THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT ON NURSING SERVICES

The Indian Nursing Council and the Singapore Nursing Board (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party");

Recalling the *Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Singapore* ("CECA") signed on 29 June 2005, in New Delhi, India, which entered into force on 1 August 2005;

Noting the commitment made by the Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as "India") and the Government of the Republic of Singapore (hereinafter referred to as "Singapore") in Chapter 7 (Trade in Services) of the CECA to ensure that their respective professional bodies in the various service sectors mentioned therein, including nursing, negotiate and conclude, within twelve months of the date of entry into force of the CECA, any such agreements or arrangements providing for mutual recognition of the education or experience obtained, requirements met, or licenses or certifications in those service sectors, the details of such agreements or arrangements, including the exact extent and scope of recognition;

Recalling the meeting between the Parties on 8 June 2006 and 23 April 2007 to discuss the development of mutual recognition standards and criteria for registration and certification of professional nurses;

Desiring to establish a framework to enhance market access by providing for the mutual recognition of nurses registered in India and Singapore and for reciprocal registration of nurses in both countries; and

HAVE AGREED on this Mutual Recognition Agreement ("MRA") as follows:

ARTICLE 1
OBJECTIVES

The objective of this MRA is to establish mutual recognition and facilitate the mobility of registered nurses from India and Singapore.

ARTICLE 2
DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

In this MRA, unless the context otherwise stated,

2.1 **Country of Origin** refers to either India or Singapore, as the case may be, where the Registered Nurse has a valid and current licence to practise nursing;

2.2 **Foreign Nurse** refers to:

(a) in respect of India, a Registered Nurse who is a national of Singapore, licensed to practise nursing in Singapore, and is applying to register to practise nursing in India in accordance with the Policy on the Practice of Nursing in India; and

(b) In respect of Singapore, a Registered Nurse who is a national of India, licensed to practise nursing in India, and is applying to register to practise nursing in Singapore in accordance with the Policy on the Practice of Nursing in Singapore;

2.3 **Host Country** refers to either India or Singapore, as the case may be, where the Foreign Nurse applies for registration to practise nursing;

2.4 **Nursing Qualification** means the qualification in nursing granted by a Recognised Training Institution approved and recognised by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin;

2.5 **Nursing Regulatory Authority** means a body vested with the authority by the Government of the country to control and regulate nurses and the practice of nursing. In this MRA, Nursing Regulatory Authority refers to the following:

Indian Nursing Council	for India
Singapore Nursing Board	for Singapore

2.6 **Practice of Nursing** refers to the provision of nursing care by a Registered Nurse that encompasses promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative practices which may include education and research;

2.7 **Registered Nurse** refers to a natural person who has completed the requisite training, has been conferred the Nursing Qualification; and has been assessed by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin as being legally qualified to undertake nursing practice; and is registered or licensed as a registered nurse by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin; and

2.8 **Recognised Training Institution** means any university, college or nursing education institutions approved by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin following procedures as prescribed by its Government or its relevant authority, as specified in the Annex[1].

ARTICLE 3
RECOGNITION, QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN NURSES

3.1 **Recognition of a Foreign Nurse**

A Foreign Nurse may apply for registration in a Host Country to be recognised and allowed to practise nursing in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Host Country concerned, if he or she has:

3.1.1 been granted a Nursing Qualification;

3.1.2 in possession a valid professional registration from the Country of Origin and a current practising licence or certificate or any relevant certifying documents;

[1] The Annex shall form an integral part of this MRA and may be amended in accordance with Article 8.

3.1.3 complied with satisfactory continuing professional development in accordance with the Policy on Continuing Professional Development in nursing as may be mandated by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin;

3.1.4 obtained certification from the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin of no record of or pending investigation of having violated any technical, professional or ethical standards, local and international, for the Practice of Nursing; and

3.1.5 complied with any other requirements, such as to submit for a personal medical examination or undergo an induction program or a competency assessment, as may be imposed on any such application for registration as deemed fit by the Nursing Regulatory Authority or any other relevant authority or the Government of the Host Country concerned.

3.2 **Eligibility of a Foreign Nurse**

Subject to domestic laws and regulations of the Host Country, a Foreign Nurse who satisfies the conditions as stated in Article 3.1 shall be deemed eligible to work in the Host Country.

3.3 **Undertaking of a Foreign Nurse**

A Foreign Nurse who is granted registration in a Host Country to practise Nursing must comply with the following:

3.3.1 Local codes of professional conduct in accordance with the policy on ethics and conduct on the Practice of Nursing established and enforced by the Host Country concerned;

3.3.2 Prevailing domestic laws and regulations of the Host Country concerned;

3.3.3 Administrative directives as issued from time to time by the relevant authorities of the Host Country concerned; and

3.3.4 Respect the culture and religion of the Host Country concerned.

ARTICLE 4
IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

4.1 The Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Host Country shall be responsible for the following:

4.1.1 Evaluate the qualifications and experiences of Foreign Nurses;

4.1.2 Register or license Foreign Nurses allowing them to practise nursing in the Host Country;

4.1.3 Monitor the professional practice and conduct of Foreign Nurses who have been licensed or registered; and

4.1.4 Ensure that Foreign Nurses observe and maintain high standards of Practice of Nursing in accordance with the code of professional conduct of the Host Country.

4.1.5 Perform statutory responsibilities in respect of protection of health, safety, environment, and welfare of the community within its respective jurisdiction.

4.2 In order to implement the objectives of this MRA and to monitor their continued validity, the Nursing Regulatory Authorities of India and Singapore shall:

4.2.1 Seek greater understanding of existing policies, procedures and practices, to develop and promote strategies to manage the implementation of this MRA;

4.2.2 Update changes or developments in the relevant prevailing laws, regulations and practices of each Host Country; and

4.2.3 Continue mutual monitoring and information exchange and review this MRA as and when needed.

ARTICLE 5
MUTUAL EXEMPTION

5.1 The Parties recognise that any agreement or arrangement, which would confer exemption from further assessment by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of a Host Country could be concluded only with the involvement and consent of that Nursing Regulatory Authority.

ARTICLE 6
MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD PARTIES

6.1 The Parties and their respective competent authorities shall be free to enter into comparable agreements or arrangements with third parties or their competent authorities, provided that each Party keeps the other Party informed of such proposed agreements or arrangements.

6.2 A mutual recognition agreement with a third party shall not lead to mutual recognition under this MRA of a person who has been granted registration by either Party by virtue of such an agreement except with the specific agreement of both Parties.

ARTICLE 7
CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Parties shall at all times endeavour to agree on the interpretation and application of this MRA and shall make every attempt through communication, dialogue, consultation and cooperation to arrive at a mutually satisfactory resolution of any matter that might affect the implementation of this MRA.

7.2 Chapter 15 (Dispute Settlement) of CECA shall not apply to this MRA.

ARTICLE 8
AMENDMENT

The provisions of this MRA may be amended by the mutual agreement in writing by the Parties and such amendments shall enter into force on such date or dates as may be agreed between them. The amendments shall be an integral part of this MRA.

ARTICLE 9
FINAL PROVISIONS

9.1 This MRA shall enter into force on the date of signing this MRA and shall remain in force until it is terminated by either Party giving six (6) months' written notice in advance to the other Party of its intention to terminate it, or when the CECA is terminated by the Government of either Party in accordance with Article 16.8 (Entry into Force, Duration and Termination) of Chapter 16 (General and Final Provisions) of the CECA, whichever is earlier.

9.2 Any such termination shall not affect the licensing or registration of any person who has been so licensed or registered in a Host Country under the provisions of this MRA while this MRA is in force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised, have signed this CECA Mutual Recognition Agreement on Nursing Services.

DONE at Singapore this 1st day of June, 2018, in two originals in the English language, both being equally authentic.

.....
T. Dileep Kumar
President, Indian Nursing Council

अध्यक्ष/President
भारतीय उपचर्या परिषद्
INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL
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8th Flr, NBCC Centre, Plot No.2, Community Centre,
ओखला फेस-1, नई दिल्ली-110020
Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi-110

.....
Dr Tracy Carol Ayre
Chairman, Singapore Nursing Board

SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

Annex

Recognised Training Institutions

INDIA	SINGAPORE
1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 2. Christian Medical College & Hospital, College of Nursing, Vellore, Tamil Nadu 3. Government College of Nursing, Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 4. Manipal College of Nursing, Mahe, University Building, Madhave Nagar, Udupi District, Karnataka 5. Apollo College of Nursing, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 6. D Y Patil College of Nursing, Pune, Maharashtra 7. Yashoda College of Nursing, Hyderabad, Telangana	1. Bachelor of Science (Nursing), National University of Singapore, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies 2. Diploma in Nursing, Nanyang Polytechnic, School of Health Sciences 3. Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing), Ngee Ann Polytechnic, School of Health Sciences 4. Diploma in Nursing, Parkway College of Nursing and Allied Health