

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ON
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 2007-2010.

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

Recalling the profound impact of education on human resource, economic and social development;

Recognizing that greater linkages between both the countries in the field of education would be mutually beneficial;

Taking good note of the fruitful results of the promotional activities of EDUFRANCE, Alliances francaises and the competent departments of the Embassy of France, which is indicated by the growing number, although still insufficient, of Indian students in France and French students in India;

Noting with satisfaction that in the last three years, nearly 40 agreements were signed between higher education institutions, to promote university cooperation, students exchanges, for a short or long duration and often for the transfers of credits; appreciating the recent increase in the visits of French higher education institutions coming to India to meet their Indian counterparts in order to build partnerships (39 in 2005 and more than 60 in 2006), as well as the reception of several delegations of Indian academics in France, which make it possible to foresee, in the near future, a strong increase in the number of partnerships;

Expressing their satisfaction for the breakthrough that took place at the time of meetings in Paris in December 2004, and in January 2006 between the French Conferences of higher education institutions (Conference of Universities' Presidents - CPU and Conference of the Directors of the Schools and the Training of Engineers - CDEFI - and the Association of Indian Universities - AIU -), since the last meeting resulted in the signature of an agreement between these Conferences and the AIU;

Agreeing that the time has come, in this context, to substantially strengthen bilateral relations in the field of education;

Recalling the Agreement concerning cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the French Republic signed on 7th June, 1966;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Parties shall encourage, as appropriate, the development of exchanges and cooperation between the educational institutions of the two Governments based on their respective academic and educational needs. These may include following activities:

- i) exchange of research material, publications, educational literature, teaching aids, demonstration material and information;
- ii) organization of joint conferences, workshops, exhibitions and seminars;
- iii) organization of training programmes for educational administrators and teachers, joint publications joint research programmes in particular in the scientific and technological areas such as engineering sciences, management and computer science;
- iv) to develop bilateral programmes between institutions of educational excellence in technical, vocational and higher education;
- v) twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning ;
- vi) suitable scholarships program for students from both countries desirous of studying in recognized institutions of higher learning;
- vii) besides the above, both parties agreed to give special priority to a) student exchanges in the framework of programs, which will be agreed during discussions between respective designated institutions of both parties on mutual recognition of degrees / credits and studies levels; b) exchange of scholars, professors, experts, teachers and students; c) joint research programs in particular in the scientific and technological areas such as engineering sciences, management and computer science;
- viii) any other activity as agreed by both Parties.

Article II

Both parties agree to encourage within the framework of existing or new partnerships mutual recognition of educational qualifications, as well as the implementation of dual degrees, including joint award and management of PhD with provision of co-guidance between higher education institutions of both countries.

Article III

The two parties have agreed to support partnership projects between French and Indian universities aiming at developing the teaching of French language in India and Indian languages in France. Within the framework of partnership between French and Indian universities, they will favour self financed exchange programmes of students and teachers as well as for research projects and, for the issue of diplomas in the fields of literature, linguistics and didactics. The two parties agree to develop mutual recognition of the diplomas issued by their universities and have agreed to encourage French and Indian universities to build up partnerships in order to set up co-direction and co-finance at the Master and Doctorate levels after appropriate inter-university agreements, are signed.

Both parties will facilitate, in particular, the process of obtaining visas, adequate living conditions and lodgings, with a view to ensure the successful operation of the French language tutors' programme in India (tutors in Indian universities and IIT's from the month of April to August) and Indian English language assistants (teaching in schools in France and employed by the French Ministry of Education). Both parties appreciate the necessity to facilitate the process of obtaining visas and issuance of visas free of cost to French tutors and experts in India and reciprocally, to Indian assistants and teachers in France.

Both parties agree to contribute to the development of teaching of Indian languages in France.

Both parties will continue to support the contribution of Alliances Françaises to the teaching of French in India and the preparation to the internationally recognized certifications such as the diplomas delivered by Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (the DELF, Diplome D'Etudes de langue francaise ; the DALF, diplome approfondi de langue francaise) ; the certifications of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris and of the French Alliance of Paris: certificat d'études de francais pratique 1 et 2, diplome de langue francaise, diplome superieur de langue et de culture francaises. Both parties will encourage

cooperation between Alliances Françaises, Indian universities and training centers for indian teachers, in order to ensure the professional training of French teachers.

Both parties suggest, in collaboration with the Cultural Department (Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle - SCAC) of the French Embassy, to put in more efforts in developing in-service training programmes for Indian teachers of French as foreign language both at the Secondary and Higher Education stages, by creating new training centres for Alliances Françaises.

Article IV

Both parties appreciate the initial results obtained by the Franco-Indian cyber-university in the field of Mathematics, and the progress of project in aeronautics. The two parties wish to set up new modules in design, new materials and other areas at Master and Doctoral level.

Article V

Both parties appreciate the objectives and the results achieved under the Exchange Programme UGC- ICSSR-ICHR-ICPR/MSH which promotes research by Indian Scholars in France and by French scholars in India. Both parties take note of the Cultural Exchange Programme signed between the two countries on 15th February, 2007 for further strengthening of this exchange programme.

Article VI

Both parties highly appreciated the scholarship programmes designed to support student exchanges and agreed to remove any bottlenecks that may come in between the further development of such programmes. In order to further contribute to the development of student exchanges, the parties also agree to set up and implement a pilot scholarship programme for Indian students desirous of studying in France and French students desirous of studying in India. The specific details for further development of scholarship programmes can be discussed by the Joint Working Group being proposed in this Programme.

Article VII

Both parties shall endeavor to facilitate the implementation of this cooperation program to expedite all formalities and procedures (visas, affiliation of students and researchers and other related matters) through mutually agreed procedures.

Article VIII

The costs of the co-operative activities under the present Program shall be funded on terms to be mutually determined and shall be subject to the availability of funds.

Article IX

The Parties shall establish a Joint Working Group within three months of signing of the present EEP to implement this Programme. The Joint Working Group shall be chaired, on behalf of the Government of French Republic by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India, by a representative of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, along with the participation of representatives of the other agencies of the parties, as appropriate. The Joint Working Group shall meet alternately once a year in India and France as the Parties may mutually decide to review the implementation of this Programme. The meeting can be replaced – if needed – by consultations through diplomatic channels.

Article X

The substance, scope and implementation of activities or cooperation within the terms of this Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) may be the subject of more specific arrangements concluded between selected institutions in the two countries on the basis of and within the provisions of the present Educational Exchange Programme.

Article XI

Nothing shall diminish the full autonomy of either Party, nor will any constraints or financial obligations be imposed by either Party upon the other, in carrying out the Educational Exchange Programme.

Article XII

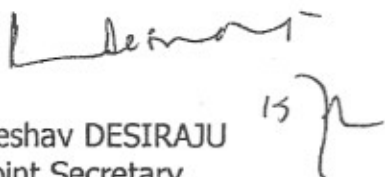
Either Party may request in writing for a revision of or amendment of this Programme. Any revision or amendment agreed to by both Parties shall be received in writing and shall form part of this Programme. Such revision or amendment shall come into effect on such date as may be determined by both Parties.

Article XIII

The Educational Exchange Programme shall become operational on the date of signing by both the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of three years. Each party reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of this EEP. The EEP shall be automatically renewed for a further period of three years at a time, unless one of the parties declares its intention to terminate the Programme by a written declaration before six months of the expiry of the Programme. However, in case of termination, the programs already under implementation will not be affected.

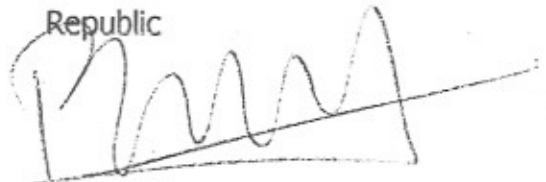
Done at New Delhi on 15th February 2007 in two original copies in English, Hindi and French languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the text in English shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic
of India



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For the Government of the French
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