

# FOURTH MEETING OF THE INDO-UK SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COUNCIL

New Delhi, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014

## RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. The fourth meeting of the Indo-UK Science and Innovation Council took place in New Delhi on 12th November 2014. The meeting was co-chaired by the two Ministers, Hon Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and the Rt Hon. Greg Clark MP, Minister for Universities, Science and Cities.
2. Ministers were briefed on the range of joint activities undertaken since the last meeting of the Council in April 2012. These included new research collaborations; mobility and networking initiatives; joint workshops; new scholarships and science policy interactions and the first joint industrial R&D programme. The two Ministers noted the significant progress that had been made and applauded the significant role that the UK-India research and innovation partnership has played in bringing together the best researchers in both countries to address the global challenges through the application of science and technology.
3. The two Ministers welcomed the decision to focus on a small number of grand societal challenges around which to build a more strategic and impact driven partnership for research and innovation, whilst recognising that individual funding organisations in each country may wish to pursue additional research areas beyond these. Both Ministers endorsed the selection of the grand challenge areas and underpinning capabilities:
  - Sustainable Cities and Urbanisation
  - Public Health and Well Being
  - Energy-Water-Food NexusPlus two broad underpinning capabilities - High Value Manufacturing and Big Data
4. The two Ministers agreed to address these shared challenges and take the UK-India research and innovation relationship to a greater level with the announcement of a significant new initiative to be known as the Newton-Bhabha Fund. This will comprise three strands:
  - People – individual and institutional capacity building in research and innovation including PhD exchanges, post-doctoral training and mobility and professional development
  - Programme – collaborative research through joint centres, joint research projects and research and innovation infrastructures
  - Translation – building UK-Indian research and innovation partnerships and capacity to address major societal and economic challenges including

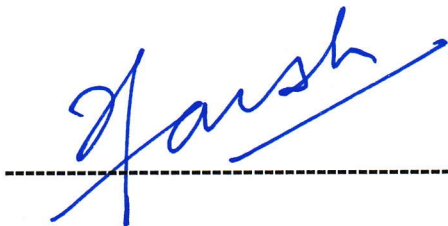
through partnerships to build partnerships between business and academia to accelerate the deployment of knowledge and through innovation capacity building

5. The two Ministers welcomed the progress made in developing individual joint programmes under the various strands of Newton-Bhabha. A series of new Newton-Bhabha programmes were welcomed, including:
  - Fellowships for Leaders in Innovation, providing training to take innovations to market, supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST), in partnership with The Economic Times and IIM-Ahmedabad.
  - British Council India and the Department of Science and Technology, India joint PhD exchange. This will sponsor UK and Indian PhD students to spend a period of their study (3 to 6 months) in premier Indian and UK higher education institutions starting from March 2015. The aim of the programme is to pave the way for the next generation of researchers in the UK and India to interact with each other and build long-term R&D linkages and collaborations.
  - The UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) joint initiative for new research projects in Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Up to £2 million is available from the UK and ICMR will fund the Indian component.
  - Up to £10 million for joint Global Research Programme in Women's and Children's Health funded by the UK's Medical Research Council (MRC), Department of International Development (DFID) and India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
  - Up to £7 million for Joint Centre Partnerships in Cancer Biology, Translational Regenerative Medicines in Neuroscience and Antimicrobial Resistance, funded by UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) and India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
  - Joint UK-India centre(s) for research in Renewable Energy co-funded by RCUK Energy programme and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).
  - Innovate UK and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) will run a joint programme to support industrial research and development aimed at tackling grand societal challenges, potentially including affordable healthcare, clean technology, advanced manufacturing and ICT for the above areas.
  - In addition, a number of joint workshops are planned in the areas including: social sciences for data management, social media, urban transformations, aquaculture, mega cities and air pollution, and sustainable water resources for food energy and ecosystem services.

6. The two Ministers looked forward to the speedy conclusion of discussions underway to develop and launch the remaining strands of the Newton-Bhabha programme.
7. The two Ministers noted that the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) has been successful in building new scientific partnerships through joint research projects and networking. It was agreed in principle to augment and continue the initiative with a 3rd phase, known as UKIERI 3.
8. The two Ministers welcomed the initiative of the Royal Society and Department of Science & Technology to organise the Commonwealth Science Conference which will take place in Bangalore later this month to provide opportunities for cooperation between researchers in different Commonwealth countries; to inspire young scientists; and to build scientific capacity in the developing nations within the Commonwealth.
9. Both sides agreed to explore opportunities to develop future work, through the Newton Bhabha Fund and other programmes, in areas including: drug and vaccine discovery, diagnostics, and biomedical devices; DC energy storage and power electronics; big data for e-health and health informatics; climate change, environmental change and the Himalayan system; diversity in science, particularly representation of women in leadership roles; the role of science communication and public engagement in the translation of research; and understanding social and cultural drivers in order to inform innovation policy.

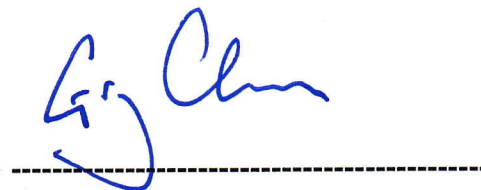
Signed in New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

**On behalf of the Ministry of  
Science and Technology,  
Government of India**



Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister  
for Science & Technology and Earth  
Sciences

**On behalf of the Department for  
Business, Innovation and Skills,  
UK Government**



Rt Hon Greg Clark, Minister of  
State for Universities, Science and  
Cities