

Memorandum of Understanding
between
The Grassroots Institute (Canada)
and
University of Ladakh (India)

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
for
Summer Field School [Hybrid] - FSc MER 2023
Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management

1. Purpose of the Program FSc MER 2023

This international training program examines the mountain ecosystems in contexts of human development and natural resources, principles of managing natural resources, and governing the resources for sustainable conservation. Depicting on case studies from a wide range of the current natural resources across the globe, the program considers how different social, political, economic and cultural and gender aspects compete for and sustain the natural resources in mountain ecosystems. The program also examines how environmental activists and their interventions conserved parks, energy, water and land in the face of climate variability basing on a gender perspective. The program will consider how the current international and development system elaborates and processes to sustainably manage the available natural resources in mountain landscapes. *The program aims at equipping researchers, students, practitioners and young teachers seeking learning about mountain ecosystems and sustainable development, with practical approaches, knowledge and skills necessary for meeting challenges of sustainable use of natural resources*



globally. This international training program is executed in partnership with various academic and practice-oriented organizations.

2. Proposed Structure of the Program: Sessions Group Themes

The proposed program will constitute following 10 thematic groups to be executed on 10 different days:

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Sessions Group Theme</i>
Day 1: 11 September 2023	Mountain Ecosystems, Climate Change and Local Communities
Day 2: 12 September 2023	Water, Watershed, Wetland and River Basin Management
Day 3: 13 September 2023	Mountain Forest & Biodiversity Management, and Park-People Interface
Day 4: 14 September 2023	Mountain Transhumance, Pastoralism and Rangeland Governance
Day 5: 15 September 2023	Combined Field Trip
Day 6: 16 September 2023	Developing the Mountain Economies, Livelihoods and Micro-Enterprises
Day 7: 17 September 2023	Agrobiodiversity, Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems in Mountains
Day 8: 18 September 2023	Mountain Sustainability, Renewable Energy and SDGs
Day 9: 19 September 2023	Sustainable Tourism and Socio-Cultural Integration in Mountains
Day 10: 20 September 2023	Mountain Related International and National Laws & Policies

*Under each of the above Sessions Group Themes, there will be first 2 sessions of 180 minutes each, and last 1 session of 120 minutes. First 2 sessions will comprise 2 lectures (30 minutes each) to be delivered physically face-to-face by the Experts/Faculty Members present on the training venue. Another 3 lectures will be delivered remotely using Zoom by the (Online) Experts/Faculty Members sitting away from the training venue. So, on an average, 5 lectures will be delivered in one technical session of 180 minutes. Remaining 30 minutes will be used for discussions and questions from the participants. The 3rd session will be of 120 minutes and would include 10-minute presentations of each of the Delegate Participants. 7-10 presentations may be included followed by discussions and Q&A.

*The syllabus/curriculum under each Sessions Group Theme will be decided mutually by The Grassroots Institute and the Lead Partner Institution. Similarly, the composition of the Experts/Faculty Members and Delegate Participants



delivering lectures and presentations during the sessions will also be decided mutually.

3. General Partner Institution/Organization

University of Ladakh (India) will act as the General Partner by participating any of the Sessions Group Themes as mentioned in section 2 above and contributing to other activities as expected in section 7 below.

4. Participation and Participants

There will be following two major categories of participants:

4.1 A: Delegate Participants

The delegate participants, who will take part physically face-to-face at the venue of training, can be 30 maximum.

4.1 A1: Nominated Delegate Participants

There will be 10 or less number of Nominated Delegate Participants nominated by the Lead Partner Institutions.

4.1 A2: Sponsor-Sponsored and Self-Sponsored Delegate Participants

About 20 or more number of Sponsored Delegate Participants will come from open announcements.

Eligibility for Delegate Participation: Candidates desirous to participate the FSc MER 2023 should be between the age of 21 years and 41 years and belong to one of the following categories:

- Young teacher (minimum lecturer)
- PhD or Master degree student
- Young research scholar or scientist
- Early career practitioner or field personnel
- NGO worker or activist

Education background of potential Delegate Participants should be in the subjects of Science, Social Science and allied fields.



4.2 B: Virtual Participants

All the participants joining virtually will come under this category. They will attend the program using Zoom platform. All of them will be allowed to take part the discussions and Q&A during the technical sessions. There will be NO limit of the number of these participants; they can be 100 or more. There will be again two types of Virtual Participants: Speaker Participants and Attendee Participants.

4.2 B1: Speaker Participants

They will be able to present their papers in 3rd session on each of 10 days. They will be given 10 minutes each in the same fashion as the Delegate Participants be given. All of them will be allowed to take part in the discussions and Q&A during the technical sessions. There will be a Registration Fee of USD 19 for Speaker Participant who will also receive a Certificate.

4.2 B2: Attendee Participants

They will not present any paper. Yet, all of them will be allowed to take part the discussions and Q&A during the technical sessions. There will be a Registration Fee of USD 10 for Attendee Participant who will also receive a Certificate.

Eligibility for Attendee Participation: There will be no restriction of education or age or experience. Anyone having an interest may join as Attendee Participant.

5. Experts and Faculty Members

There will be following categories of Experts/Faculty Members:

5.1 A) Nominated (Mandatory) Experts/Faculty Members by Lead Partners

Each of the Lead Partner (not General Partner) Institutions shall provide one Expert/Faculty Member to deliver minimum 2 lectures (preferably one in each of the first 2 sessions) on chosen topics from the Sessions Group Theme that the Lead Partner Institution would be coordinating. This nominated Expert/Faculty Member will join the program physically in Ukraine at least one night before the actual day/date of the Sessions Group Theme which the Lead Partner Institution would coordinate.



5.2 B) (Online) Experts/Faculty Members by General Partners & Collaborators

To cover all the topics set in the syllabus of a Sessions Group Theme, additional lecturers will be required. They will be deputed mostly by the General Partners and Collaborators and fixed with the involvement and discussion of The Grassroots Institute. All these Experts/Faculty Members will deliver their respective lecture in online mode only using the Zoom platform. The Grassroots Institute will facilitate and guide all these Experts/Faculty Members time to time for the academic preparations.

The Expert/Faculty Member may expect some benefit from participating the process of delivering lecture(s) and facilitating the sessions. Each of the Experts/Faculty Members will get Zoom access to all technical session groups of the 10-days program. They will be given a Certificate of Participation & Contribution (like a Delegate Participant). The Expert/Faculty Member can be a teacher of any rank (but not a PhD student), or from a senior rank of field management or from a senior management team having full confidence and adequate practical experience on the topics chosen under any Sessions Group Theme. An essential qualification is the fluency of spoken English. There will be no facility and no time for translation during the delivery of contents. After nomination of Expert/Faculty Member, the General Partner will regularly be interacting with him/her to discuss and improve the content and delivery methodology. The Grassroots Institute will facilitate and guide this Expert/Faculty Member time to time for the academic preparations.

Names, affiliation, and other details of all the Experts/Faculty Members will be put on 2023 Summer School's website. Their teaching/learning material, presentations, visuals, notes, recommended readings, video links, weblinks, etc. will be uploaded on the webpage Learning Resources for the intended use by potential participants. There will be no copyright on these materials.

5.3 C) Partnership Coordinator

While evolving this partnership, the role of an active lead person is critical in cultivating the relations and supervising/handling the communications. This same person will play pivotal role in not only fostering the partnership but also coordinating with The Grassroots Institute and the authorities of the General Partner Institution and the nominated (Online) Expert/Faculty Member. The Partnership Coordinator may also act as the nominated (Online) Expert/Faculty Member.



6. Role and Responsibilities of The Grassroots Institute

The Grassroots Institute shall play pivotal role in the planning, coordination, facilitation, implementation, communication, mobilization of stakeholders, marketing, and other key functions. Many of the functions have been described in different sections of this document. Maybe overlapping and not comprehensive, some of the functions are also listed as below:

1. design, develop and coordinate the program's technical aspects as well as its execution;
2. prepare a curriculum, coordinate lecture preparation, evolve methodologies, and perform other necessary technical preparations;
3. invite, fix and coordinate with potential lecturers/experts and faculty members;
4. invite and develop varied types of partnerships and collaborations with institutions and organizations across the world;
5. identify, fix and coordinate with one logistic partner for planned logistic arrangements at the venue in Ukraine, and avail the necessary resources to that particular partner for making all arrangements;
6. prepare, communicate and coordinate with the logistic partner for the program management;
7. assisting the logistic partner to issue necessary official documents required for visa process by various experts/faculty members and delegate participants;
8. develop the contents of promos, announcements, communications and publicity materials, and release the announcements and publicity material for worldwide dissemination of the program;
9. develop the content of and announce on a separate website at the URL www.grassrootsglobal.net/mer2023;
10. coordinate, receive and handle the queries, applications, and documents from the potential and registered applicants;
11. coordinating the selection of sponsor-sponsored and self-sponsored Delegate Participants and handling their application materials;
12. with the help of all Lead Partners, constitute an Organizing Committee (one member from each Lead Partner Institution) having role of supervising and executing the program of respective Sessions Group Theme;
13. contact, network and liaise with various potential sponsors, and supporters to raise financial resources through different means for subsisting the program costs and financing the Travel Scholarships to Delegate Participants (including nominated delegates);



14. develop, issue and delegate the content for media visibility over the pre-program, during the program and post-program phases;
15. gathering the teaching and learning materials from the experts/faculty members and linking on the appropriate sections of the website;
16. arranging the Zoom facility, integrating the hybrid media and handling the broadcasts and online platforms;
17. arranging, coordinating and issuing the Certificate to the experts/faculty members, chairs/co-chairs, delegate participants and virtual participants;
18. deliver various other functions, not listed above, aimed at making the program successful with active participation and contribution of variety of partner institutions.

7. Essential Roles of General Partner

The General Partner institution shall depute [not mandatory] one (Online) Expert/Faculty (see section 5.2 above) to teach virtually minimum 1 lecture and maximum 2 lectures on the chosen topics from the syllabus of the 10-days program. The Grassroots Institute will facilitate this Expert/Faculty to deliver the lecture(s). The topic(s) for the lecture(s) would be chosen with the mutual consents of the General Partner, The Grassroots Institute and the Lead Partner coordinating the Sessions Group Theme. Another important role would be the placement of the program's announcements on the website of the General Partner so that the teachers, students and visitors of the website view those announcements. A Partnership Coordinator (see section 5.3 above) will also be nominated by the General Partner Institution to communicate with The Grassroots Institute as and when required. The Partnership Coordinator and the (Online) Expert/Faculty Member can be the same person or different persons.

8. Benefits to the General Partner

The benefits by the General Partner will be gained in all possible forms except the direct financial gains. The Grassroots Institute will be liable for financial implications concerning this program. Among the intended **tangible and intangible benefits to the General Partner**, there are some as follows:

1. A global visibility and publicity of the institution/ organization worldwide, as massive advertising, publicity, emailing, web posting, social media posting, and publishing will be done across the world in order to mobilize the potential participants for this program.



2. Foremost benefit will include the inclusion of logo of the General Partner in all the communications including promos, website, invitations, letters, certificates, etc. The logo of General Partner will be linked with the complete detailed profile kept on program's website.
3. The General Partner may nominate 5 Speaker Participants (saving USD 95) and 10 Attendee Participants (saving USD 100). The formal application process and the nominated participants need NOT to pay Registration Fee (USD 19 per person for Speaker Participants and USD 10 per person for Attendee Participant).
4. Potential students/participants from different countries will come to know the General Partner and may connect to various academic, research or professional programs available at the General Partner Institution.
5. Large numbers of world's universities, institutions, government organizations, donor agencies, UN agencies, corporations, NGOs, web portals, CSR organizations, individuals, scholars, researchers and students will get to know the General Partner Institution, and some of them may contact in near future for one purpose or the other.
6. The General Partner may develop new relations and linkages with variety of institutions and organizations world over, especially with the funding organizations and CSR corporations, while approaching potential sponsors and supporters of scholarships for this program.
7. The General Partner will also get experience in organizing a similar program and can organize a similar one in the near future on chosen subject.
8. Academic, research, teaching and training partnerships will strengthen between The Grassroots Institute and the General Partner and between the General Partner and other partners in this initiative.
9. The existing students, teachers or staff personnel of the General Partner Institution will be exposed to innovative program, learning resources (all teaching resources will be accessible openly), and the English language. This will be a good capacity building opportunity for everyone.
10. There may be many other unseen and unconceived benefits that the General Partner would have in the near future.

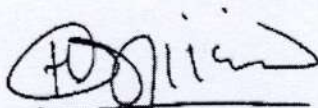


9. No Legal Binding

It is further understood that this MOU is not legally-binding and either of the two parties may terminate the MOU at any time, although such action will only be taken after mutual consultation in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to either party.

10. Enforcement

This MOU shall be in force from the date of the last signing till the end of 2025 (keeping safe in case the FSc MER is extended) and is subject to revision or modification by mutual agreement. In case of a *force de majeure* circumstance, this MOU will be considered invalid. It is also understood that this MOU may serve as the basis for specific agreements to be developed at a later date. This MOU is effective when the representatives from each of the institutions have affixed their signatures to it.



Dr. Hasrat Arjumend
Founder President & CEO
The Grassroots Institute



Prof. Dr. S.K. Mehta
Vice Chancellor
University of Ladakh



24 June 2023

Date & Seal



27 June 2023

Date & Seal