AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

between

ARAB ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Alexandria, Egypt

and

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, (hereinafter referred to as Virginia Tech), and the ARAB ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, (hereinafter referred to as AAST), enter into an agreement of cooperation to establish a program of academic and scientific exchange and collaboration in areas of interest and benefit to both institutions. This agreement is to provide the basis for future cooperation between Virginia Tech and AAST as per the following articles.

I.

The purposes of the cooperation in Science and Engineering between Virginia Tech and AAST are as follows:

- to enrich curricula and to prepare undergraduate and graduate students of the respective institutions to compete in a global environment;
- to promote interest in the teaching and research activities of the respective institutions;
- to deepen the understanding of the economic, cultural and social environment of the respective institutions; and
- to promote better relations and understanding between peoples of the Middle East and North Africa region and the United States and to encourage scientific co-operation and educational exchange among scientists of the two regions in areas of mutual interest and benefit.

II.

To achieve these goals, Virginia Tech and AAST will, insofar as the means of each allow:

- Promote institutional exchanges by inviting faculty and staff of the partner institution to participate in a variety of teaching and/or research activities and professional development;
• Receive selected graduate students of the partner institutions for a period of study and/or research;
• Invite academic representatives of the other institution, when appropriate, to participate in symposia, conferences, short courses and meetings on research issues;
• Cooperate in joint research and continuing education programs; and
• Exchange on a purely voluntary basis information pertaining to developments in teaching, student development, and research at each institution;
• Studying and implementing projects of common interest; and
• Other forms of co-operation that may be mutually agreed upon by the two entities.

Specifically, Virginia Tech and AAST agree, in principle, to the following items. The parties agree to negotiate in good faith and subject to applicable institutional rules supplemental agreements detailing the logistics associated with each of the following:

• Virginia Tech and AAST will discuss awarding Virginia Tech and/or joint academic degrees in mutually agreed upon areas at the AAST campus, as well as relevant degrees to exchange students.

• Virginia Tech and AAST will discuss extending Virginia Tech educational resources and services to support AAST. AAST is interested in improving the quality of instruction and instructional design in both the distance education and traditional classroom forums.

• Virginia Tech and AAST will discuss cooperation and exchange between the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning (DDDL) at Virginia Tech and the AAST Multimedia Center (MMC) in the production of educational material for eLearning courses.

• Virginia Tech and AAST will discuss establishing a Virginia Tech Graduate Center at AAST to serve the area. AAST is interested in establishing a Graduate school to serve the students in the area seeking Masters and Doctoral degrees. As a nucleus for the sought program, AAST invites Virginia Tech to establish its own graduate center in the area using AAST facilities.

It is also understood that Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors will need to approve Virginia Tech's participation in each of the above items.
Virginia Tech and AAST agree to designate the following individuals to oversee and facilitate implementation of this agreement in cooperation with other appropriate administrators at the respective institutions:

**Program Coordinators:**

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<tr>
<th>For VIRGINIA TECH</th>
<th>For AAST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sedki M. Riad</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:yhanafy@aaast.edu">yhanafy@aaast.edu</a></td>
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The program coordinators shall have the following responsibilities:

- To promote academic collaboration at both faculty and graduate student levels for research and study;
- To act as principal contacts for individual and group activities and to plan and coordinate all activities within their institutions as well as with the partner institution;
- To distribute to each institution information about the faculty, facilities, research, publications, library materials and educational resources of the other institution;
- To review and evaluate past activities periodically and to work out new ideas for future cooperative agreements;
- To develop detailed plans for execution of this agreement, as well as various jointly approved projects of cooperation; and
- To plan and co-ordinate all relevant activities within their respective institutions, as well as the partner institution.

The program coordinators should meet periodically in order to evaluate past activities and to develop ideas for future co-operation projects.

**IV.**

The general AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION shall be identified as the parent document of any program agreement executed between the parties. Further agreements concerning any program shall provide details concerning the specific commitments made by each
party and shall not become effective until they have been reduced to writing, approved and executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties. The scope of the activities under this agreement shall be determined by the funds regularly available at both institutions for the types of collaboration undertaken and by financial assistance as may be obtained by either institution from external sources. Both partners agree to exert their best effort to secure funding from third parties to finance different aspects of this co-operation.

V.

- Except as may be stipulated in any specific program agreement, each institution shall be responsible for expenses incurred by its employees under this agreement. The host institution will assist professional staff engaged in teaching or research to find local living facilities.
- Tuition fees of exchange students are to be paid to their respective home institutions; so that no tuition money exchanges between universities.

VI.

Upon approval by each institution, this agreement shall remain in effect until terminated by either institution. Such termination by one institution shall be effected by giving the other institution at least six (6) months advance written notice of its intention to terminate. Termination shall be without penalty. If this agreement is terminated, neither Virginia Tech nor AAST shall be liable to the other for any monetary or other losses that may result.

VII.

This agreement shall fall within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between Virginia Tech and the UNESCO Cairo Office (UCO) which states that the UCO acts as a partner and liaison for Virginia Tech concerning the implementation of Virginia Tech’s Distance Education programs within the UCO’s region (Arab member states). This Agreement is witnessed by UCO which will serve as a monitor and facilitator to the successful execution of this agreement.

VT-AAST-UCO Agreement July 2003
EXECUTED by Virginia Tech, AAST, and UCO in Triplicate copies, each of which shall be deemed an original.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
By (Signature and Name): David W. Richardson, Director, Sponsored Programs

ARAB ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
By (Signature and Name):

Witnessed by
UNESCO CAIRO OFFICE
By (Signature and Name):

DATE: 2/10/04

S. K. De Datta, Associate Provost, International Affairs Director, OIRED 2/25/01

DATE:

Charles W. Steger, President

DATE: Aug 3, 2004

Gamal Mokhtar, President

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