



Country Brief – India

DIISRTE New Delhi will continue to build Australia's reputation and engagement in India at the government, industry and institutional level through activities under the:

- 2012 Prime Ministers' Joint Statement
- 2012 Memorandum of Understanding on Student Mobility and Welfare
- 2011 Australia India Joint Communiqué on Education Cooperation
- 2010 Joint Ministerial Statement on Education, Training and Research Collaboration
- 2003 Exchange Program on Education and Training Cooperation
- 2003, 2006 and 2011 Memoranda of Understanding in Science and Technology with Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology.

Engagement with India is formalised through the:

- Annual Education Ministers' Dialogue
- Australia India Education Council
- Australia India Strategic Research Fund
- Annual Australia India Joint Working Groups in education and science
- Australia India Education Links (www.australiaindiaeducation.com) web portal
- MyOzNetwork (www.myoznetwork.com) alumni social networking site.

Australia India Education Council (AIEC)

The AIEC continues to guide the strategic direction of the bilateral education, training and research partnership. In 2012/13, key projects were progressed by working groups in five key areas:

- institutional collaboration in higher education
- student mobility and welfare
- skills
- quality assurance and qualification recognition
- joint research.

More information on the AIEC is available at www.australiaindiaeducation.com

Australia India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)

The AISRF is Australia's largest bilateral science program with any country (\$64 million) and one of India's biggest sources of support for international science collaboration.

The AISRF supports collaborative projects and workshops in priority areas agreed by the two governments, as well as fellowship programs.

Since its inception, the program has brought together more than 90 top universities and research institutions on both sides and hundreds of researchers to help tackle the grand challenges of today, including in food and water security, environment, health and energy.

More information is available at www.innovation.gov.au/aisrf

Looking ahead

India's 12th Five Year Plan for 2012-17¹

Priorities for the Indian Government over the next five years include:

Education and skills

- Focus on expansion, quality and equity
- Improved learning outcomes through job-relevant education
- Building research capability in universities
- Raising teacher training standards
- Increasing workforce with formal VET skills from 10% to 25% by 2017
- VET in schools and new community colleges
- A National Skill Qualifications Framework with standards developed by Sector Skill Councils
- Improved quality and quantity of trainers (training of trainers)
- Promoting Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)
- Development of a higher education internationalisation strategy to encourage joint research, mobility (faculty and students), credit transfer and qualifications recognition arrangements, and online learning delivery to overcome acute faculty shortages.

Science

- New Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2013 aims to position India among top 5 global scientific powers by 2020
- Focus on attracting students to science, stimulating research in universities, and expanding number of research institutions and international collaborations
- Increase gross expenditure on R&D to 2 per cent of GDP, by encouraging private sector investment from 0.2% to 1% of GDP.

Legislation

- Nine education related Bills currently pending Parliamentary approval, including The Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010
- University Grants Commission proposal to limit twinning arrangements to only Top 500 Times/Shanghai Jiao Tong foreign institutions not currently being pursued.

Key activities 2013

- Annual Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation – Australia, first half 2013
- 2nd Australia India Education Council (AIEC) meeting – Australia, first half 2013
- Australia-India Joint Working Group on education and training cooperation – Australia
- Annual Joint Science and Technology Committee and Joint Biotechnology Committee meetings – India.

Counsellor contact details

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¹ Refer Australia India Education Links website for relevant policy documents: www.australiaindiaeducation.com