



## **Memorandum of Action (MoA)**

**between**

**Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad**

**and**

**Charotar University of Science and Technology (CHARUSAT)**

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**For the implementation of the SDG Handprint Lab: A local area Study and Sustainability Action Programme**

WHEREAS CHARUSAT is established under the Gujarat Act No. 8 of 2009, Government of Gujarat and the University Grants Commission (UGC) has empowered CHARUSAT to award Degrees under Section 22 of UGC Act 1956. CHARUSAT has its campus at Highway 139, Off, Nadiad - Petlad Road, Changa, Gujarat 388421 (hereinafter referred to as CHARUSAT).

WHEREAS Centre for Environment Education (CEE) established in August 1984 as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India having its registered office at Thaltej Tekra, Ahmadabad 380 054. CEE is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 (Act 21 of 1860) vide Registration No. Guj/1043/Ahmedabad dated August 28, 1984 (hereinafter referred to as CEE).

### **Background**

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—an ambitious plan of action with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets all aimed at a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world. The Goals apply to every nation and every sector. Governments, businesses, schools, colleges, organizations and the general public, all are challenged to act and share responsibility to work together to build a better future for everyone.

Achieving the 2030 Agenda will require strong partnerships between young people and all the relevant stakeholders. Young people have been described as the 'torch bearers' by the United Nations leaders and that they have a central role to play in the successful implementation of SDGs. Therefore, it is crucial that youth are informed and engaged with the global vision for the future.

The knowledge, reach and innovative solutions by young people are essential if sustainable development is to be realized. Responding to the call of action, SDGs can empower students to become responsible global citizens. From being inventors creating solutions to problems to being innovators, identifying needs through research and evidence to looking at advocacy through campaigns that allow them to share their voices with the world, students may explore their own passion, in their own style of learning find solutions to issues that impact their communities.

SDG Handprint Lab is a certificate programme offered by CEE. It is an initiative towards increasing youth participation in achieving the SDGs at the local level. The programme challenges the students to understand the goals and targets in a selected geographic area and think of solutions and Handprint actions that could lead to achieving the goals. Handprint actions are positive and tangible actions taken towards sustainability. Exploring the themes of the SDGs is an excellent way to get the students to link their education and skill with real life problems in the wider community and environment.

### **Objective**

Providing a unique learning environment to youth that involves understanding of the SDGs and relating it to issues of a local area and using their skill and knowledge to conduct research and executing handprint activities.

### **Responsibilities covered under this MoA:**

As enclosed in Annexure I.

### **BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME**

- Opportunity to be part of CEE's and partner national and international networks.
- Understand the SDGs and learn their indicator protocols in a local area context.
- Practical applications of academic knowledge
- Learn to develop sustainability strategies, conduct research and work with community.
- Students acquire report writing and presentation skills

### **CERTIFICATION**

Each participating student will get a certificate of participation on completion of the project by CEE's SDG Handprint Lab which is based on The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **PROGRAMME FEE**

The fee for the programme is Rs. 2,50,000 (Rupees two lakh fifty thousand) for the launch year. This includes a registration fee: Rs. 50,000 (paid one time only) and Rs. 2,00,000 for a batch size up to 100 students. Any additional registration will be charged at Rs. 2000 per student. For the subsequent semesters the fee will be finalized jointly.

### **DURATION:**

The programme is spread over a period of approximately six months from January to June 2019. It is expected that the College will continue the programme till 2030 with new batches in successive years studying and implementing their projects in the same geographic area selected by the College. 2030 is the year by which the SDGs are to be fulfilled by.



## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

### CEE:

1. Help in setting up the Lab and initial survey of CHARUSAT resources
2. Content Development and providing support material
3. Conducting programme sessions at CHARUSAT
4. Overall guidance to student groups during the programme
5. Introducing students to the field area
6. Running a web-portal for students to upload their data and report their work
7. Student evaluation and certification
8. CEE will offer 2 months' internship for selected students of the SDG Handprint Lab

### CHARUSAT:

1. Coordination and communication of sessions at CHARUSAT and during field visits
2. Monitoring, assessment (jointly with CEE) and reporting of students

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT

The copyright of the material generated using the resource kit and the intellectual property developed as part of the project and the lab involving CHARUSAT will be a joint property of CEE and CHARUSAT

## NOTICES:

Any notices under this Agreement will be sent by e-mail, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the respective address of Parties as contained in this Agreement. Such notice will be effective upon its mailing.

If to CEE:

If to CHARUSAT:

Attention:

Attention:

Address:

Address:

Email:

Email:

## AMENDMENTS:

No amendment to this Agreement shall be binding unless made in writing, signed by the authorized representatives of the Parties.

## FORCE MAJEURE:

If CEE is unable to perform its obligations under this Agreement due to the occurrence of an event beyond its control (such as acts of God, War like situation, Riots, Bandhs, Government actions, Earthquakes, Cyclones, Typhoons, and other natural calamities, etc.) CEE will not be deemed to have defaulted under this Agreement.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In case of any dispute that cannot be solved through discussions, the same shall be referred to arbitration. Reference made shall be deemed to have been made under the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 or any statutory modification/re-enactment thereof and rules made thereunder.

The Arbitration proceedings shall be held in Ahmedabad. The language of the Arbitration will be English. The courts in Ahmedabad shall only have jurisdiction in this matter.

For CEE

(Authorized Signatory)

Witnesses:

1.

Date: January 25, 2019

Place: Ahmedabad

Annexure I

### 1. Registration and Setting up of SDG Handprint Lab

The SDG Handprint Lab will be formed at the CHARUSAT by CEE through the following process:

- a. Affiliation of the Institution to SDG Handprint Lab
- b. Facilitating identification of a geographical area for the SDG Handprint Implementation
- c. Setting up of the unit (lab) at the college. The lab will be equipped with information needed by students including a map of the geographical area of study, study material, activity material etc. A rapid assessment of the college in terms of available scientific tools and skills for conducting the studies on selected themes will be conducted to identify gap, if any.
- d. Facilitating customising of the programme for the college/geographical area.
- e. Orienting management and faculty members involved in the process.

Providing access to web-portal and information on other web resources. Provide opportunities to connect to international Handprint community.

### 2. Action Plan

The overall approach and strategy of the project will be based on the goals, targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme involves nine steps.

For CHARUSAT

(Authorized Signatory)

REGISTRAR

CHAROTAR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
EDUCATION CAMPUS, CHANGA

2.

A. D. Patel  
(Dr. A. D. Patel,  
Principal, CSPIT, Charusat)



1. Orientation
2. Selection of the SDG Target and Group Formation
3. Compilation and Analysis of Available Statistical and Geospatial Information
4. Ground truthing
  1. Understanding/developing methodology
  2. Baseline study
5. Developing Project Strategy and Plan of Action
  1. Analysis of data
  2. Developing the plan of Action
6. Presentation of Strategy and Ethical Evaluation
7. Project Implementation and Handprint Action
8. Submission of Project Report
9. Presentation, Evaluation and Certification

#### **Step 1: Orientation**

Students will be oriented to the SDG Handprint Lab. Students will also be made familiar with the concept of Handprint, the SDGs and its 17 goals and the 169 targets.

#### **Step 2: Selection of the SDG Target and Group Formation**

Once the students have gathered enough knowledge about the global goals, based on their interest area, they will select the SDG target/Sub-target aimed at addressing a local sustainability concern. CEE will provide a short list of about 50 SDG targets that are suitable for this programme. Through an interactive session, the students will evaluate these in relationship to the specific geographical area, mapping the local sustainability concerns in the identified area and identifying/selecting the issue that will be addressed. Students with similar interests form groups of 3 to 5 members each and work together from step 3.

#### **Step 3: Compilation and Analysis of Available Statistical and Geospatial Information**

Available data for the selected area will be collected through the students assisted by the CEE facilitators. Additional geospatial data will also be procured for the area. The sensors and models that measure, monitor and forecast our planet produce a large amount of data for the environment. These data can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Students will be exposed to platforms for obtaining information for planning, monitoring implementation, and tracking accountability. Students will be encouraged to integrate statistical and geospatial information for baseline study and project implementation

#### **Step 4: Ground truthing**

Research and analysis of the available information on the selected SDG target in the geographical area would be done in this step. The data for the same would be obtained from research organizations, government reports, statistical information, surveys, observation, interview with expert etc. This baseline study will help the group understand the ground reality and strategize their action plan. CEE will provide basic methodology for data

measurement. As the aim is to integrate this work with the skills learnt in the students course work, there will be coordination with faculty necessary at this stage.



#### **Step 5: Developing Project Strategy and Plan of Action**

Groups will devise a strategy to implement intervention on the chosen target based on the baseline study. They will also be exposed to solutions that others are using. The strategy must address all dimensions of the issue and discuss what needs to change and how this change will be effected. The strategy must address and involve stakeholders in the community. Students talk to the community and other stakeholders to conduct a basic opinion poll or random sample survey. Groups also collect information on best practices and integrate this into their strategy.

The SDG Handprint website and the mobile app will keep all the member colleges and students connected and will provide a platform to share and discuss ideas.

#### **Step 6: Presentation of Strategy and Ethical Evaluation**

The session will start with a discussion on what criteria one would use in evaluating a strategy. This will include issues of cost, speed, effectiveness, durability of the solution etc. This will be followed by a discussion on issues of different stake holders and how the solution effects different groups, how a sustainability and environmental impact assessment is done, what issues are involved in ethics and development. It will introduce the students to the Earth Charter, the Rio principles and global discussions on fairness, ethics and justice issues. It will then evaluate the proposed interventions from this point of view and modify the strategies as necessary.

#### **Step 7: Project Implementation and Handprint Action**

SDG Handprint Lab will implement the plan of action with the help of partners and other stakeholders.

#### **Step 8: Submission of Project Report**

The results of the intervention will be assessed, stock taken and the final report will be prepared.

The report will document the observations, strategy, Handprint Actions taken in achieving the SDG Target and recommendations (if any) for any further actions required. The report will be uploaded on the SDG Handprint Lab website.

A detailed record of the project and methodology will be made and kept in the Lab space. This will be available in future to other students who may take up the same targets and take it further in the following years. Through the website, the students will also be able to compare their results with those of other universities.

#### **Step 9: Presentation, Evaluation and Certification**

The students will be evaluated on the basis of specific learning goals of the programme. An Exhibition highlighting the Handprint Action by the students as a part of the SDG Handprint Lab and the positive impact created in the selected Geographical Area, will be organized in the institute. The exhibition will highlight the achievement towards 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Students will obtain a SDG Handprint Certificate on meeting the criteria established to evaluate their performance.



### **Implementation:**

The project will be offered as a club activity and interested students can join. The project will run for 6 months (January to June). Minimum 3 to 5 field visits are required and approximately 15 class room sessions. With support from faculty, CEE will facilitate the entire project through resource kit, web resources and minimum 10 contact sessions.

Based on the request from College, CEE will try and integrate the above in any of their existing programmes based on convergence of aims and objectives of the two Programmes. Adequate time and participation of students for planning, research and analysis, presentation will need to be built in by the University to achieve the desired objectives of the Programme.

## Activity Report on Waste Recycling

Reduction and reuse of the item is always a high priority of CHARUSAT. Paper being major waste material, emphasized is given on recycling of it. All newspapers waste generated from various institutes are used for making Paper Pens. Paper pens is one of the unique initiative of CHARUSAT in collaboration with Center for Environment Education, Ahmedabad which is a center of excellence of GoI.



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A





B

Fig 6 A & B. Paper Pens from Recycled Newspapers/ Waste Papers at CHARUSAT