MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
AND
THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Republic of the Philippines, (hereinafter referred to individually as the "Participant" and collectively as the "Participants"),

RECOGNISING the need to expand and intensify their cooperation in the fields of higher education and research;

DESIRING to further enhance the close and friendly relations between their States;

CONSIDERING their common interest in promoting and encouraging their cooperation in the fields of higher education and research for the mutual benefit of both States, by strengthening partnerships and strategic collaboration that supports higher education, open and distance education and life-long learning, as well as exchanges that promote excellence and creativity in teaching, student education and research; and

SHARING the conviction that these activities will also enhance the economic and social development of both States;

Have reached the following understanding:

PARAGRAPH 1

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide concrete frameworks of cooperation within which Participants will approve specific programs of academic cooperation in areas such as information exchange, academic exchange and research collaboration, through the Joint Working Group created in Paragraph 3.

PARAGRAPH 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants encourage the direct cooperation between the Institutions of Higher Education (including open and distance education Institutions of Higher Education) and other research Institutions established in both States in the fields of higher education and research, making optimal use of existing multilateral, bilateral and unilateral funding schemes and/or promoting the establishment of new ones.

Cooperation may, inter alia, include:

I. Design and offering of joint or dual degree programmes; encourage accredited Institutions of Higher Education established in each State, to organize double degrees and joint programmes, especially at the Master and PhD level, through direct institutional agreements.

II. Conduct of joint research activities based on mutual interest and priority programs;

III. Exchange of information, scientific material and academic publications teaching tools, demonstration materials, and research resources;

IV. Exchange of academic staff members, researchers and administrative personnel;

V. Exchange of graduate and undergraduate students for study, research and student placements;

VI. Exchange of scholarships for further education in recognised higher education institutions of both Participants according to the availability, procedures and regulations of both States respectively and the internal regulation of the partner Institutions of Higher Education.

VII. Co-organization of and participation in lectures, seminars and conferences and other scientific events in face to face, hybrid or online modes;

VIII. Exchange of know-how and expertise on e-learning platforms, technologies and methodologies that support distance education;

IX. Encourage of joint work towards the implementation of UN 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs);

X. Co-organisation of summer/winter schools for higher education students;

XI. Co-operation in administrative issues related to Higher Education;

XII. Encourage and support Institutions of Higher Education institutions to offer language and cultural related courses and to conduct research of the other Participant's language and culture.

XIII. Promotion of mutual recognition of studies, academic programs and academic correspondence; initiate negotiations for signing an agreement on the mutual recognition of higher education qualifications issued by institutions of higher

education by both States, for the access and continuation of studies to institutions of higher education of the two States.

XIV. Exchange of information regarding the assessment of qualifications and credential degrees of higher education institutions of both Participants;

XV. Promotion of transparency and quality assurance through referencing of qualifications framework;

XVI. Commitment of Participants to improve the process of delivering quality education;

XVII. Encourage their scientific community, their respective institutions of higher education and research institutions to cooperate in the framework of EU-funded and State funded programmes on higher education and research; and

XVIII. Any other areas of cooperation in the field of higher education within the Participants' respective mandates, to be jointly decided upon by the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 3

JOINT WORKING GROUP

(a) The Participants will, within thirty (30) days from the entry into effect of this MOU, establish a Joint Working Group ("JWG") to review and manage its implementation.

(b) The Participants understand that the JWG will:

(i) approve specific cooperation activities to be carried out, and determine details of implementation;

(ii) determine ways to promote the objective of this MOU and to ensure the proper coordination and implementation of its decisions and/or recommendations;

(iii) review the progress of the implementation of cooperation activities and conduct progress monitoring to ensure the efficient and timely implementation of such activities;

(c) The Participants understand that the JWG will:

(i) be co-chaired by a representative from the CHED and the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. The Participants may invite other relevant government agencies or other relevant institutions which are authorized to participate in the JWG as appropriate;

(ii) meet on dates convenient and jointly decided upon by the Participants;

(d) The Participants will jointly decide upon the composition and work procedures for the JWG.

(e) The Participants will ensure that the decisions made by the JWG are reflected in the Agreed Minutes of the Meeting, and will take appropriate steps to implement such decisions.

PARAGRAPH 4

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Participants shall protect intellectual property rights in accordance with their respective national law and with international instruments to which the Philippines and Cyprus are parties.

PARAGRAPH 5

NATIONAL INTERESTS

Notwithstanding this MOU, the Participants may take the appropriate steps or hold consultations to ensure the protection of their respective national security, national interest or public order.

PARAGRAPH 6

CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) The Participants shall protect the information, and other data received from or supplied to the other Participant, exchanged or generated under this MOU, or any other instruments made under it, in accordance with their respective national laws.

(b) The Participants shall not use the information and documents exchanged between them except for the assigned purposes, and not share it with a third party without the prior written consent of the Participant providing that information.

(c) The Participants shall continue to apply this Paragraph notwithstanding the termination of this MOU.

PARAGRAPH 7

IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

(a) The Participants will bear their respective expenses in relation to the implementation of this MOU.

(b) The Participants understand that the funding of the activities under this MOU will be subject to the availability of funds of both Participants. The participants

will make their best efforts to facilitate any higher education cooperation activities carried out under this MOU.

PARAGRAPH 8

SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES

The Participants shall amicably settle differences arising out of the implementation or interpretation of provisions of this MOU by consultation through diplomatic channels.

PARAGRAPH 9

STATUS

(a) This MOU is signed with the object of strengthening and developing cooperation between the Participants and does not constitute a binding agreement under international law.

(b) No provision of this MOU may be construed and implemented as creating legal rights or obligations under international law.

(c) The cooperation in the framework of this MOU will not prejudice the rights and obligations of the Participants as these derive from international agreements to which they are parties. The implementation of this MOU and all related activities must be in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations, rules, procedures and mechanisms of the two States.

PARAGRAPH 10

FINAL DISPOSITION

(a) This MOU shall take effect on the date of later written notification by the Participants, through diplomatic channels, indicating that their domestic requirements for the MOU's effectivity have been complied with.

(b) This MOU shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years, and shall be automatically renewed for similar periods, unless a Participant officially notifies the other Participant of its desire to suspend or terminate this MOU.

(c) The Participants shall amend this MOU upon their mutual written consent through diplomatic channels, and with at least six (6) months' notice to the other Participant.

(d) The termination of this MOU shall not affect the existing or ongoing programmes and projects, unless the Participants decide otherwise.

Signed in duplicate at New York, on this 23 day of September in the year of 2026, in the English language.

For the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus	For the Commission on Higher Education of the Republic of the Philippines
Dr. Constantinos Kombos	Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Secretary of Foreign Affairs