

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE FOUNDATION *La main à la pâte*

and

THE UNIVERSITY OF ISFAHAN

on

## COOPERATION IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

### Considering:

- A. The wish of the Parties to carry out joint actions to ensure dissemination of inquiry-based science education (IBSE) at primary and secondary level, supported by the firm conviction that science education fosters reasoning capabilities, cognitive skills and citizenship among learners and provides some necessary elements for a good understanding of nature and reality;
- B. The mission assigned to the Fondation *La main à la pâte*, France, by its founding members the French Académie des sciences, the École normale supérieure (Paris) and the École normale supérieure de Lyon, which is “to foster the scientific and pedagogic cooperation between various institutions in order to improve the quality of science and technology teaching at primary and secondary levels, especially by contributing to the professional development of teachers”. The international action is carried out by the Fondation, which according to its bylaws, « develops any cooperation, especially at European and international levels », through various means, providing professional development for teachers and their educators, with pedagogical and scientific resources ;
- C. The will of the University of Isfahan is to establish a Centre for IBSE implementation in Iran, providing the contribution of active scientists and academic members to this development ;
- D. The wish of ECOSF to support IBSE development in the ECO region, which includes Iran.

### Article 1

The Parties agree to jointly prepare and sign a detailed AGREEMENT of COOPERATION, in order

- a. to work in a cooperative partnership to improve teaching and learning science at primary and secondary level through an inquiry-based approach;
- b. to provide professional development opportunities to the educational staff in Iran, in an IBSE Centre at the University of Isfahan, aiming especially at teacher educators and trainers, with a deeper knowledge and understanding of inquiry-based science education,

and how to apply it in schools. The Centre would cooperate with the Ministry of Science, Research & technology and the Ministry of Education, in order to establish future education plans ;

- c. To provide a framework for future developments, including fund raising, partners, etc.

### **Article 2**

The detailed implementation of the above lines of actions will be specified in the above AGREEMENT, to be finalized by mutual consultation. The Parties agree that this AGREEMENT will be signed **within the next six months**. The AGREEMENT might include additional Parties.

### **Article 3**

- a. Each Party will designate a focal person in charge of the MOU follow-up and will reciprocally inform each other of any development of its programme;
- b. The present Memorandum of Understanding is valid for a period of six months. It could then be updated after joint evaluation and discussion of the Parties;
- c. The present Memorandum of Understanding may be cancelled by any Party – with a statement of reason – by letter within a two months notice, without compensation of any kind;
- d. The Parties agree that good faith rules the interpretation and the execution of the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding. In case of divergence, the Parties will make an effort to come to an agreement by all means of discussion before resorting to the legal authorities.

Signed in Isfahan, on January 8, 2017

For the  
FONDATION *La main à la pâte*,  
FRANCE

For the  
UNIVERSITY OF ISFAHAN,  
IRAN

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**Prof. Pierre Léna**  
University Paris-Diderot  
Honorary President, Fondation *La main à la pâte*

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**Prof. Dr. Hooshang Talbi**  
President  
University of Isfahan