

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology



SIGMA
UNIVERSITY
— VADODARA —

Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

&

Sigma University, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
and
Sigma University, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on this 21st Day of February 2024 between the Asian Institute of Technology having its campus at, P.O. Box 4, 58 Moo 9, Km. 42, Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand represented by its President, Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto, as the **First Party** (hereinafter referred to as “University” or “AIT” or the “First Party”)

And

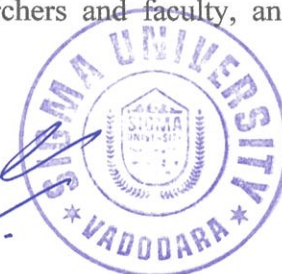
Sigma University having its campus at Ajwa-Nimeta Road, At & Po: Bakrol, Vadodara, Gujarat -390019 represented by its President, Dr. Harsh Shah (hereinafter referred to as “University” or SU or the “**Second Party**”).

The aforesaid organizations are hereafter referred to individually as *University* and collectively as *Universities*.

WHEREAS, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) is an international English-speaking postgraduate institution, focusing on engineering, environment, and management studies. AIT’s rigorous academic, research, and experiential outreach programs prepare graduates for professional success and leadership roles in Asia and beyond.

Founded in 1959, AIT offers the opportunity to study at an institution in Asia, which possesses a global reputation. Going forward, AIT will be stressing its global connections, injection of innovation into research and teaching, its relevance to industry, and its nurturing of entrepreneurship, while continuing to fulfil its social impact and capacity building role. Sitting on a beautiful green campus located just north of Bangkok, Thailand, AIT operates as a multicultural community where a cosmopolitan approach to living and learning is the rule. You will meet and study with people from all around the world.

Today, AIT’s internationally recognized engineering, environment, and management graduates are highly sought after by employers in their home country and elsewhere. Across many walks of life in Asia, AIT alumni have distinguished themselves as CEO’s of private and state enterprises, as business owners, as well-respected researchers and faculty, and as senior university and government officials.



WHEREAS, Sigma University (SU), was established in the year 2023. The University established under Gujarat Private Universities Act, 2009 and the Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Act, 2023 is situated in Vadodara known as cultural city of Gujarat. The Sigma University (previously known as Sigma Group of Institutes) has been a leader in the field of education for more than two decades covering the entire spread of KG to PG courses. The University offers a range of programs/courses like Engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Science, Humanities & Social Science, Design, Computer Science & Applications, Nursing, Commerce & Management and Hospitality and Tourism, etc.

The University is sponsored by SIGMA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING (TRUST) with a vision to establish institutions of higher learning, with motto ज्ञानं परमं शक्तिः

SU has the requisite infrastructure, facilities, and allied faculty for those who aspire to become truly global professionals with spirit of world citizen (वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्). With more than 5000 existing students and 400 faculty members from almost every part of the country. The constitute institutes of the University have received many prestigious awards at National Level for teaching learning process and research.

ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVES OF THE MoU

In the spirit of friendship and with mutual interest in cooperation, the areas of cooperation will include any programme offered at either University as thought desirable and feasible on either side and that both sides will contribute to the fostering and development of the cooperative relationship between the two organizations and to promote joint educational and cultural collaborations.

Cooperation shall be carried out through such activities as:

1. Exchange of faculty and/or staff
2. Exchange of students to include study/cultural immersion treks (over 1-3 weeks)
3. Joint teaching, research, or cultural activities
4. Joint organization of seminars and academic meetings
5. Faculty/Staff professional development such as through short course 'capacity building' courses/workshops
6. Exchange of academic materials and other related information
7. Special short-term academic programs



8. Sharing of Facilities

Details on proposed exchange of faculty and students to be subject to a separate Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

1.1.1 Joint teaching, research, or cultural activities:

1. Collaborative efforts in conducting classes, research projects, and cultural events to enhance cross-institutional engagement.

1.1.2 Joint organization of seminars and academic meetings:

1. Coordinated planning and execution of academic events, seminars, workshops, and conferences to foster interdisciplinary discussions.

1.1.3 Faculty/Staff professional development:

1. Initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and expertise of faculty and staff through training, workshops, and collaborative projects.
2. The program organizing fees and other financial arrangement, if needed, will be discussed and agreed between AIT and Sigma University under the Concept Note / Program Proposal submitted by AIT, i.e. AIT Extension, other units at AIT.

1.1.4 Exchange of academic materials and other related information:

1. Sharing of learning resources, research findings, and academic information to mutually benefit both institutions' academic pursuits.

1.1.5 Special short-term academic programs:

1. Offering specialized short courses or programs that address specific academic needs or emerging topics of interest.
2. The Office of Special Degree Programs (OSDP) /AIT conducts a student camp that costs about USD 800 per student for a minimum of 20 students. If the number of students is 20 or more, 1 faculty can join the camp for free. This camp cost includes accommodation, breakfast/food, tuition, materials, local visit tickets of entrance to venue, airport pick up and drop off.



1.1.6 Sharing of Facilities:

1. Utilizing each other's academic and research facilities, laboratories, libraries, and infrastructure for mutual research and education.

ARTICLE II: Areas of Collaboration

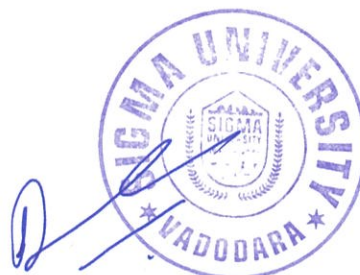
- 2.1 Areas of collaboration may be proposed by either University or may include, but are not limited to, the above activities. Any other related academic, cultural or research activity may be undertaken on mutual understanding between the two Universities.
- 2.2 Any specific activity developed under this MoU shall be detailed in a subsequent agreement, signed by each University's authorized signatory, which will describe the scope of the proposed activity, intended outcomes, budget, and responsible departments or individuals.
- 2.3 All activities shall be subject to the availability of funds and with the approval of each University's authorized representatives.

ARTICLE III: Duration and Evaluation of MoU

- 3.1 This MoU will come into operation with effect from the date of signing and will remain in force and effect for a period of three (3) years or until the Termination Date. Either party may request termination of this agreement, in writing, ninety days prior to the proposed termination date.
- 3.2 A joint evaluation of the MoU will be initiated by the designated representatives of the two Universities six (6) months prior to the expiration date. Following the evaluation, the MoU may be renewed and extended for an additional five-year period.
- 3.3 Amendments to this MoU may be requested, in writing, by either party and approved by the authorized signatories of the two Universities.

ARTICLE IV: Non-Discrimination

The parties agree not to discriminate on the basis of religion, race, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, handicap, political affiliation, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran.



ARTICLE V: Compliance with Law

The parties specifically intend to comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations as they may be amended from time to time. If any part of this Agreement is determined to violate central, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations, the parties agree to negotiate in good faith revisions to any such provisions. If the parties fail to agree within a reasonable time to revisions required to bring the entire Agreement into compliance, either party may terminate this Agreement upon thirty days prior written notice to the other party.

ARTICLE VI: Force Majeure

In the event, students are unable to complete the Program due to but not limited to: acts of God; war; acts of the government; fires; floods; epidemics; quarantine restrictions; strikes, labor disputes or work stoppages; transportation contingency; and freight embargoes; other catastrophes or any similar occurrences beyond the reasonable control of both of the Universities, the initiator University will assist the affected students in finding an alternate site/mode to complete the Program.

ARTICLE VII: Coordinators/Contact Persons:

Both Universities will designate the below persons who will have responsibility for coordination and implementation of this agreement.

From AIT:

Dr. Roger Levermore

Vice President for Development
Asian Institute of Technology
P.O. Box 4 Klong Luang
Pathumthani 12120
Thailand

Tel.: +66 (0)2 524 5089

Email: vpd@ait.ac.th

[/rogerlevermore@ait.ac.th](mailto:rogerlevermore@ait.ac.th)

Dr. Sumana Shrestha

Director, International Affairs
Office of International and Public Affairs
Asian Institute of Technology
P.O. Box 4 Klong Luang
Pathumthani 12120
Thailand

Tel.: +66 (0)2 524 5067/5010

Email: sumana@ait.ac.th / oia@ait.ac.th

Website: <https://www.ait.ac.th>

From SU:

Dr. Priyesh P. Gandhi

Provost (Vice Chancellor)
Sigma University

Ajwa-Nimeta Road, At & Po: Bakrol
Vadodara, Gujarat (India)-390019

Tel.: +91-7486033038/9825440134

Email: provost@sigmauniversity.ac.in

<https://sigmauniversity.ac.in/>

Dr. Ageetha Vanaamudan

Director, IQAC & Dean Faculty of
Science

Sigma University

Ajwa-Nimeta Road, At & Po: Bakrol
Vadodara, Gujarat (India)-390019

Tel.: +91-9228778355

Email:

director.iqac@sigmauniversity.ac.in

<https://sigmauniversity.ac.in/>



ARTICLE VIII: Intellectual Property Rights

8.1 The intellectual property rights (IPR) that arise because of joint research and collaborative activity under the agreement will be worked out on a case-to-case basis and will be consistent with officially laid down IPR policies of the two Universities.

8.2 Rights regarding publications, patents, royalty, ownership of software/design/product developed etc. under the scope of this MOU, shall be decided by the two parties by mutual consent.

ARTICLE IX: Exchange of Information

Information will be actively exchanged, including information about students, information on research and studies provided at the host/home organization, relevant information about faculty members and fields of research, and University publications.

ARTICLE X: Dispute Resolution

The two Universities shall attempt to resolve all disputes arising out of or relating to this MoU by direct negotiation between them within a reasonable time of arising of such dispute.

In case of any dispute between the parties to the agreement hereunto the same shall be liable to be challenged within the jurisdiction of the Place/District where the agreement has been signed and executed.



In witness hereof, both Universities hereto have offered their signatures.

Signed for and on behalf of:

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Sigma University

山本和夫

Professor Kazuo Yamamoto

Dr. Harsh Shah

President

President

Date: 05 JUN 2024

Date: _____

Witnesses:

Dr. Roger Levermore

Dr. Priyesh P. Gandhi

Vice President for Development

Provost (Vice Chancellor)

Date: 05 JUN 2024

Date: _____

Dr. Sumana Shrestha

Mr. Priyank Patel

Director, International Affairs

Registrar

Date: 05 JUN 2024

Date: _____

