

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR INSTITUTIONAL
COLLABORATION**

BETWEEN



UNIVERSITY OF LADAKH (UoL), LEH (LADAKH UT)

AND



**ASHOKA TRUST FOR RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
(ATREE), BENGALURU**

Preamble

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) was established in 1996 in Bengaluru (India). It is a globally recognised non-profit organisation focused on environmental conservation and sustainable, socially just development. ATREE is engaged in the generation and dissemination of rigorous, interdisciplinary knowledge that informs and is informed by the needs of grassroots communities, policy-makers and the wider public.

The University of Ladakh (UoL) was established in 2019 and is the only Trans-Himalayan University in the country for higher learning and research. The University has its headquarters in Leh, and Campuses in both Leh and Kargil districts. University has six-degree colleges as constituent colleges.

ATREE and (UoL) have agreed for institutional collaboration in education and research. The primary objective is to promote interaction and collaboration between faculty, staff, and students of the two institutions through visits and exchange programmes, carry out joint academic and research programmes for faculty and students, joint supervision of doctoral and masters students, and develop research infrastructure on a reciprocal basis. This document presents a general framework for collaboration between the two institutions. It also includes some specifically identified areas of cooperation, which may be updated from time to time.

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Coordination

Dr Subrat Sharma shall be the Coordinator from UoL and Dr Saloni Bhatia shall be the Coordinator from ATREE. The participants and coordinators may change from time to time as decided by the appropriate authority of the respective institutions. The coordinators will hold a review of the activities under this MoU every year and revise the objectives, as necessary.

Scope of Cooperation

The following areas of cooperation have been identified under this MoU:

- (i) Faculty exchange programme: The two parties will explore opportunities for interaction among members of the faculty as well as endeavour to create Visiting Faculty positions. The total duration of visits from each side is expected to be approximately equal. Each such visit shall require the approval of the respective institutions.
- (ii) Research projects: The two parties will explore opportunities for collaborative research projects and student fellowships, and may seek research funding from external funding agencies for the same.
- (iii) Academic activities and events: ATREE and UoL may formulate joint academic activities such as courses, seminars, workshops or conferences based on mutual interests and available expertise in both the institutions.
- (iv) Joint supervision of MSc. and PhD students: The two parties will explore opportunities for joint supervision of Masters and PhD students across the two institutions, based on mutual interests and available expertise in both the institutions.

The areas of cooperation may be revised by mutual consent. However, specific programmes may require separate agreements detailed out and documented as annexures to this MoU.

Non-discrimination

ATREE and UoL agree not to discriminate against any person because of age, sex, national origin, race, ancestry, color, religious creed, disability or handicap, or sexual orientation. Neither institution shall impose criteria for the exchange of faculty, staff, and students that would violate the principles of non-discrimination.

Code of Conduct

Visiting students and faculty will abide by the codes of conduct of the host Institution.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property developed during the visit of an exchange student/researcher/faculty/staff will be governed by the rules of the host institute unless otherwise specified. Any Background

Intellectual Property (BGIP) shall remain the sole and exclusive property of the Party to whom it belonged prior to the commencement of this MoU. If one Party receives any BGIP from the partner under a clearly defined non-disclosure agreement, necessary and reasonable care will be taken to protect the intellectual property received. The two institutions shall jointly own results and Intellectual Property generated thereof for clearly defined collaborative projects and exchange programmes.

Legal Status

This document is a statement of intent to foster genuine and mutually beneficial cooperation and is not legally binding on both the parties. Any disputes shall be resolved through mutual discussion.

Validity and Termination

This MoU is valid for an initial period of five years and becomes effective from the date it is signed by the partners. The partnership period may be extended by mutual consent.

This MoU may be terminated:

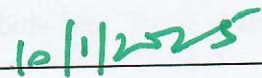
- on either party giving the other party 6 months' prior written notice;
- on written notice by one of the Parties if the other Party has committed a breach of this MoU.

However, specific commitments made prior to such intimation shall be honoured by both the partners including ensuring that any student at that time participating in the Programme is able to complete the term of the assignment and be assessed for it.



Prof (Dr) S.K. Mehta, FRSC
Vice Chancellor
University of Ladakh
Leh (Ladakh UT) India

Date :





Anita Arjundas
Executive Director
ATREE
Bengaluru, India

Date :

