



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education**



**Ministry of Human Resource  
Development**  
Government of India

**Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation**  
**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**  
**Between Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India**  
**and the Department of Education of the Government of Australia**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**  
**New Delhi, India**

1. The Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and The Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Australia the Hon. Dan Tehan MP held the 5<sup>th</sup> Australia-India Education Council meeting in New Delhi, India on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.
2. Both the Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made by the Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Australia in April 2017 to strengthen the bilateral relations in education, training and research.
3. Both the Ministers agreed and stressed the importance of education to maximise the potential of a country's human capital. Both the Ministers noted the comprehensive programs on education reform underway in both the countries and the opportunities this presents to connect and engage the policy makers and education providers.
4. The Ministers commended the contribution of Australia-India Education Council for the progress across the key areas of higher education and research, quality assurance and qualifications recognition, student mobility and schools, resulting in improving collaboration across borders and developing new networks of education between Australia and India.
5. The Ministers recognised the importance of institutional partnerships in strengthening collaboration among students, academics and universities. The provision of greater autonomy to top institutions will encourage joint research partnerships/projects, joint supervision of PhDs, student/faculty mobility and other academic programs.
6. The Ministers acknowledged the significant achievement made in the area of qualifications recognition, with India now recognising the Australian pathway programs, provided the credits are reflected in the transcripts of the Australian university as mutually agreed. The Ministers expressed the need to continue working together in this area to ensure students, who undertake joint programs, have their qualifications recognised. It was agreed that this policy work was paramount to encouraging a highly skilled and mobile global workforce.

7. The Ministers encouraged collaboration between higher education policy makers and quality assurance agencies to remove barriers that might hinder partnerships between quality partners. The Ministers agreed to cooperation between the two countries' quality assurance agencies.
8. The Ministers noted the strength of research engagement between Australia and India and noted their interest in establishing deeper partnerships. The Ministers witnessed the first India-Australia International Education and Research Workshop, which brought together experts from both countries to support greater understanding of the research and education systems in India and Australia, as well as encourage greater institutional partnerships and research collaborations in mutually beneficial fields. The Ministers supported the delivery of further workshops in priority areas, such as food and water security, soils, sustainable habitats and mobility revolutions, environmental change and energy frontiers, the future of healthcare as well as digital humanities and intelligent futures. The workshops will connect Indian and Australian researchers and help foster research partnerships to address common problems.
9. The Ministers committed to increasing Australia–India academic mobility in Higher Education including increasing Australian participation in the successful Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) and Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration conducted by the Government of India. To achieve deeper collaborations in research, the Ministers propose to establish the Australia-India Research Students Fellowship pilot program, which will explore opportunities to connect Indian and Australian research students to undertake short term research within an institutional partnership.
10. On student mobility, the Ministers noted the need for increasing the number of Australian students studying in India and committed to the policy of balanced mobility of students.
11. The Ministers underlined the importance of basic education. Australia and India will collaborate in schools policy including school curriculum, teaching and learning. This collaboration will include the sharing of evidence and expertise between the Ministry of Human Resources Development and the Department of Education.
12. The Ministers committed to make effective use of ICT infrastructure to facilitate learning and where feasible to share resources in higher education, schools and skills. Ministers committed to greater collaboration through online delivery of education and agreed to work collaboratively to develop a standard for assuring quality for online education delivery, beginning with a joint workshop on online education quality assurance.
13. The Ministers agreed the Australia-India Education Council has effectively displayed an overarching role in strengthening the Australia-India bilateral education and research relationship in both policy and program engagement.
14. Ministers proposed that the next meeting will be in Australia in 2020.

Adopted on 22 November 2019