MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

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

AND

NEPAD E-Africa COMMISSION
Pretoria, Republic of South Africa

The NEPAD E-Africa Commission and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) agree to implement this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) effective as of the date both parties affix their signatures.

This agreement is based on the principle of reciprocity and expresses the interest of both parties in exchanging scholars, staff, and academic information and materials in the belief that the research and educational process at both organizations will be enhanced and that mutual understanding between their respective scholars and staff will be increased by the establishment of such shared experiences.

1. The organizations agree to encourage the development of the following activities based on their respective interests and educational needs:
   • Collaborate to provide technology solutions to schools across Africa
   • Develop teaching and pedagogical approaches appropriate for use through e-learning venues
   • Develop modular e-learning materials for teacher training in remote areas of African countries
   • Exchange of software materials and use of open sources
   • Provide training to secondary in-service and pre-service teachers and tertiary instructors that will disseminate the prototype interactive mathematics and science learning and training modules
   • Develop jointly tools for evaluating and monitoring technology programs implemented in schools and teacher training colleges
   • Exchange of educational materials
   • Exchange of periodicals and other publications
   • Organization of joint research programs
• Development of jointly organized symposia on African development issues regarding culturally relevant applications of technology and its use in education
• Organization of other exchanges and activities agreeable to both organizations

2. The parties recognize that the implementation of any exchange program will depend upon the interests and expertise of individual members and upon the availability of financial resources. Accordingly, the implementation of each exchange program based on this agreement shall be separately negotiated and determined by both organizations.

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 organization, 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 organizations affix their signatures and seals, will be in force for a period of 5 years, and is subject to revision or modification by written mutual agreement. It is also understood that either organization may terminate the agreement at any time, although it is assumed that such action would only be taken after mutual consultation in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other organization.

5. For Virginia Tech Dr. Josiah Tlou and for NEPAD E-Africa Commission Dr. Katherine Getao shall serve as liaison officers for this agreement.

Dr. Charles Steger  
President  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA, USA  
14 February 2008  
Date

Dr. Henry Chasia  
Executive Deputy Chairperson  
E-Africa Commission  
Pretoria, South Africa  
19 January 2009  
Date
Dr. S.K. De Datta
Associate Vice President for
International Affairs
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA, USA

Date
Nov. 20, 2008

Date