

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON**  
**THE CREATION OF AN**  
**INDO-GERMAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**  
**AND THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

In pursuance of the joint statement issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 by the Heads of Government of the two countries, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of the Federal Republic of Germany reiterating the importance of continued cooperation between India and Germany in the fields of science, research and technology as well as industrial research and development, decide to establish an Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC), within the framework of the provisions of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Scientific Research and Technological Development signed in 1974. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and BMBF are the nodal implementing agencies. Other departments, councils and agencies involved in bilateral science and technology cooperation between India and Germany are invited to actively participate and support this Centre and fund joint projects in their respective field.

### **1. Name and Location**

The Centre will be named the “Indo-German Science and Technology Centre” (IGSTC) and will be established in New Delhi. The IGSTC in New Delhi would be registered as Society under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860, Punjab Amendment Act 1957) as extended to Delhi. The IGSTC will be linked to the International Bureau (IB) of the BMBF in Germany.

### **2. Objectives**

The IGSTC shall facilitate and promote the interaction, in India and Germany, of government, academia and industry in science and technology. It is to build and improve research and technology synergies between both countries, focusing primarily on natural, life, and engineering sciences. The programme funding by the IGSTC will be provided by the two governments and the private sectors of both countries based on the principle of reciprocity in areas of combined interests of both countries.

The objectives of the IGSTC are to

- play a proactive role in facilitating participation of industry in joint R&D projects,
- provide/assist in mobilizing resources to carry out industrial R&D projects,
- promote electronic exchange and dissemination of information on opportunities in bilateral S&T cooperation. The Centre will also prepare/compile *state-of-the-art reports* on topics of interest with the help of highly qualified scientists and technologists, one from each country,
- provide individual advice to institutes and industries from either country on the possibilities of Indo-German cooperation and help in the identification of suitable partners,
- facilitate and promote Indo-German bilateral collaborations in basic and applied science, research and technology through substantive interaction among government, academia and industry,
- encourage public-private partnerships (PPP) to foster elements of innovation and application and cultivate a culture of cooperation between science and industry,
- nurture contacts between young and mid career scientists and technologists to develop a sense of mutual trust, leadership and entrepreneurship,
- develop cooperation through the identification of scientists and scientific institutions of the two countries,
- organize workshops, seminars, training programmes and other types of events on topics of mutual interest, and to
- support or conduct any other mutually agreed future activities.

### **3. Involvement of Industry (Public-Private Partnership for Industrial Research, Technology Development and Transfer)**

- The IGSTC will primarily act as a catalyst for synergizing resources with industrial relevance and application; it will also further strengthen bilateral cooperation in basic research.
- The IGSTC will fund selected R&D projects linking research and industry (“2+2 schemes”).

#### **4. Administration & Organization**

- The IGSTC will work according to Terms of Reference (t. b. d.) mutually agreed by both governments.
- The IGSTC will have a “Governing Body” (GB) comprising of up to 5 members from each side representing the ministries, academia and industry. The GB shall be chaired by the chairs of the bilateral inter-ministerial working group agreed upon in the summary record of the Indo-German Committee on Science and Technology on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Therefore meetings of the GB will be coordinated with the meetings of the inter-ministerial working group. Both sides will nominate its other members of the GB from ministries, academia and industry and may also include expert members as invitees.
- The GB shall meet annually alternately in India and Germany.
- The IGSTC will be administered by an Indian Director, nominated by consensus by the Indian and German governments. The Director will have a term of 3 years with the possibility of a 2-year extension. His responsibilities will be agreed upon by both ministries in the Terms of Reference (t. b. d.). Support staff as approved by the GB will be recruited locally by the Director.
- The IGSTC’s work relating to jointly funded projects will be linked to BMBF (Germany) and DST (India), which will be responsible for administration of the jointly funded projects on the German and Indian side respectively for (co-)publishing joint calls, receiving proposals, coordinating the evaluation, funding and managing the joint projects. Details will be laid down in the Terms of References (t.b.d.) of the Centre.
- The GB shall receive an activity report of the Director before its meetings and agree in advance to all major decisions and the annual plan of activities proposed by the Director.

#### **5. Financing**

- The IGSTC itself will be funded jointly by the governments of India and Germany.
- Both governments will allocate up to 10 million Euros each to meet the objectives of the Centre and its running expenditure for an initial 5 years. The annual expenditure may be enlarged by mutual agreement.

- For industrial R&D projects a substantial part of the project cost must be met by industry in compliance with the national laws of the respective sides and EU-laws as far as applicable to the German side.

## **6. Status Evaluation**

The status of the IGSTC and its progress in carrying out the Terms of Reference (t. b. d) will be jointly reviewed after 3 years from the start of operation of the Centre. Given a positive result both ministries will continue their commitment for an additional 2 years. After this period both ministries will jointly decide on their further commitment.

Done at New Delhi on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in two originals in the English, Hindi and German languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

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Federal Minister of  
Education and Research of the  
Federal Republic of Germany

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**Kapil Sibal**  
Honorable Minister of Science & Technology  
and Earth Sciences of the Republic of India