



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY CENTER, INC., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the United States of America, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having its headquarters at 23 Woodrise, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 02540 (hereinafter referred to as SDCI).

and

UCSI EDUCATION SDN. BHD. (Co. No.185479-U), a company incorporated in Malaysia which owns UCSI University, an institution of higher learning and duly approved by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia operating at No.1, Jalan Menara Gading UCSI Heights, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur (hereinafter referred to as UCSI).

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS SDCI and UCSI have common interests to enhance the understanding and applications of science diplomacy with informed decisionmaking and common-interest building for sustainable development at local-to-global levels, especially across the Global South.

APPRECIATING SDCI and UCSI have vibrant current connections, as reflected by composition of their Board of Directors as well as the current Fulbright Specialist project with the United States Department of State and Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange.

APPRECIATING SDCI and UCSI have direct historical connections individually and together with the origins of science diplomacy as a global field involving research into action to balance national interests and common interests for the benefit of all on Earth across generations.

RECOGNIZING SDCI and UCSI individually and together are contributing to education, research and actions with science diplomacy across the spectrum of subnational-national-international jurisdictions.

HIGHLIGHTING SDCI and UCSI seek to accelerate science diplomacy initiatives that involve next-generation leaders with global inclusion, especially from Least Developed Countries and Developing Countries, as has emerged with the GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GIYSCC) that has been coordinated by SDCI in close collaboration with IISDS, involving 136 nations with registrants representing nearly 290 languages in GIYSCC-2023 and GIYSCC-2024.

EMPHASIZING SDCI and UCSI seek to operate together with third-party funding to sustain GIYSCC short-to-long term as a 'Global Partnership of Indigenous Youth' in the spirit of SDG 17 among the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

EMPHASIZING SDCI and UCSI seek to jointly fund, design, develop, market, distribute and sustain a Science Diplomacy Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) with Global South emphasis.

EMPHASIZING SDCI and UCSI seek to enhance their fiscal capacities individually and jointly to implement science diplomacy initiatives with authoritative leadership.

NOW THEREFORE, based on mutual trust and in spirit of cooperation, SDCI and UCSI hereby agree to the following:

ARTICLE I – OBJECTIVES

1. The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”) is to provide a cooperative framework within which the Parties can develop and implement joint initiatives.
2. The Parties intend to utilize and leverage their existing resources and facilities for the benefit of their joint initiatives and empowerment of next-generation science diplomats.

ARTICLE II – SCOPE AND EXTENT OF COOPERATION

1. The Parties agree to jointly pursue cooperation guided by their respective mandates, mission, goals, needs, expertise, networks and work programmes.
2. Forms of cooperation to be developed and implemented under this MoU may include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - a) Training initiatives with science diplomacy and informed decisionmaking at K-12, higher-education and professional levels (including diplomatic corps of nations).
 - b) The GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE on August 9th annually on the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD’S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES as a “*virtual dialogue by, for and among Indigenous youth with global inclusion*”.
 - c) Webinars, conferences, workshops and other inclusive dialogues that facilitate science with society synergies to address timely regional and global challenges.
 - d) Co-edited books and journals as well papers, chapters and other written observations that reveal scalable lessons, case studies, methodologies, challenges, and opportunities with science diplomacy.
 - e) Exchanges of next-generation science diplomats across science-diplomacy networks within the scope of SDCI and UCSI inclusively on a global scale.
 - f) Joint fundraising initiatives with development banks, philanthropies, national agencies and United Nations organizations as well as non-governmental organizations at national levels, including the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), as well as at international levels, notably with the International Science Council (ISC) and International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA).

- g) Awards, fellowships and other recognitions for science diplomacy leadership.
- h) Authoritative certifications jointly from SDCI and UCSI, such as anticipated with the Science Diplomacy MOOC.
- i) Contributions to higher-education curricula and courses as well as degree programs that focus on science diplomacy.

ARTICLE III - THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

1. To achieve progress with the Objectives (Article 1), the Parties have thematic areas to explore across the evolving science-diplomacy ecosystem, independent of jurisdictional levels with scalability globally, including, *inter alia*, the following:
 - a) Transdisciplinary connections of science with society.
 - b) Informed decisionmaking theory, skills and methods.
 - c) Inclusion (who, what, when, where, why and how) with knowledge discovery to build common interests, starting with questions.
 - d) Inclusive dialogues among allies and adversaries alike in view of Open Science to transform our globally-interconnected civilization beyond its colonial past.
 - e) Common-interest building as a fundamental choice in negotiations.
 - f) Operating short-to-long term across months-to-years (pandemic time scales), years-to-decades (high technology time scales) and decades-to-centuries (climate and human population time scales) in our world with exponential changes.

ARTICLE IV - MODALITIES FOR COOPERATION

1. For every specific area of cooperation falling under this MoU, a specific agreement will be signed allowing the Parties to agree on technical and financial settings. Such agreements will include a detailed work programme and a breakdown of costs, and will indicate funding modalities.
2. The activities associated with this MoU shall be contingent upon the availability of sufficient human and financial resources.
3. Commitments about activities associated with this MoU shall be based on sufficient funding to justify a launch and realistic plans to mobilize any additional third-party funding necessary for successful completion.
4. The Parties shall designate representatives that will serve as primary contact for the implementation of this MoU. The primary contacts will manage institutional communications between the Parties. If necessary, thematic contacts designated as need arise will manage communication on substantive issues. The primary contacts are:

Science Diplomacy Center, Inc. (SDCI)

Prof. Paul Arthur Berkman
Founding Director and Executive Director
Science Diplomacy Center, Inc. (SDCI)
23 Woodrise, Falmouth, MA 02540 United States
(T) +1-617-902-8361 (E) pab@scidiplo.org
<https://scidiplo.org/> / <https://sciencediplomats.org>

International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS) at UCSI University:

Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Zakri Abudl Hamid
Founding Director and Distinguished Professor
International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS) at UCSI University
No.1, Jalan Menara Gading UCSI Heights, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(T) +60-13-207-2100 (E) zakri@ucsiuniversity.edu.my
<https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/about-us/International-Institute-of-Science-Diplomacy-and-Sustainability>

ARTICLE V – USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM

1. Apart from the exclusive purpose of the execution of the clauses of this MoU, neither Party shall use the name, emblem, logo, trademark or any other elements of corporate identity to which the other Party holds the intellectual property rights or any abbreviation thereof, without the express prior written consent of the other Party in each case. In no event will the use of either Parties' name, emblem, logo, and trademark be granted for for-profit purposes.
2. Use of the Parties' logos is explicitly allowed to implement initiatives with Article II.2a-ij in view of the distinct, long-term and special relationship among the Parties;
3. The Parties acknowledge that they are familiar with each other's ideals and objectives, and recognize the name and emblem of either SDCI nor UCSI name may not be associated with any political or sectarian cause or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with the status, reputation and neutrality that would be expected of the United Nations.

ARTICLE VI - ENTRY INTO FORCE, RENEWAL AND TERMINATION

1. This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its last signature and will remain in force for five years.
2. This MoU may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties. Unless otherwise agreed, amendments will apply to joint initiatives that are underway or have yet to be implemented.
3. This MoU can be renewed through a further MoU or through an exchange of letters.
4. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' written notice to the other Party. Such termination shall be without prejudice to:

- a. Orderly completion of any ongoing activity;
 - b. Any other rights and obligations the Parties accrued prior to termination without shared responsibilities.
5. This MoU may be executed in separate counterparts by each of the Parties, both Parties' counterparts together constituting but one and the same instrument. Such counterparts may be exchanged by confirmed facsimile transmission or in portable document format by electronic mail.

ARTICLE VII – LIMITATIONS

1. This MoU is not intended to be a legally binding document.
2. Nothing in or related to this MoU is intended to be a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities or responsibilities of either Party under its national jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VIII – DISPUTES

1. Any disputes between the Parties arising out of this MoU shall be settled amicably through negotiation. Any difference that may not be so settled shall be brought to the attention of the signatories of this MoU or duly authorized representatives of the Parties for final resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present MoU in the English language, in duplicate on:

SDCI:




Prof. Paul Arthur Berkman

Date:

4 September 2025

UCSI:



Professor Emeritus Datuk Ts Ir Dr Siti
Hamisah Binti Tapsir

Date: