

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as 'MOU') is made and entered into on 12/03/2024 by and between:

**Highland Impact Foundation**, located at College Veng, Lamka, Manipur (hereinafter referred to as '**Party A**'), and

**Rayburn College**, located at Gangpimual, BSF Road, Lamka, Manipur (hereinafter referred to as '**Party B**').

Collectively referred to as the 'Parties'.

WHEREAS, both Party A and Party B recognize the mutual benefits of academic collaboration and wish to formalize their partnership through this MOU;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

## **1. Purpose of Collaboration:**

- The purpose of this collaboration is to promote academic cooperation between Party A and Party B in areas of mutual interest including, but not limited to, the introduction of certified research activities such as joint-collaborative taught courses and research partnerships, to insert the importance of world-class research for the growth of both institutes and its academic community.

## **2. Scope of Collaboration:**

- Both parties agree to explore and undertake collaborative activities as agreed upon in writing by both parties. These activities may include, but are not limited to, joint research projects, capacity building and training programs for students and faculty, joint seminars, workshops, and conferences, sharing of academic resources, and any other activities mutually agreed upon.

## **3. Responsibilities of the Parties:**

- Party A and Party B shall designate representatives who will be responsible for coordinating and implementing collaborative activities.
- Both parties shall provide necessary support and resources to ensure the success of collaborative initiatives.

## **Party A will do the following:**

- (a) It will house its 'Indo-Myanmar Borderland Institute (IMBI)' in the premises of Rayburn College (RC), which will serve as its main office. IMBI is a one-of-a-kind research, advocacy and policy institute that seeks to position the Indo-Myanmar borderlands of the Eastern Himalayas as a terrain of strategic significance for both Asia and the wider world, by bringing world-class research and interventions together and establishing collaborative partnerships with stakeholders;

- (b) The research institute will offer interdisciplinary certified courses in Peace, Conflict, & Justice; Borderland Studies, Philosophy & Religion, and other relevant courses which will be made available for Rayburn students as and when they are introduced;
- (c) The research institute will also offer other short-term certificate courses as joint-collaborative courses between Party A and Party B, to build the research skills and professional development of both the faculty and student community;
- (d) The research institute will undertake various research activities, including consultancy services and research projects, to help inculcate and improve the research work in the college. It will support the college become one of the more sought-after colleges in the region;
- (e) All the joint collaborative courses and joint research activities undertaken together by Party A and Party B will be documented and used as reports respectively by either Party A or Party B or both. The research institute will provide all its professional expertise at the disposal of Party B whenever an external team, such as NAAC, visits the college for evaluation and accreditation;
- (f) The research institute will set up a curated library and share resources and expertise to facilitate research work, as the need may be. It will offer any advice and guidance on research and administration as may be required by the college;
- (g) The research institute will also explore and undertake its own projects and collaborate with other universities, government and non-government agencies and other research networks as may be required to grow and sustain themselves for the long-term.

**Party B will do the following:**

- (a) It will provide an academic and administrative office infrastructure for the purposes of carrying out the various activities of the research institute;
- (b) It will collaborate with Party A in introducing and offering various short-term certified courses, and provide both academic and administrative support as necessary for the successful implementation of said courses;
- (c) It will encourage both its faculty and students to support the various research events and activities undertaken by the research institute, including those initiated for the growth of the college;
- (d) It will entertain the possibility of offering honorarium on a need basis, based on the services offered by Party A towards the growth of the college;
- (e) It will also offer its full assistance to Party A for all the official requirements necessary to help raise funds from various sources, including from UGC, NEC and the like;
- (f) It will also provide an academic home for visiting faculties and research scholars and arrange for their stay whenever necessary;
- (g) It will provide any other support to Party A for the smooth functioning and maintenance of the research institute.

**What are the benefits for Party A?**

Party A will benefit from having Rayburn College as its main office both for administrative and academic work, and also from the support it receives from the college towards the successful implementation of its various programs, projects and other research services.

**What are the benefits for Party B?**

Party B will benefit from the wealth of research activities undertaken in the college which will enable the college to position itself as a research-grounded college, and secure experienced assistance for its future evaluation and accreditation by NAAC and other governing education bodies in the country. Partnering with the research institute will also help build its status as a local college adopting international standards.

**4. Confidentiality:**

- Both parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary or confidential information shared during the course of collaboration.

**5. Intellectual Property Rights:**

- Any intellectual property rights arising from collaborative activities shall be governed by separate agreements between the parties.

**6. Duration and Termination:**

- This MOU shall come into effect on the date of signature by both parties and shall remain in force for a period of FIVE years.

- Either party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other party at least 30 days prior to the intended date of termination.

**7. Amendment:**

- Any amendments or modifications to this MOU shall be made in writing and duly discussed, accepted and signed by authorized representatives of both parties.

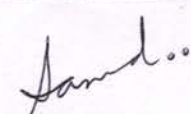
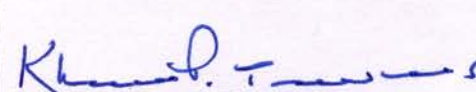
**8. Governing Law and Jurisdiction:**

- This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the land.

- Any disputes arising out of or in connection with this MOU shall be settled amicably through negotiations between the parties.

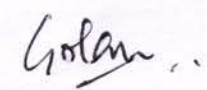
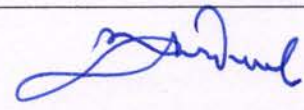
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the Parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date first above written.

**Signatories**

 Dr Samuel Ngaihte Director, Highland Impact Foundation	 Rev Dr Khen P Tombing Principal & Secretary, Rayburn College
<b>Dated: 12/03/2024</b>	<b>Dated: 12/03/2024</b>

Principal  
RAYBURN COLLEGE  
Churachandpur, Manipur.

**Witness**

 Mr Golan Naulak Promoter, Highland Impact Foundation	 Dr Siamkhanthang Neihzial Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Rayburn College
<b>Dated: 12/03/2024</b>	<b>Dated: 12/03/2024</b> <b>Director</b>

Internal Quality Assurance Cell  
Rayburn College, Gangpimual, Lamka,  
Churachandpur, Manipur.