

**International Alliance of Leading Education Institutions**

20 – 21 August 2007



Leading education  
and social research  
Institute of Education  
University of London

**Danmarks  
Pædagogiske  
Universitetsskole**  
*School of Education  
University of Aarhus*



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

FACULTY OF  
EDUCATION



**NIE**  
NATIONAL  
INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION



**OISE**  
ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### International Alliance of Leading Education Institutions

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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutions and the relationship of member institutions to the Alliance.

#### 2. The Alliance

- 2.1 The members agree to form an Alliance for international cooperation among leading educational institutions from around the world based on the framework in Attachment A.
- 2.2 Members will engage with one another in multiple ways, including arranging and attending an annual meeting to establish areas of common interest for collaboration. Between meetings, identified priorities will be addressed by drawing on research and expertise among members' institutions with outcomes disseminated as agreed.
- 2.3 The Alliance should act as a conduit to collaboration and serve as a think tank to address global issues in education and inform the education community worldwide, affording the members a collective voice.

#### 3. Membership

- 3.1 Members are the undersigned schools / colleges / institutes. Membership of the Alliance is by invitation and voluntary. The independence of all members is acknowledged and respected.
- 3.2 Members agree to assume responsibility for one year, on a rotating basis, for the organisation, hosting, chairing and servicing of the Alliance's annual meeting. The close of the annual meeting will mark the transfer of this responsibility to the successor member.
- 3.3 Members of the Alliance will work towards achieving geographical and cultural balance within the group.
- 3.4 Any member wishing to terminate their membership should do so in writing to the incumbent Chair of the Alliance giving one year's notice. Any such resignations should be disseminated to the remaining members as soon as possible.

#### 4. Lifetime of this Memorandum of Understanding

- 4.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will be valid for five years, and can be renewed for defined periods from that date.

## **FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF LEADING EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

### **1. *Rationale for the Alliance***

- i. Member institutions have mutual concerns for teacher education and education in general.
- ii. Member institutions are increasingly involved in educational issues that have both local and global dimensions.
- iii. Member institutions are recognized for their strengths in education research and believe there is a need for additional channels / platforms to provide professional evidence-based inputs on education, drawing on this research.

### **2. *Goals of the Alliance***

The Alliance will utilise existing strengths of each institution to:

- i. Serve as a collective voice on educational matters to raise the profile and quality of education with governments, international agencies and the public at large.
- ii. Act as a forum for collaboration to develop understanding in order to address current local and global educational issues.
- iii. Be a think-tank that draws upon existing expertise and research-based evidence to generate ideas, anticipate trends and develop future scenarios.

The intended outcome of the work of the Alliance is to impact policy decisions, influence funding and inspire research and interventions that have meaningful impact on education locally and globally.

### **3. *Activities of the Alliance***

- i. An annual meeting will be organised to identify, discuss and address key issues, identify relevant audiences and develop appropriate communication plans.
- ii. Members may raise other issues and share inputs on them throughout the year.
- iii. The Alliance will communicate the outcomes of its collective deliberations to external audiences through appropriate means.

#### **4. Structure of the Alliance**

- i. Host institution will provide chairperson and secretariat.
- ii. Host institution and secretariat will be rotated on an annual basis with responsibilities assumed following the annual meeting.
- iii. Each host secretariat will complete the cycle of work initiated at the Alliance meeting.

#### **5. Membership of the Alliance**

- i. The eight original members will initiate the Alliance, formalised by the signing of an MOU.
- ii. The initial proposed size of membership is targeted as 10, and members will recommend two additional education institutions to the Alliance – possibly one from South Africa and one from Latin America.

#### **6. Communication Plans**

- i. Develop a communication strategy specific to each issue to be addressed
- ii. Channels<sup>1</sup>:
  - a) Develop internal communication network/channels to facilitate discussion and sharing amongst Alliance members.
  - b) Develop external communication network/channels that will bring attention to the Alliance's presence and position it as a credible collective voice amongst its external audiences eg publish Alliance reports on key education issues.

#### **What the Alliance is Not**

- i. It is not an alliance that supersedes any bilateral or other agreements that exist between member institutions and institutions outside this alliance.
- ii. It is not an alliance to combine members' expertise to capture some sectors of the education market.
- iii. It is not an alliance where one institution will have more advantage or influence than others.

The above framework was prepared based on discussion among members of the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutions held on 20 August 2007 at National Institute of Education, Singapore.

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<sup>1</sup> NIE has agreed to host the Alliance website to facilitate Alliance communication.

Signed as a Memorandum of Understanding on this date:  
21 August 2007

On behalf of: **Institute of Education  
University of London  
United Kingdom**

Name: Professor Geoff Whitty  
Director

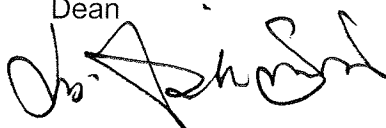
Signature:



On behalf of: **Danish School of Education  
University of Aarhus  
Denmark**

Name: Professor Lars-Henrik Schmidt  
Dean

Signature:



On behalf of: **Faculty of Education  
Beijing Normal University  
People's Republic of China**

Name: Professor Zeng Xiaodong, Associate Dean  
for Professor Zhang Binxian, Dean

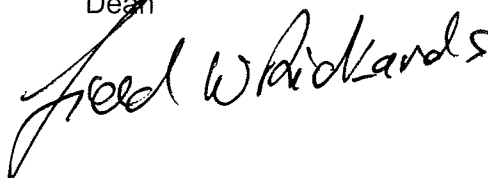
Signature:



On behalf of: **Faculty of Education  
University of Melbourne  
Australia**

Name: Professor Field Rickards  
Dean

Signature:



Signed as a Memorandum of Understanding on this date:  
21 August 2007

On behalf of: **National Institute of Education  
Nanyang Technological University  
Singapore**

Name: Professor Lee Sing Kong  
Director

Signature: 

On behalf of: **College of Education  
Seoul National University  
Korea**

Name: Professor Cho Young Dal  
Dean

Signature: 

On behalf of: **Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
University of Toronto  
Canada**

Name: Professor Jane Gaskell  
Dean

Signature: 

On behalf of: **School of Education  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
USA**

Name: Professor Julie Underwood  
Dean

Signature: 