




MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

AND

SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered in Honiara this 7th DAY of FEBRUARY 2024.

BETWEEN:

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (hereinafter referred to as "MEHRD") of P.O. Box G28, Tongs Building, Honiara, Solomon Islands, represented by the Permanent Secretary Dr Franco Rodie.

AND:

SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (hereinafter referred to as "SINU") of P.O.BOX R113, Kukum Campus, Honiara, Solomon Islands, represented by the Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau.

Hereinafter referred to as the "Parties".

NOW THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1.0 OBJECTIVE

1.1 To extend the effective and mutually beneficial cooperation and development of academic exchange in education, research, seminars, teaching, and additional areas including but not limited to joint projects, student and staff exchange programs, collaborative research initiatives, curriculum development, and cultural exchange activities.

1.2 Strengthen research collaboration, promote knowledge sharing, and enhance the research capabilities of SINU and the Solomon Islands as a whole.

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- 1.3 Enhance cooperation between SINU and MEHRD to develop and update educational curricula that align with national development goals and industry requirements.
- 1.4 Establish mechanisms for quality assurance and accreditation of academic programs offered by SINU, ensuring compliance with national and international standards set by MEHRD through the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Development Authority (SITESA).
- 1.5 Foster collaboration in research activities, promoting the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and resources between SINU and MEHRD to address local educational challenges and contribute to evidence-based policymaking.
- 1.6 Facilitate the provision of scholarships, grants, and financial assistance programs by MEHRD to support deserving students at SINU, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds or remote areas.
- 1.7 Review provision of SIG Policy direction on scholarships offered to student studying at the Solomon Islands National University to be consistent with SINU policy in specific areas. Refer to "Schedule A" on Meal and Accommodation agreement.
- 1.8 Collaborate on initiatives to enhance the professional development of SINU staff, teachers, and education administrators through training programs, workshops, and mentoring opportunities, aimed at improving the quality of education across the country. This partnership will also jointly undertake collaborative methods of working amongst all education stakeholders to ensure teachers and school

leaders have access to the full range of support they need. This collaboration is intended to enable them to continually learn and develop within their own context, thereby contributing to improved student learning and well-being.

- 1.9 This paragraph integrates the objectives of professional development and collaborative working methods to provide a cohesive goal for the MoU, focusing on improving education quality and supporting educators in their professional journey.
- 1.10 Cooperate on initiatives to improve and expand educational infrastructure and facilities, such as classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and IT infrastructure, to create a conducive learning environment for students at SINU.
- 1.11 Facilitate student and staff exchange programs between SINU and MEHRD, enabling students and faculty to gain international exposure, cultural understanding, and academic experiences through collaboration with educational institutions abroad.
- 1.12 Collaborate on the formulation and review of education policies, strategies, and regulations, leveraging the expertise of both SINU and MEHRD to ensure effective and relevant educational policies for the Solomon Islands.
- 1.13 Jointly undertake initiatives to engage with local communities, promoting awareness of the value of education, addressing community needs, and involving stakeholders in educational planning and decision-making processes.
- 1.14 Establish mechanisms for data sharing and research collaboration, enabling SINU and MEHRD to leverage each

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other's resources and expertise in collecting, analyzing, and utilizing educational data for evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.



2.0. SCOPE OF COOPERATION

2.1. The Parties shall cooperate in research, seminars, and teaching as well as other areas of need. In particular, to promote the following collaborative activities:

- a. Teacher Professional Development and continuous teacher and school leader professional learning and development;
- b. In-service and pre-service Training for Primary and Secondary Teachers
- c. Development of Curriculum materials for Schools
- d. Education Conferences
- e. Research/Seminars
- f. Review of teacher education programs offered by the Faculty of Education and Humanities.

2.2. The Parties shall develop specific cooperative programmes in the following areas: -

- a. *Teacher Training and Professional Development*: Establish collaborative programs to enhance teacher training and professional development initiatives. This could include joint workshops, seminars, and conferences aimed at improving teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and classroom management techniques.
- b. *Curriculum Enhancement*: Collaborate on reviewing and updating the existing curriculum to align with current educational needs and industry demands. This can involve joint committees or task forces composed of

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representatives from SINU and the Ministry to identify areas of improvement and implement necessary changes.

- c. *Research and Innovation*: Foster a research culture by promoting joint research projects and sharing research findings between SINU and the Ministry. This collaboration can lead to the development of innovative teaching methods, educational policies, and solutions to address specific educational challenges.
- d. *Student Exchange and Internship Programs*: Develop initiatives that facilitate student exchange programs between SINU and other educational institutions overseas through the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. This would provide students with exposure to different learning environments and practical experiences, enhancing their educational and professional development.
- e. *Infrastructure Development*: Collaborate on infrastructure projects to improve educational facilities and resources. This can involve joint funding efforts, resource sharing, and coordinated planning to address infrastructure gaps in schools and universities.
- f. *Curriculum Integration with Industry Needs*: Work together to ensure that the curriculum offered by SINU aligns with the current and future needs of industries. This collaboration can involve regular consultations with industry representatives, conducting surveys and assessments, and incorporating industry feedback into curriculum development.

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g. *Scholarships and Financial Assistance*: Establish joint scholarship programs and financial assistance schemes to support deserving students. This collaboration can help identify and support talented individuals who may face financial barriers to accessing quality education.

h. *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Integration*: Collaborate on integrating ICT into teaching and learning processes. This can involve joint initiatives to provide access to digital resources, training programs for teachers on utilizing technology effectively, and leveraging technology for remote learning and educational outreach.

i. *Educational Policy Development*: Jointly review and develop educational policies and guidelines that promote inclusive and quality education. This collaboration can involve regular policy discussions, research-backed recommendations, and joint efforts in implementing policy changes.

j. *Community Engagement and Outreach*: Work together to engage the local community in educational initiatives. This can include joint awareness campaigns, community-based projects, and collaborative efforts to promote literacy, lifelong learning, and educational opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

2.3. The Parties may establish supplementary agreements as stated in section 6 for specific cooperation projects between them. The exchange activities shall be carried out within the scope of each institution's financial, material, and institutional limitations.

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3.0. REVIEW OF LAWS ON RESEARCH BY FOREIGN RESEARCHERS AND ORGANISATION IN SOLOMON ISLANDS.

- 3.1. The MEHRD shall support SINU by making it a mandatory requirement for all foreign researchers and projects involving foreign universities to include the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and deposit their work in the SINU digital repository.
- 3.2. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure effective collaboration, knowledge sharing, and preservation of research outcomes between foreign researchers, foreign universities, and SINU. By including SINU and depositing their work in the SINU digital repository, the MEHRD aims to enhance local access to international research, foster academic partnerships, and support the growth of research and education within the Solomon Islands.
- 3.3. This requirement shall apply to all foreign researchers and projects involving foreign universities that operate within the Solomon Islands, regardless of the research discipline or project duration. Specifically, the requirement shall promote:-
- a. Collaboration with SINU: Foreign researchers and projects involving foreign universities must collaborate with SINU during the research process. This collaboration can take various forms, such as joint research projects, data sharing, supervision, or participation in academic events.
 - b. Deposit in SINU Digital Repository: All research outputs, including publications, datasets, reports, and other relevant materials, generated through foreign research and

project collaborations must be deposited in the SINU digital repository. This ensures the long-term preservation and accessibility of research outcomes to the local academic community.

- c. **Timeline and Compliance:** Foreign researchers and projects must adhere to the timeline set by SINU for the submission of research outputs to the digital repository. Compliance with this requirement will be monitored by the MEHRD through periodic audits and assessments.
- d. **Intellectual Property Rights:** Intellectual property rights associated with the research outputs shall be protected according to relevant national and international laws. Clear guidelines regarding ownership, licensing, and attribution of intellectual property should be established through separate agreements between the involved parties.

4.0. PROVISION OF SCHOLARSHIP FOR SINU STAFF.

- 4.1. As part of its development assistance to the Solomon Islands National University, the MEHRD will incorporate the provision of ten (10) annual Scholarships specifically designated for SINU staff. These scholarships can be utilised at any accredited university, including SINU, with the aim of fostering the professional growth and capacity development of SINU staff, thereby contributing to the overall growth and development of the University.
- 4.2. In a collaborative effort, the MEHRD and SINU will explore the feasibility of accommodating all students studying at the Solomon Islands National University and sponsored by the Solomon Islands Government in the University hostels. This initiative aims to ensure these students have full

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access to University privileges, enhancing their educational experience while maintaining an inclusive and consultative approach.

4.3. The MEHRD in consultation with SINU shall review Policy direction relating to specific provision stipulated in the scholarship to be consistent with SINU policy of student welfare in SINU.

4.4. The MEHRD in consultation with SINU shall factor students University remuneration directly to the University except the student stipend allowances which shall be paid to the students.

5.0. TERM OF THE MOU

5.1. This general memorandum shall be effective upon signature by the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years. It may be renewed annually for successive periods of one year.

6.0. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

6.1. The development and implementation of specific activities based on this MoU shall be separately negotiated and agreed upon between the Parties, which shall carry out such activities. Any specific activity is to be specifically detailed in separate Letters of Agreement (LoA), or Letters of Exchange OR through an employment contract.

7.0. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

7.1. The Parties agree that, in the event of research collaboration leading to patent rights, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights, a further agreement must be negotiated in each case in accordance with the

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policies of the Parties on intellectual property.

8.0. LEGAL EFFECT

8.1. The MoU is founded in the true spirit of collaboration and is not legally enforceable, but it does not diminish the intention of the Parties to comply with the terms, conditions, responsibilities, and undertakings stipulated in this MoU.

9.0. AMENDMENT

9.1. This MoU may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties. Any such amendment shall be set out in writing and signed by both Parties.

10.0. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

10.1. Any issue arising from the interpretation of this MoU shall be settled through consultations between the Parties or such other means as they may mutually decide.

10.2. In the case of any dispute pertaining to the interpretation or application of this MoU, the Parties shall seek to reach an amicable solution.

11.0. TERMINATION

11.1. The MoU may be terminated at the end of the contract duration as stated in Article 5 above.

11.2. The Termination shall only be taken after mutual consideration in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to either Party.

11.3. Either Party has the right to terminate the memorandum



without liability by giving six (6) months' notice in writing of such intent.

12.0. LANGUAGE OF INTERPRETATION

12.1. This general memorandum is written, executed, and shall be interpreted in English.

13.0. FORCE MAJEURE

13.1. Neither Party shall be held responsible for non-fulfilment of their respective obligations under this MoU due to exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as, but not limited to, the act of God, war, flood, earthquake, strikes, lockouts, epidemics, riots, civil commotion, etc., provided on the occurrence and cessation of any such events, the Party affected shall thereby give notice in writing to the other Party within one (1) month of such occurrence or cessation.

14.0. GOVERNING LAW

14.1. The construction, interpretation and enforcement of this MoU shall be governed by the laws of Solomon Islands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have affixed their signatures:

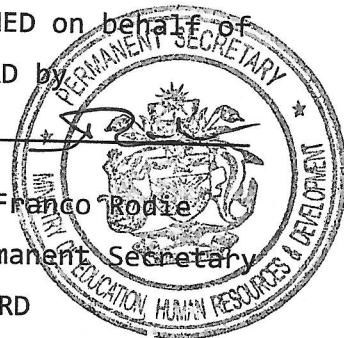
SIGNED on behalf of
SINU by

Professor Trans-form Agokau
Vice Chancellor
SINU



SIGNED on behalf of
MEHRD by

Dr Franco Rodie
Permanent Secretary
MEHRD



7A and 7B

Date: 7/10/13

Place: 11070 (NY)

Date: 7 Feb. 2024

Place: Honolulu

Witnessed by

Witnessed by:

Signed:

Signed:

Name :

Title

Title:

Date:

Name: Coldrine Lisman 152ae

Title: Deputy Secretary / Corporate Gene

Date: 7 Feb 2024

and Fr



SCHEDULE A: MEAL AND ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT

This Meal and Accommodation Agreement (MAA) is made and entered in Honiara this 7th DAY of February 2024.

BETWEEN:

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT through the Ministry of
Education and Human Resources Development
PO Box G28, Honiara, Solomon Islands

AND

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SOLOMON ISLANDS
PO Box R13, Kukum Campus, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Both of whom are herein referred to as the "Parties".

AIM OF STUDENT MEAL and ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT

The aim of this Agreement is to facilitate SIG sponsored students' meals and accommodation provided by the SINU at its Panatina, Ranadi, and Kukum campuses so that the sponsored students can dwell in them, while studying at the university for the duration of their scholarship.

Now the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 - OBJECTIVE

The Parties agree to work in partnership for the purpose that the Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development shall make it mandatory under the Solomon Islands Government scholarship package that meals and accommodation entitlements to all SIG sponsored students be paid directly to SINU.

MA *For* *and* *[Signature]*

ARTICLE 2 - SCOPE OF COOPERATION


- 2.1 The scope covers all SIG sponsored students' meals and accommodation at the Solomon Islands National University.
- 2.2 This Agreement constitutes the whole of the agreement between the parties on the subject matter, superseding all prior oral and written conversations, negotiations, understandings, and agreements in effect as of the date of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3 - DURATION

- 3.1. This MOA is valid for a period of three (3) years and will enter into effect on the date of signing by the Parties. The operation of this MOA may be extended by mutual consent for such period(s) considered desirable by the parties, which period shall be set out in writing in letters of exchange signed by both Parties.

ARTICLE 4 - OBLIGATION OF THE PARTIES

- 4.1. All SIG sponsored students must be provided accommodation by SINU.
- 4.2. All SIG sponsored students must be provided three (3) meals daily by SINU.
- 4.3. The SIG through MEHRD shall pay for accommodation and meals for its sponsored students directly to SINU.
- 4.4 Under no circumstances shall SINU refund SIG sponsored students any monies paid for accommodation and meal/meals. Exceptions may be considered for sponsored students who are married and live in their own accommodation in Honiara upon submission of certified documents.
- 4.5. The SINU shall return to SIG through MEHRD any funds uncommitted or unutilised for its sponsored students in respect of meals and



accommodation.

- 4.6. The SIG through the MEHRD shall be directly responsible for the refund of any other scholarship entitlements to students other than meal and accommodation.

ARTICLE 5 - LEGAL EFFECT

- 5.1 The Parties acknowledge that this MOA is legally enforceable, but that it does not diminish the intention of the parties to comply with the terms, conditions, responsibilities, and undertakings stipulated in this MOA.

ARTICLE 6 - TERMINATION


- 6.1. Either Party may terminate this Agreement, should the term of the scholarship lapse or in the event the student scholarship is terminated by the SIG.

ARTICLE 7- SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- 7.1 The Parties agree that any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be settled amicably in good faith through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

ARTICLE 8- CONFIDENTIALITY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 8.1 The Parties shall not disclose or distribute any confidential information, documents, or data received or supplied to the other in the course of the implementation of this Agreement to any third party, except as authorized in writing to do so by the requesting party. The parties further agree to recognize each other's intellectual property rights in relation to the performance of the responsibilities of each party under this MOA.

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ARTICLE 9- GOVERNING LAW

- 9.1 The construction, interpretation, and enforcement of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of Solomon Islands.

ARTICLE 10- FORCE MAJEURE

- 10.1 Neither Party shall be held responsible for non-fulfilment of their respective obligations under this Agreement due to exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as, but not limited to, the act of God, war, flood, earthquake, strikes, lockouts, epidemics, riots, civil commotion, etc., provided on the occurrence and cessation of any such events, the Party affected thereby shall give a notice in writing to the other Party within 1(one) month of such occurrence or cessation.

ARTICLE 11 - MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- 11.1 This Agreement may be varied and/or amended by the mutual agreement of the Parties and any such variation shall be set out in writing and signed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 12 - DESIGNATION OF OFFICE

- 12.1 Each Party shall designate an office and/or an officer which/who shall serve as liaison for implementing this Agreement. Unless the other Party is advised in writing, for SINU, this person is the Vice Chancellor, for MEHRD, this person is the Permanent Secretary.

