other relevant organisations and plans to meet every six months. The Group is responsible for monitoring progress and taking forward any agreed actions in preparation for the next Forum.

The Joint Statement is signed on 13 January 2010 in London.



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