Letter of Understanding (LoU)

This Letter of Understanding (LoU) is entered into on this date 20 June 2024 at Bhopal.

BETWEEN

Research and Extension Association for Conservation Horticulture and Agroforestry (REACHA), having its Registered Office at 177-178, 2nd Floor, Triveni Apartments, Jhilmil Colony, Delhi, India 110095, (hereinafter referred to as **REACHA** or the **First Party**) which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include its successor, administrators, legal representatives and executors assigns of the First Part

AND

Oriental College of Technology, having its Registered Office at **Oriental Campus, Opp Patel Nagar,Raisen Road, Bhopal 462021 (M.P.), India** (hereinafter referred to as **Oriental College of Technology** or the **Second Party**) which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include its successor, administrators, legal representatives and executors assigns of the Second Part

REACHA and **Oriental College of Technology** shall individually be referred to as "**Party**" and collectively as "**Parties**".

Recitals

I. Whereas, IBM SkillsBuild represented by its country partner for India – REACHA, is a skill building & learning digital platform where users can achieve industry relevant skills, get IBM certificates and certified badges & seek employment opportunities. This would be applicable based on assessment by REACHA.

II. Whereas **Oriental College of Technology** (Second Party) is keen to introduce IBM SkillsBuild for students of the Second Party.

III. Whereas the First Party wants to collaborate with specialized agencies/institutions to achieve industry relevant skills required under the IBM SkillsBuild Project.

IV. Whereas the Second Party have shown interest in providing desired skills by the First Party for implementation of the IBM SkillsBuild Project.

Director
Oriental College of Technology
Patel Nagar, Raisen Road, Bhopal

Chief Executive Officer REACHA New Delhi

V. Whereas, at the suggestion of Second Party, the First Party has agreed to collaborate with Second Party for availing their expertise for SkillsBuild Project for various activities as listed hereinafter.

Therefore, the Parties agree to collaborate for the Project in respect of activities and on terms and conditions given in succeeding para in this Letter of Understanding (LoU). It is reiterated that this LoU is only an expression of interest to collaborate for the Project and neither Party shall have any rights or obligations with respect to each other besides the activities listed below in this LoU.

The Project aims to inculcate requisite knowledge, experience, and skills amongst students. As per UGC Guidelines of December 2022, for Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India, Institutions should prioritize social responsibility and community engagement in their mission and operations (refer to *Guidelines for Fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement in Higher Education Institutions in India 2.0*). It calls for integration of community engagement into graduation requirements, assessments, and performance evaluations while offering suggestions for different forms of community engagement. The Guidelines further suggest forms of community engagement which may include linking learning with community service, linking research with community knowledge and knowledge sharing, and knowledge mobilization. Furthermore, as per the Guidelines for performance assessments of teachers, administrators in HEIs should include the view of their involvement and contributions to community engagement in teaching and research. Criteria of and weightage to community engagement by teachers and researchers should be explicitly included in assessments for recruitment, regularization, and promotion.

One of the major objectives of the Project offered by IBM and implemented by REACHA is to facilitate colleges in achieving all of the above-desired goals.

Objectives

1. The objective of this LoU is to mutually complement Parties' energies, outreach, and efforts to curate opportunities of collaboration, sharing of knowledge resources and jointly work on building capacities of the users through the IBM SkillsBuild Platform.
2. Parties will enable IBM SkillsBuild for **3200 students** from **Oriental College of Technology** through Director of **Oriental College of Technology** facilitation and guidance with prime focus in the state where the Second Party is located.

Director
Oriental College of Technology
Patel Nagar, Raisen Road, Bhopal

REACHA New Delhi Chief Executive Officer

3. The identified students would be encouraged to take up and complete courses on IBM SkillsBuild platform by the Parties. The Second Party must ensure a minimum of 80% attendance as active learning (8-10 hours of dedicated learning and course completion under Project Based Learning as defined by IBM SkillsBuild) per month of onboarded learners.
4. Relevant Faculty Development initiatives may also be taken up for the benefit of the staff of the Second Party by the First Party.

Duration

This LoU is valid from 20 June 2024, up to three years from the date of signing subject to active IBM – REACHA (First Party) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) / Agreement during that period, on a year-on-year basis, under which First Party is able to provide these benefits of 21st century skills for youth / students of Second Party.

Operational Aspects

Parties will work closely with their teams to leverage their student/learner base and other important stakeholders to build industry relevant skillsets & enhance employability prospects of students/ learners by providing market-linked skills. First Party will facilitate the on-boarding of learners (students) on the platform with assistance and in collaboration with Second Party and encourage students to leverage the platform for better learning opportunities.

The focus would be to bring in 21st century skills like - Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Job Readiness Skills, Digital Marketing, Effective Communication, etc. as offered by IBM SkillsBuild, to the students, which can help them to learn skills that are needed in the market, and can help them to get ready to access job and entrepreneurship opportunities in the market.

The Second Party must ensure a minimum of 80% attendance as active learning (8 -10 hours of dedicated learning and course completion under Project Based Learning (PBL) as defined by IBM SkillsBuild) on IBM SkillsBuild platform per user per month through participation in innovation camps and other learning activities.

The Second Party shall provide the required facilitation for access to employability for eligible and meritorious students as part of this IBM SkillsBuild Project.

Director
Oriental College of Technology
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REACHA, New Delhi * Chief Executive Officer *

The Second Party shall nominate a Single Point of Contact (SPOC)/ Volunteer faculty to act as facilitator between students and REACHA Digital Success Manager/team. The SPOC can be provided with "Letter of Appreciation", from the First Party based on performance during the Project.

The Second Party must provide/facilitate the necessary infrastructure (High-Speed Internet Connectivity, computers/smartphones, projector/ screen, Mic and sound system, classroom/ auditorium) during sessions conducted by First Party.

The Second Party shall provide Student Volunteers for the coordination and smooth execution of the Project. These Student Volunteers can be provided with "Letter of Appreciation" from the First Party based on their performance during the Project.

The First Party may provide the Second Party with the opportunity to explore additional permitted offerings deemed relevant to enrich the learning experience and skill building opportunities for the Second Party subject to the terms and conditions of the IBM Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Agreement with the First Party on a year-on-year basis and compliance to applicable IBM policies, rules, and regulations.

In order to maintain the desired level of social media outreach, each Party promises to follow the guidelines for social media amplification sent as a part of the communication package as per IBM norms/approved by IBM on case-to-case basis. With respect to the social media outreach, each Party will also appoint an appropriate person(s) to represent the organization.

Termination and Extension of LoU

In the event of non-compliance or breach of terms by any one of the Parties of the obligations binding upon it, the other Party may terminate the LoU with immediate effect by a simple notice in writing without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

This LoU can be extended further as per the mutual consent between the parties in writing.

Financial Aspects and Conflict of Interest

This LoU has no financial implications for the Parties with respect to each other or to any other party. Parties shall ensure there is no conflict of interest during the delivery of the Project.

Director
Oriental College of Technology
Patel Nagar, Raisen Road, Bhopal

REACHA Chief Executive Officer New Delhi

In the event of any dispute, controversy, or differences arising out of or relating to this LoU, the Parties agree to resolve the matter amicably through mutual discussion in the spirit of partnership.

The First Party shall be represented by Shri Nikhil Pant, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of REACHA. The Second Party shall be represented by **Dr K K Dwivedi** on behalf of **Oriental College of Technology.** They or their representative will sign communications and take decisions in respect of matters covered under the LoU and it will be binding to their respective organizations.

The terms and provisions in this LoU also apply to any subsequent Addendum to this LoU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this LoU on the day 20 June, 2024.

Director
Oriental College of Technology
Patel Nagar, Raisen Road, Bhopal

Dr K K Dwivedi

Director

Oriental College of Technology,

Oriental Campus, Opp Patel Nagar,

Raisen Road, Bhopal

462021 (M.P.), India

Chief Executive Officer
REACHA, New Delhi

Nikhil Pant

Chairman & Chief Executive officer,

REACHA, 177-178, 2nd Floor,

Triveni Apartments, Jhilmil Colony,

Delhi-110095, India