INTERNATIONAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between
Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology
Konan University, Kobe, Japan

And
The College of Agriculture
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa, USA

I. Preamble

This International Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) constitutes an agreement between Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology, Konan University, Kobe, Japan, and the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA, to join in a strategic alliance to undertake a series of cooperative activities of common interest and mutual benefits.

For the purpose of promoting closer ties and cooperation and enhancing the program of MEXT.OC (2004-2008) ("Open Research Center" Project supported by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, 2004-2008), Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology, Konan University, Japan, and the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University hereby jointly enter into a bilateral linkage, focusing on the development of their institutions’ programs, particularly those in research and teaching. They will jointly develop and implement activities to improve their capabilities to serve their respective clientele in Japan and the United States of America. This linkage is developed based upon the institutions’ commonality of interests and their belief that a linkage between them would strengthen their joint and individual capacities.

II. Objectives

The objectives of this linkage are to develop long-term activities. Where financially feasible and consistent with the policies of Konan University, Kobe, Japan and the Board of Regents of the State of Iowa, and all other governing legislation, the parties agree to pursue mutual interest in the following types of activities:

Long-term and short-term exchanges of faculty and staff: Sabbaticals, faculty improvement leaves, visiting professorships, research collaboration, and other activities in areas of mutual interest and expertise are contemplated.

Programs and related to research, teaching, and/or outreach: These programs may encompass any discipline to the extent that suitable counterparts exist.

Encouragement of applications from students to study at the partner institution at the undergraduate and/or graduate level: Students who meet regular admissions
requirements of the host institution may be admitted to academic programs. The term(s) of attendance, costs, and course of study will be determined individually for each student in accordance with standard admissions procedures for international students.

III. Program Management

Each activity will be jointly planned, implemented, and evaluated, and will be described in a plan of work which will include programmatic and budget details. Activities undertaken will permit publication, dissemination, and sharing by the two institutions of all the facts resulting from the activities. Exchange and dissemination of information will include both the exchange of working papers on joint research and the identification of materials for publication. No prohibition will be imposed by either institution. Financial support arrangements of academic exchanges are to be negotiated between the two sides for each specific case.

This MOU does not obligate either institution to provide funding or direct support for future collaborative activities. However, either institution, or both, may choose to provide support on a case-by-case basis. It is further understood that both institutions will jointly and separately seek funding from third parties to support activities to be carried out under this MOU. Implementation of specific collaborative programs will depend upon the availability of funds. The Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology, Konan University, Kobe, Japan and the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA will assist one another with applications to funding sources for financial support of this cooperation and exchange.

Each institution has designated an individual to serve as a point of contact. These officials are identified below:

For the Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology, Konan University
Kobe, 658-8501, Japan

For the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011, USA

Dr. Hidetoshi Nakayasu, Professor
Department of Information Science and Systems Engineering
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Dr. Nir Keren, Assistant Professor,
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Iowa State University,
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E-mail: nir@iastate.edu

The representatives mentioned above will be responsible for monitoring program activities in the framework of this MOU, promoting achievement of the objectives of the agreement and reporting to their respective institutions the advances made.
This Memorandum will be in effect for five years, commencing on the date of the last signature affixed to this document. At the end of this period, each institution will review the types and extent of collaborative activities undertaken and determine whether or not the MOU should be renewed. The Memorandum can be amended, with approval of both parties, by means of exchange of letters through the authorized officials at each institution. Either party may initiate the exchange letters.

The Memorandum may be terminated by either party by giving written notice of the intent to terminate the MOU. Such termination shall not affect the execution and conclusion of specific activities in effect under terms of this MOU, nor publication and dissemination of results of research in progress. Insofar as possible, such notice will be given three months in advance of the desired termination date.

This Memorandum constitutes the entire agreement between parties. All prior discussions, agreements, and understandings, whether verbal or in writing, are merged in this MOU. For conditions of the affiliation not covered by this MOU or for problems that arise while the MOU is in effect, both parties agree to refrain from unilateral action and to consult and negotiate agreeable decisions. This Memorandum is designed to facilitate and develop a genuine and mutually beneficial process of cooperation and exchange and is not a contract creating legal or financial relationships between the parties. The parties do not discriminate on the basis of age, marital status, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or disability.

IN WITNESS THEREOF: The Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology, Konan University, Kobe, Japan, and the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA have executed this International Memorandum of Understanding as of the last date affixed below.

Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology,
Konan University,
Okamoto Higashinada-ku Kobe,
658-8501, Japan

Principal Contact

[Signature]

Dr. Wuyi Yue
Director, Institute of Intelligent Information and Communications Technology

[Signature]

Date: Dec. 2, 2006

College of Agriculture – ISU
of Science and Technology
Ames, Iowa 50011, USA

Principal Contact

[Signature]

Dr. Wendy K. Wintersteen
Dean, College of Agriculture

[Signature]

Date: 11-22-06