



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA, ITALY
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

The University of Messina (hereafter referred to as [UNIME]) and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM), Vietnam (hereinafter referred to as “USSH”), (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Partners”) are mutually committed to the advancement of higher education and recognize the importance of fostering international communication and collaboration, and of enabling our students to have a greater understanding of and sensitivity to other cultures and global issues facing our world community. The Partners agree to the following Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a statement of intent to work toward developing collaborative programs and fostering international cooperation.

ARTICLE 1: THE PURPOSE

The purposes of this cooperation between the Partners are as follows:

- to promote interest in the teaching and research activities of the respective institutions, and
- to deepen the understanding of the economic, cultural, environmental and academic benefits of cooperation between the respective institutions.

ARTICLE 2: AREAS OF COOPERATION

This MOU will serve as a general framework for cooperation between two institutions and is intended to facilitate the discussion of more specific programs of collaboration. In particular, the Partners agree on:

- (a) Exchange of students;

- (b) Exchange of university faculty and staff;
- (c) Accreditations of credits
- (d) Joint research projects in areas of mutual interest;
- (e) Participation in seminars or conferences organized by either institution;
- (f) Language training programs;
- (g) Exchange of academic and research materials, publication and other information;
- (h) Special short-term academic programs;
- (i) Joint cultural programs;
- (j) Other exchanges as may be agreed to by the Partners

Both institutions subscribe to a policy of equal opportunity and will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or handicap.

Before these activities can be implemented, both parties shall discuss the problems involved to the satisfaction of each party and enter into specific activity agreements based on the mutually agreed objectives and outcomes of the partnership.

ARTICLE 3: FINANCE AND SERVICES

1. This MoU is not considered to be a binding contract creating legal and financial relationships between the Partners. Rather, it is designed as a framework to facilitate and develop any program agreements executed between the two partners.
2. Further agreements concerning any programs/activities under this MoU shall provide details concerning the specific commitments made by each part and shall not become effective until they have been reduced to writing, executed by the duly authorized representatives of the Partners, and approved in writing by the governing boards of the partners.
3. The scope of the activities under this MoU shall be determined by the funds regularly available at both institutions for the types of collaboration undertaken and by financial assistance as may be obtained by either institution from external sources.
4. The obligations and opportunities under this MoU are non-exclusive, and the partners may enter into other agreements to achieve the same goals.

ARTICLE 4: VALIDITY, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

1. This MoU shall be made in English and shall become effective as of the date of signatures of both partners.
2. This MoU may be modified through mutual discussion and consent of the two partners. Any agreed modifications and/or amendments made during the validity period of the MoU shall be made as appendix to this MoU.
3. Upon approval by each partner, this MoU shall remain in effect in five-year term and be automatically renewed in the next five years unless any termination is raised. Termination of the MoU shall require a minimum of six months' advance notice and shall be without penalty. If this MoU is terminated, neither partner shall be liable to the other for any monetary or other losses which may result. Activities in progress at the time of termination of this MoU shall be permitted to conclude as planned unless otherwise agreed.

In Witness of the terms of this MoU, our signatures are affixed:

Signed for and on behalf of

**The University of Messina
Italy**

Signed for and on behalf of

**The University of Social Sciences
Humanities, VNU-HCM, Vietnam**

Prof. Pietro Navarra
President

Date:.....

Prof. Dr. Vo Van Sen
President

Date:.....