

ANNEX 7-B

EDUCATION COOPERATION

1. The Parties recognise that education services play an important role in facilitating trade and investment, enhancing growth and prosperity, and deepening mutual understanding and institutional and people-to-people links between the two economies.

2. The Parties shall encourage, as appropriate, cooperation on education services in the following areas:

- (a) quality assurance processes;
- (b) recognition of qualifications;
- (c) online education, distance education and blended learning models; and
- (d) any other area of cooperation in education which may be mutually determined.

3. The Parties shall encourage, as appropriate, cooperation between their respective government agencies, educational institutions, organisations and other entities in the areas referred to in paragraph 2. This may be achieved through:

- (a) development of collaborative training, research and development initiatives, technology transfer and joint ventures between appropriate entities;
- (b) development of programmes which can be jointly delivered by educational institutions;
- (c) exchange of teaching staff, administrators, researchers and students by educational institutions;
- (d) academic credit transfer and mutual recognition of academic and vocational education and training qualifications between educational institutions; and
- (e) exchange of information on:
 - (i) scholarships, awards, fellowships and other study opportunities in the Area of each Party;
 - (ii) education systems and standards (including quality assurance arrangements);
 - (iii) recognition of qualifications by multilateral and regional fora; and

(iv) any other form of information exchange which may be mutually determined.

4. Cooperation carried out pursuant to this Annex shall be subject to the availability of funds and resources of the Parties and be funded as mutually determined.