MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Virginia Tech)
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

AND

FUNDACION ECOLOGICA PUNTA CANA
CENTRO DE SUSTENTABILIDAD Y BIODIVERSIDAD DE PUNTA CANA

PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Punta Cana Ecological Foundation (PCEF) and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) agree to implement this memorandum of understanding signed in June, 2005.

This agreement is based on the principle of reciprocity and expresses the interest of both parties to create a Task Force to develop a plan of action for a Caribbean Research, Education, and Outreach Center in the belief that such a Center will be mutually beneficial.

1. PCEF, which is committed to protecting the natural resources of the Punta Cana region while contributing to sustainable development on a local, regional, and national level, and Virginia Tech, which is committed to research, education, and outreach to advance science in the interest of the Caribbean Region, agree to work together, as detailed below, to establish this Center:

   • Virginia Tech will provide intellectual capital to develop an educational program and shall make every effort to use Virginia Tech’s intellectual property on products and events
   • PCEF will serve as an in-country institutional counterpart in the Dominican Republic, including assistance with creation of collaborative programs, logistics and in the development of strategic partnerships in country

2. The parties recognize that the implementation of this agreement will depend upon the interests and expertise of both entities and upon the availability of financial resources. Accordingly, the implementation details of this agreement shall be separately negotiated and determined by both entities.
3. This agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document. It is meant to describe the nature and to suggest the guidelines of the cooperation described above. Nothing therefore shall diminish the full autonomy of either entity, nor will any constraints be imposed by either upon the other in carrying out the agreement.

4. The agreement shall become effective on the day representatives of both entities affix their signatures and seals, will be in force for a period of 5 (five) years, and is subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement. It is also understood that either entity may terminate the agreement at any time, although is assumed that such action would only be taken after mutual consultation in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other institution.

5. The parties agree that for each particular project, will be executed a written plan or agreement, which in addition to the particularities pertaining to such project will specify the applicable law and forum designation.

6. In case any party needs to notify or communicate the other party any information regarding this MOU, such communication or notification shall be directed to the corresponding address indicated by each party at the beginning of this MOU.

7. For Virginia Tech, Dr. S. K. De Datta, Associate Provost for International Affairs, and for PCEF, Mr. Jake Kheel, Environmental Director, shall serve as the Officers for this Agreement.

Dr. Charles Steger  
President  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA, USA  

Date 4/1/05  

Frank Rainieri  
President  
Grupo Punta Cana  
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic  

Date
Dr. S. K. De Datta  
Associate Provost for International Affairs at Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Date 6/1/2005

Mr. Jake Kheel  
Environmental Director  
Punta Cana Ecological Foundation  
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Date 5/1/05

James A. Hyatt, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Date 6/1/2005