

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the

**Mehr Alborz University of Information and Communication Technology,**

Tehran, Iran



and

**University Of Wollongong,**

Wollongong, Australia





## I- Parties and Purpose

The Alborz University of Information and Communication Technology (AU ICT) is a private internet based (virtual) university in Iran. It has been granted full accreditation by the Iranian government's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (Ministry of Higher Education).

The University aims to significantly increase educational opportunities throughout Iran for secondary school graduates who cannot attend conventional universities due to the severe capacity limitations of the current tertiary education system. AU ICT academic courses, services and programs have been tailored to develop a large pool of academically as well as technically skilled manpower in Information and Communication Technology and its related products and services.

AU ICT will commence its operation in October 2005, initially offering a Masters program in Internet Technology. AU ICT's development plan predicts a student population of 200/000 by the year 2021, and the implementation of a wider range of major degree programs (close to 50).

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is a leading Australian university in offering high quality formal educational programs (both teaching and research) at Bachelor, Master and doctoral levels in disciplines related to Information and Communication Technology. UOW has a firm technological infrastructure, capabilities and expertise for supporting on-campus and off-campus teaching and learning using Internet technology.

UOW's extensive experience in staff and student support services, as well as information technology services are valued significance.

Both organizations agree to establish and conduct mutually agreed upon collaborative projects and/or activities that will enhance their respective courses and programs. For the purposes of this memorandum the organization indicated above will be referred to as the Alborz University of Information and Communication Technology (AU ICT) and the University of Wollongong (UOW).

## II- Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration

AU ICT will commence operation in October 2005, and progress in two distinct phases:



1. Elite Education Phase – This initial organizational phase will be implemented in the first years of operation until. This phase is characterized by a relatively minimal student intake, the highest quality of services with a greater emphasis on establishing the University’s technical and educational infrastructure.
2. Mass Education Phase – This expansionary phase will be implemented at the beginning of the third year of University operation (2008). During this phase the University will focus on rapid expansion and development throughout the capital city and the country, increasing student intake and course offerings.

### **Phase 1 (2005 - 2007)**

Initial areas of cooperation and collaboration to occur during the implementation of phase 1 (Elite Education Phase), will be mostly confined to specific services (mentioned below) that UOW can offer, based on contractual agreements and/or the terms and conditions of a possible UOW/AU\_ICT partnership.

During “Phase 1” UOW involvement would include, but not limited to,

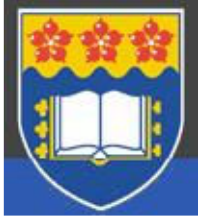
- 1- Cooperating in setting up the AU\_ICT quality assurance standard and policy as well as practical guidelines and best practices in online teaching and learning,
- 2- Assisting AU\_ICT in setting up its Staff Development Centre that include academic staff training for online course delivery and the development of digital content,
- 3- Assisting AU\_ICT to run marketing exercises highlighting the UOW/AU\_ICT partnership within Iran,
- 4- Provision for visiting Professors and E-Learning Experts from UOW to travel to Iran for assisting AU\_ICT as per future negotiations.

Specific details of each of the collaborative tasks/projects and/or activities will be defined by mutual agreement in writing.

### **Phase 2 (2008-2009-2010)**

Areas of cooperation and collaboration during ‘Phase 2’ (Mass Education Phase) will mostly be confined to joint degree offerings, exchange of online resources (educational content and educational support materials), access provisions and staff/student exchange opportunities.

During ‘Phase 2’, AU\_ICT and UOW will agree to establish and conduct mutually agreed upon collaborative projects and/or activities in the following areas.



1. UOW provision of access to learning and training facilities for AU\_ICT faculty.
2. AU\_ICT provision of access to learning and training facilities for UOW faculty.
3. Provision for PhD students fro AU\_ICT to complete part of their study at UOW at the published UOW fee for overseas students, and embarking on joint research degree programs if it fits with UOW rules and regulations,
4. Encouraging cooperation in their respective research programs,
5. Provision for exchanging information including, but not limited to, research publications and papers of mutual interest,
6. Encouraging mutual visits for research, lectures, and consultation,
7. Consulting each other on policy matters of mutual concern to the extend possible,
8. joint degree offering (endorsed by both UOW and AU\_ICT),

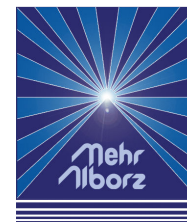
Specific details of each of the collaborative tasks/projects and/or activities will be defined by mutual agreement in writing.

Themes of joint activities and the most appropriate way of utilizing results achieved, arrangements for specific visits, exchanges, and other forms of cooperation will be developed in each specific instance. Both parties understand that all financial arrangements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds.

### III-Duration, Termination and Modification of Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of the last signature, with the understanding that it may be terminated by either party giving nine months' notice to the other party in writing, unless an earlier termination is mutually agreed upon.

Revisions or modifications may be proposed at any time, effective from the date of written agreement signed by both parties.



#### IV. Signatures

University of Wollongong

Mehr Alborz University of Information and  
Communication Technology

Approved by:

Approved by:

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Dated

Dated

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Professor Gerard Sutton  
Vice- chancellor and Principle

Professor Alinaghy Kharrazi  
President/chair of the University Senate and  
Head of Founding Members Council