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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES

The Government of the Republic of India represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties",

Mindful of the need to strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries through development of co-operation in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities.

Considering that the advantage to be derived from development of cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities;

Have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE-I

The Contracting Parties shall promote development of co-operation in fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities between the two countries through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel.

ARTICLE-II

The joint activities will be determined by the Contracting Parties and implemented through mutually agreed procedures.

Such joint activities should be environmentally sound and sustainable and may include the areas of aquaculture germplasm exchange and training in fish stock assessment, post harvest technology, freshwater pearl culture, Hilsa fisheries management, protection of biological diversity related to fisheries development, fish production, distribution, trade and international protocol on Biosafety.

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ARTICLE-III

The Contracting Parties shall jointly promote co-operation within this framework of the activities mentioned in Article II. Biennial Work Plans will be drawn up by mutual agreement between the contracting parties to give effect to the objectives of this MOU.

ARTICLE-IV

A Joint Working Group (JWG) shall be formed to provide guidance, review the progress of activities and to facilitate co-operation under this Memorandum. The Joint Working Group Meeting shall be arranged every year alternately in India and Bangladesh.

Each Contracting Party shall designate an Executive Secretary who shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring all activities to be carried out under the auspices of this Memorandum. The Executive Secretaries will either meet in person or correspond with each other to develop a work programme and coordinate administrative details.

ARTICLE-V

Under this Memorandum, the designated coordinating authorities will be the Ministry of Agriculture for the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

ARTICLE-VI

The Memorandum authorizes the involvement of other interested Government agencies, the scientific and business communities as well as the private sectors of both countries in such co-operation.

ARTICLE-VII

The sending party will bear the costs of travel(s) and the receiving party will provide local hospitality. Activities pursuant to this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funds and personnel and to the laws and regulations of the respective counties of the parties.

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ARTICLE-VIII

The Memorandum shall not in any way affect the commitments of the Contracting Parties under existing bilateral agreements between the two countries.

ARTICLE-IX

The Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature by both parties and shall remain valid for a period of 5(five) years. This MOU may be extended for further period as may be mutually agreed upon. Either of the parties may terminate the MOU by giving at least 6(six) months notice in advance of its intention to terminate the MOU. The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of any implementing arrangement/project executed and commenced thereunder and the activities in progress shall continue until completed.

ARTICLE-X

This MOU may be modified or amended by mutual consent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have hereto signed this Memorandum and affixed hereto their seals.

Done at Dhaka on this Sixth day of September, 2011 two originals in English language.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH