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## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to outline plans for a strategic partnership between Boston College (BC) and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB). This document provides an overview of a research and evaluation, field, training, and program development partnership plan designed to draw upon the partners' existing knowledge, skills, and strengths. The parties agree to work together in exploring the following areas of potential collaboration between the two institutions:

- Collaborate on research design and proposals which would expand research on implementation of clean renewable energy to improve socioeconomic, health, and environmental outcomes in impoverished areas of rural India;
- Jointly develop and implement new and ongoing projects of mutual interest to BC and IITB;
- Engage relevant schools and departments across Boston College and IITB to leverage expertise in methodologies of mutual interest including community based system dynamics, GIS, social network analysis, agent based modeling, and supply chain management;
- Pursue joint publication of new and ongoing projects to disseminate evidence;
- Provide coursework or field training grounded in the context of our joint projects for BC and IITB students.

### **I. IITB/BC PARTNERSHIP**

The two entities recognize the mutual benefits to be derived from this partnership, as emerging needs and opportunities for collaboration are identified and additional funding secured. The parties anticipate that collaborations will encompass four areas for partnership:

- Research and Evaluation
- Project Development and Implementation
- Coursework and Field Education
- Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination

Specifically, it is agreed that IITB and BC will work collaboratively to:

1. Define roles and responsibilities of each partner.
2. Identify a point person in each organization responsible for managing communications and workflow for the overall partnership.
3. Maintain regular contact to ensure building of peer to peer relationships and knowledge sharing as well as to identify research, training and learning opportunities, and priorities.
4. Develop procedures for facilitating project planning, proposal development (where applicable), implementation, supervision, and evaluation.
5. Develop joint project and funding applications.
6. Negotiate issues related to data sharing and intellectual property rights.
7. Develop mechanisms for communicating partnership activities, opportunities, and/or findings within each organization and to relevant outside entities.



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It is agreed that no major projects or partnerships will be constituted between BC and IITB without the knowledge and agreement of the Director, IIT Bombay, and the Provost of BC. The terms of collaboration for each activity described in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be discussed and agreed upon by both parties in the future, if necessary, and shall be subject to appropriate and separate specific agreements and defined programs. Neither party will have any obligations with respect to any particular activity until the parties have executed a mutually acceptable written agreement specifying the terms and conditions for that activity.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not impose financial obligations on either institution; collaborative activities requiring funding must not be initiated until the necessary resources have been secured.

Each party acknowledges and agrees that any activities undertaken in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding shall comply with the party's applicable policies, including, without limitation, policies concerning intellectual property and applicable law.

## **II FOUR AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP**

The parties anticipate four areas of partnership – 1) Research and Evaluation, 2) Project Development and Implementation, 3) Coursework and Field Education, and 4) Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination. With regard to these four areas of partnership, it is agreed that priorities will be set and timelines and methodologies will be developed based on a participatory approach, which engages IITB and BC in the planning, design, and implementation of each initiative. In addition, IITB and BC will consider partnering to develop specific grant applications to fund projects and capacity building initiatives as specified below:

- BC and IITB have an interest in collaborating on research projects that focus on implementation of clean renewable energy to improve socioeconomic, health, and environmental outcomes in impoverished areas of rural India;
- IITB has an interest in collaborating on initiatives that build capacity in data collection, social-behavioral frameworks for understanding technology diffusion, use and dissemination of information, and implementation science;
- BC and IITB will establish a partnership to work together to develop a sustainable research collaboration based upon a mutually agreed upon research agenda designed to answer specific research questions. BC and IITB will develop procedures for facilitating proposal development, research project implementation, and dissemination of findings;
- Additionally, BC and IITB will work together to identify opportunities to build research capacity in innovative methodologies such as community based system dynamics, GIS, social network analysis, agent based modeling, and supply chain management;
- BC and IITB will regularly scan for research opportunities and collaborate to identify and develop specific research opportunities which will be reviewed by the leaders of both organizations;



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- BC and IITB will provide, when possible, access to relevant data and materials to facilitate data analysis and joint publication of results from our joint projects;
- IITB will seek to identify opportunities for IITB and BC students who wish to serve as interns, and/or who wish to complete a research practicum, dissertation research, or who wish to further develop qualitative and quantitative research skills;
- BC and IITB will develop plans for obtaining IRB approvals in a timely manner and the development of a formalized vetting process to ensure the feasibility, confidentiality, and human subjects protections required by the research will be carried out by the respective offices at IITB and BC;
- BC and IITB will develop procedures related to intellectual property ownership and data sharing, review of publications, authorship, and presentations from the research;
- BC and IITB will develop innovative coursework based on new or ongoing research projects that will provide learning opportunities in the field of dissemination and implementation science, community based system dynamics, social entrepreneurship, and other areas;
- BC and IITB will identify potential internship opportunities that allow students exposure to clean energy implementation and innovative research methodologies;
- BC will provide an advisor to act as a liaison to the student/supervisor, supporting the supervisory relationship and experiential learning;
- In order to develop a mutually beneficial coursework and field education, BC and IITB agree to consider occasional lectures (distance) by faculty for IITB and BC students;
- BC and IITB will develop mechanisms for communicating partnership activities, opportunities and/or findings within each organization and to relevant outside entities;
- BC and IITB will develop procedures related to intellectual property ownership and data sharing, review of publications, authorship, and presentations from the collaborative research, capacity building and systems strengthening projects;
- BC and IITB will publish and present jointly or independently on collaborative research and capacity building projects.


For all of the aforementioned partnership related matters, Dean International Relations of IITB and Dean of BCSSW will be the point persons for their respective institutions.


This Memorandum of Understanding does not preclude BC or IITB from seeking other collaborations or partnerships with other organizations or institutions. This memorandum of understanding will take effect on August 15, 2017, and will remain in force for a period of five (5) years. Either institution can terminate its participation six months in advance by providing written notice to the other institution.



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The parties agree that no press release or other public announcement regarding this Memorandum of Understanding or activities undertaken under this MOU shall be released without the prior approval of both parties.

  
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7/27/2017  
Prof. David Quigley  
Provost and Dean of Faculties  
Boston College

  
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Aug 4, 2017  
Prof. Devang Khakhar  
Director  
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay