

**Memorandum of Cooperation**  
**on**  
**Education**  
**between**  
**the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education**  
**of the Province of British Columbia of Canada**  
**and**  
**the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science**  
**and Technology of Japan**

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education of the Province of British Columbia of Canada and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (hereinafter individually referred to as the “Participant” and collectively referred to as the “Participants”),

***Considering***

- a. the strong cultural and economic ties between the Province of British Columbia and the country of Japan;
- b. that multicultural and multilingual education is a powerful means of fostering mutual understanding and solidarity between peoples and nations;
- c. that multicultural and multilingual education, in addition to preserving cultural identity, is also a means of cultural enrichment;
- d. that the Participants strive for cooperation and promotion of cultural values and a better mutual understanding between their citizens; and

***Wishing*** to establish a cooperative relationship in two-way educational exchange and promotion between the Participants by expanding the range of cooperation between them to

create opportunities for collaboration at any level from Kindergarten to University in public or private institutions,

Have reached the following recognitions:

## **1. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Memorandum of Cooperation are to:

- a. identify the areas of enhanced cooperation in educational exchange and promotion between British Columbia and Japan; and
- b. forge strong reciprocal relationships in support of jobs, trade and economic growth through educational cooperation.

## **2. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The Participants will jointly promote information exchange, in line with their respective mandates, with a view to communicating the following information:

- i. Information on educational policies and regulations;
- ii. Information on two-way educational exchange and promotion activities;
- iii. Information on mutual visits in the field of education such as educators, education administrators or government officials; and
- iv. Information on services to each other's educational institutions and their cooperative projects.

## **3. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The Participants will cooperate on the following priority areas for two-way educational exchange:

### **a. Visiting Teachers**

The Participants will encourage the promotion of opportunities for educators to practice or study in British Columbian and Japanese schools and educational institutions, including professional development and programs of study offered by them.

### **b. Student Mobility (from 6 years old to post-secondary age)**

The Participants will encourage the promotion of opportunities for students to

study in British Columbian and Japanese schools and educational institutions, providing relevant information to them where appropriate.

c. British Columbia Certified Offshore Schools in Japan

- i. British Columbia will certify BC Offshore Schools that are operating in Japan so long as they meet British Columbia's requirements for operation.
- ii. Japan will recognize the BC Offshore Schools Program in Japan so long as the certified BC Offshore Schools operating in Japan meet Japan's requirements for operation.

Further topics for cooperation include:

- i. Vocational education and training;
- ii. Summer and winter camps and cooperative programs;
- iii. Cooperation on curriculum development;
- iv. Best practices for teaching;
- v. Joint teaching programs;
- vi. Teacher and Principal training;
- vii. Joint programs for academic certification;
- viii. Credit recognition; and
- ix. Technology and learning platforms.

#### **4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- a. This Memorandum of Cooperation will not create a legal relationship between the Participants, demonstrate an intention to enter into a legal relationship, or create any legal, contractual or financial rights or obligations for the Participants.
- b. The Participants will conduct the cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Cooperation at their discretion, subject to the availability of resources, on a case-by-case basis.
- c. The Participants will settle any difference in relation to this Memorandum of Cooperation, including any question regarding its existence, duration, termination, interpretation or application, amicably through negotiation.

#### **5. DURATION**

- a. This Memorandum of Cooperation:

- i. Will commence on the date of its signature and continue for four (4) years, and will automatically be renewed for four additional, one-year (1) periods, to a maximum of eight (8) years;
- ii. May be modified by mutual written consent by the Participants; and
- iii. May be terminated by either Participant upon one (1) month written notice to the other Participant.

Signed in duplicate on this 4th day of June, 2015, at Tokyo, in the English language.

For the  
Ministry of Education  
and the Ministry of Advanced  
Education of the Province of  
British Columbia, Canada



Peter Fassbender  
Minister

For the  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology, Japan



Hakubun Shimomura  
Minister