



**MEMORANDUM OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PARTNERSHIP NETWORK OF LEADING UNIVERSITIES OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

We, the representatives of higher education organizations of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

- *aiming* at strengthening partnership between higher education systems, universities and academic communities of the CICA Member States,
- *recognizing* the strategic importance of cooperation in the field of higher education, research and cultural exchange,

have decided to join a CICA partnership network and have come to an understanding on the following:

1.

The CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU) consists of leading universities of CICA Member States participating on a voluntary basis.

This Memorandum of Establishment referred as MoE hereinafter sets the objectives, areas and forms of cooperation of the universities of CICA Member States, which have joined the PNLU.

The education institutions which have joined to this MoE will be referred as Members of the PNLU.

This MoE is open to accession for higher education institutions of all CICA Member States. Joining is carried out by written notification to the CICA Secretariat through diplomatic channels.

The PNLU Members will act on the basis of the legislation of the CICA Member States.

This MoE is not a treaty within the meaning of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of May 23, 1969 and does not create benefits and commitments for the CICA Member States regulated by international law.

2.

The activities of the PNLU are based on the principles of pursuing common objectives and interests of its Members, openness, equality and trust, independence and autonomy, practical focus on development of education systems, close interaction with research centers, and flexibility in choosing forms and mechanisms of cooperation.

3.

The areas of cooperation within the PNLU are based on the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and other relevant areas decided in writing among the PNLU Members on the basis of consensus.

4.

The objectives of the PNLU are:

- expansion of cooperation of the CICA Member States in the human dimension towards strengthening peace, security, stability and prosperity in Asia;
- encouraging exchange among the PNLU Members, to promote scientific cooperation and academic exchange of students and faculty members;
- development of regional academic mobility of students, faculty members, scientists in the CICA region;
- introduction and implementation of scholarship programmes within the framework of joint educational programmes;
- organization and implementation of joint scientific, research and educational activities, events, programmes and projects.

5.

Structure and forms of cooperation include, but are not limited to:

- implementation of joint educational programmes, academic mobility, research projects and exchange programmes for teaching staff and students of PNLU Members;
- short-term training (full-time training for a period from 2 weeks to 1 semester, internships, advanced training courses, guest lectures by faculty members, experts and scientists);
- long-term training (full-time master's degree training within the "1+1" scheme: 1 year/semester at a local university, 1 year/semester at a partner university; joint thesis defense; issuance of two diplomas according to national laws of the Member States);
- joint events (conferences, scientific and research projects, symposia, workshops, etc.);
- discussion on harmonization of mechanisms for recognition and equivalence of educational documents among Members of the CICA PNLU;
- conducting other activities under strategic priorities of the PNLU determined by its Members;
- preparation and publication of the annual report of the PNLU with conclusions and proposals for the relevant departments of the CICA Member States;
- each PNLU Member will strive to provide annually educational grants for students from CICA Member States.

6.

The PNLU activities will be governed by the Coordination Council composed of:

- a PNLU Member assigned by the CICA Chairmanship and approved by the CICA Senior Officials Committee as Chair of the Coordination Council for a two-year term;
- PNLU Members assigned by the CICA Member States coordinating and co-ordinating implementation of confidence building measures in the human dimension;
- a representative of the CICA Secretariat.

The PNLU Coordination Council will plan, coordinate and review PNLU activities and will annually report to the CICA Senior Officials Committee.

The PNLU Coordination Council will hold its meetings in conjunction with the Regular meeting of the PNLU Members or more often as necessary.

7.

Regular meetings of the PNLU Members will be held not less than once a year and convened by the Chair of the PNLU Coordination Council.

Additional meetings of the PNLU Members may be convened at the initiative of any PNLU Member in consultation with the PNLU Coordination Council.

Organizational costs associated with the holding of PNLU meetings will be borne by the initiator and/or host of the meeting, international travel expenses of meeting participants will be borne by the sending PNLU Members.

8.

The date of approval of this MoE by the CICA Ministerial Council will be considered as the date of the establishment of the PNLU and opening it for accession of higher education institutions of the CICA Member States.

Any Member may discontinue its membership in the PNLU by a written notification to the CICA Secretariat through diplomatic channels. Unilateral discontinuation of the application of this MoE will be without prejudice to the completion of that Member's ongoing activities under this MoE, unless otherwise decided in writing with other PNLU Members participating in these activities.