

Joint Declaration of Intent
between
the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
of the Republic of India
and
the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
of Canada
on Cooperation in the field of Information Communications Technology and
Electronics

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of Canada (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Participants" and individually as the "Participant"),

Welcoming the growing partnership between Canada and the Republic of India (India), including the strengthening of their cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology and Electronics ("ICTE") through the Canada – India Information & Communications Technology Working Group ("ICTWG"), and sharing these interests;

Desiring to further develop and strengthen industrial, technological, commercial, research and innovation cooperation between the two countries;

Recognizing the potential for enhanced cooperation in the ICTE sector by leveraging their respective capabilities and competencies to mutual benefit;

Seeking to make sustained efforts to facilitate and promote enhanced trade in goods and services, investments, joint initiatives and joint ventures in the ICTE sector;

Have reached the following understandings:

1. Objectives of Cooperation

The objective of this Joint Declaration of Intent ("Joint Declaration") is to re-establish the ICTWG as the forum to address the following areas of cooperation:

- (a) explore the opportunities for collaboration in the course of implementation of India's ambitious Digital India programme and Canada's Innovation and Skills Plan;
- (b) foster active cooperation and information exchanges between companies, research and training institutes, governmental entities, and other organizations of the two countries, working in the ICTE sector;
- (c) establish partnerships in order to promote cooperation between private sector companies and the public sectors of India and Canada to address obstacles and challenges to greater trade, investment and manufacturing best practices in the ICTE sector between the two countries.

2. Areas of Cooperation

The main areas of cooperation between the Participants may include the following:

- (a) information exchanges between private and public entities of both countries in the sector of ICTE development and related public policy issues and practices;
- (b) strengthening collaboration in the ICTE sector in areas such as e-Government services, smart city initiatives, cybersecurity, and use of emerging technologies, including cloud computing, artificial intelligence, Big Data, Quantum Computing;
- (c) exploring ways to further strengthen Business to Business Cooperation and the ICTE ecosystem in Canada and India;
- (d) promoting and identifying innovative ways of training and development including through education, distance learning and exchange programs in the ICTE sector;
- (e) sharing best practices in the areas of regulatory policy and institutional frameworks to develop an internationally competitive ICTE manufacturing and services industry;
- (f) discussing best practices for ensuring the necessary highly-skilled talent is available to effectively drive the growth of the ICTE sector in India and Canada. The Participants will discuss human resources management policies for deploying high-skilled employees to ensure that companies in both countries have access to talent that fosters economic growth and innovation;
- (g) promoting cooperation in areas of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing with a view to establishing economic efficiencies in manufacturing and collaborative hardware clusters;

- (h) promoting start-up ecosystem by sharing of information on accelerator, venture capital, incubator of technology startups and of support for exchange of startups with accelerators and incubators of the Participants;
- (i) participating in international events organized by Canada and India, as appropriate.

3. Funding and Resources

- (a) The implementation of cooperative activities under this Joint Declaration will be subject to the availability of the respective resources of the Participants.
- (b) The Participants may share the cost of such cooperative activities, as determined jointly between them.

4. Implementation

The Participants understand that:

- (a) the ICTWG will be comprised of their respective representatives and other relevant Government agencies, stakeholders, and private sector representatives of their respective country.;
- (b) the ICTWG will be under their direction;
- (c) they will oversee cooperation pursuant to this Joint Declaration;
- (d) The ICTWG will define modalities and mechanisms for identifying and implementing mutually decided cooperative activities carried out through this Joint Declaration, including aspects related to feasibility, funding and reporting mechanisms.

5. Commencement of Cooperation, Modification and Discontinuation

- (a) This Joint Declaration will take effect on the date of its last signature by the Participants and will remain valid for a period of five years. Thereafter, the Participants may consider renewing this Joint Declaration for a further period upon their mutual consent in writing.
- (b) Either Participant may terminate this Joint Declaration by giving a six months written notice to the other Participant.

- (c) The Participants may modify this Joint Declaration upon their mutual consent in writing. The Participants understand that such modifications will apply from the date of their mutual written consent.
- (d) The Participants understand that, notwithstanding termination of this Joint Declaration, cooperative activities already underway will continue until their completion.
- (e) This Joint Declaration is not an international agreement and does not give rise to international legal rights or obligations.
- (f) This Joint Declaration is a framework for enabling discussions on various issues in the ICTE sector. The Participants understand that specific proposals or projects evolving through such discussions will be implemented through specific instruments to be signed between the participants concerned.

6. Differences regarding the interpretation and application of this Joint Declaration

Any differences regarding the interpretation and application of this Joint Declaration will be resolved by consultations between the Participants.

Signed in two original sets on February 23, 2018 at New Delhi in English, Hindi and French languages.

For and on behalf of the Republic of India



Ravi Shankar Prasad
Minister of Electronics & Information
Technology and Law & Justice
of Government of the Republic of India

For and on behalf of the Government of
Canada



Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and
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