



SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION PLATFORM
FOR PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT, RESEARCH MANAGEMENT, INNOVATION
DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH
IN DISTRICT SIALKOT**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is made and entered into on this day of July 06th, 2026.

BETWEEN

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SCCI)

A premier trade organization representing the industrial, commercial and export sectors of Sialkot, dedicated to industrial development, trade promotion, innovation and competitiveness enhancement. (hereinafter referred to as "SCCI")

AND

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION (NPO), PAKISTAN

An organization working under the Ministry of Industries & Production, Government of Pakistan, and serving as the National Liaison Office of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan, established for the promotion of productivity, competitiveness, innovation and sustainable industrial development throughout Pakistan. (hereinafter referred to as "NPO")

AND

BILTEHQEEQ

A research-driven platform specializing in research management for sustainable development, focusing on strengthening linkages between academia, industry, and policy actors through innovation, knowledge management, and collaborative project development.

AND

THE UNIVERSITIES OF DISTRICT SIALKOT

Including:

- Government College Women University Sialkot
- University of Sialkot
- University of Management and Technology, Sialkot Campus
- Grand Asian University Sialkot

acting through their respective Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORICs) or equivalent institutional arrangements. (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Universities")

NPO, SCCI, BILTEHQEEQ and the Universities are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party".

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, productivity enhancement, innovation, technology transfer, research commercialization and academia-industry collaboration are essential drivers of sustainable economic growth and industrial competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the need to establish an institutional mechanism for identifying industrial challenges, promoting applied research, supporting technology adoption and facilitating knowledge transfer between industry and academia;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to collaborate for promoting productivity culture, innovation ecosystems, research management and sustainable industrial development in District Sialkot and beyond;

 NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties record their understanding as follows:

ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a cooperative framework among the Parties for:

- 1.1. Strengthening industry-academia collaboration;
- 1.2. Promoting productivity enhancement and competitiveness within industrial sectors;
- 1.3. Facilitating applied research and innovation for industrial problem-solving;
- 1.4. Supporting technology transfer, modernization and digital transformation;
- 1.5. Enhancing research commercialization and entrepreneurship;
- 1.6. Facilitating national and international collaborations for sustainable development; and
- 1.7. Establishing a structured platform for continuous engagement among industry, academia and public-sector institutions.

ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES

The Parties shall endeavor to:

- 2.1. Promote industry-driven research and development initiatives.
- 2.2. Identify and address technological, operational and productivity-related challenges faced by industry.
- 2.3. Facilitate adoption of productivity improvement tools and techniques.
- 2.4. Support innovation, commercialization and startup development.
- 2.5. Enhance academia's responsiveness to industrial needs.
- 2.6. Promote sustainable production systems and resource efficiency.
- 2.7. Strengthen workforce development through capacity-building initiatives.
- 2.8. Facilitate access to national and international technical cooperation opportunities, including those offered through APO and similar organizations.

ARTICLE 3 SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

The Parties may cooperate in the following areas:

- 3.1. The MoU focuses on technology benchmarking, identifying technological gaps, strengthening industry academia linkages, supporting research commercialization, developing a joint technology upgradation roadmap, and formulating proposals for incentivizing the technological advancement/promotion against priority industrial sectors (like, surgical, sports goods, and leather sectors).

ARTICLE 4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF NPO

NPO shall, subject to availability of resources and applicable policies:

- 4.1. Provide technical guidance regarding productivity improvement tools and techniques.
- 4.2. Organize awareness sessions, seminars, workshops and training programs.
- 4.3. Facilitate productivity enhancement initiatives and assessments.
- 4.4. Assist in capacity building of industrial and academic stakeholders.
- 4.5. Facilitate linkages with APO programs and international productivity networks.
- 4.6. Support development of joint project proposals and productivity-related initiatives.
- 4.7. Provide technical support in areas consistent with its mandate.

ARTICLE 5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCCI

SCCI shall:

- 5.1. Mobilize industrial participation.
- 5.2. Facilitate identification of industrial sector and their technological gaps

- 
- 5.3. Coordinate engagement with member industries.
 - 5.4. Facilitate dissemination of information regarding collaborative initiatives.
 - 5.5. Support organization of events, meetings, and stakeholder consultations.
 - 5.6. Facilitate development & implementation of pilot projects for promoting incentivization based technological advancement

ARTICLE 6 **RESPONSIBILITIES OF BIITEHQEEQ**

Biitehqeeq Shall

- 6.1. Lead coordination of the research management framework
- 6.2. Develop proposals for sustainable development projects
- 6.3. Manage knowledge sharing and platform communication
- 6.4. Lead the design, development, and management of the digital portal, including knowledge management and coordination between industry and academia

ARTICLE 7 **RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNIVERSITIES**

The Universities shall:

- 7.1 Facilitate academic participation through ORICs and relevant departments.
- 7.2 Support applied research addressing industrial challenges.
- 7.3 Facilitate faculty and student engagement in collaborative initiatives.
- 7.4 Support innovation, commercialization and technology transfer activities.
- 7.5 Participate in training, seminars and technical programs.
- 7.6 Assist in development of joint research and development proposals.
- 7.7 Provide academic expertise and laboratory facilities where feasible and mutually agreed.

ARTICLE 8 **INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION PLATFORM**

- 8.1 The Parties may establish an Industry-Academia Collaboration Platform as a coordinating mechanism for implementation of this MoU.
- 8.2 The Platform may serve as a forum for:
 - a) Identification of industrial challenges;
 - b) Research matchmaking;
 - c) Technology transfer opportunities;
 - d) Productivity enhancement initiatives;
 - e) Innovation development activities;
 - f) Joint project development.
- 8.3 The operational modalities of the Platform shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Parties.

ARTICLE 9 **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

9.1 Joint Steering Committee

The Parties may constitute a Joint Steering Committee comprising representatives of all Parties.

9.2 Functions

The Committee may:

- a) Review progress of collaborative activities;
- b) Identify priority areas;
- c) Recommend annual action plans;
- d) Facilitate coordination among stakeholders;
- e) Evaluate outcomes and future opportunities.

9.3 Meetings

The Committee may meet periodically as mutually agreed.

ARTICLE 10
FOCAL PERSONS

- 10.1 Each Party shall nominate a focal person responsible for coordination and implementation of activities under this MoU.
- 10.2 The focal persons may be changed by written notification to the other Parties.

ARTICLE 11
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 This MoU does not create any financial obligation upon any Party.
- 11.2 Each Party shall bear its own costs and expenses unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 11.3 Specific projects requiring financial commitments shall be governed through separate agreements, project documents or mutually approved arrangements.
- 11.4 The Parties may jointly seek funding from governmental, development, donor or international agencies.

ARTICLE 12
CONFIDENTIALITY

- 12.1 The Parties shall maintain confidentiality of information designated as confidential.
- 12.2 Confidential information shall not be disclosed to any third party without prior written consent of the originating Party.
- 12.3 This obligation shall survive termination of this MoU.

ARTICLE 13
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- 13.1 Intellectual Property Rights arising from collaborative activities shall remain the property of the originating Party unless otherwise agreed.
- 13.2 Jointly developed intellectual property shall be governed through separate written agreements.
- 13.3 Commercialization arrangements shall be mutually agreed before implementation.

ARTICLE 14
PUBLICITY AND USE OF NAME

No Party shall use the name, logo or trademarks of another Party for promotional purposes without prior written approval.

ARTICLE 15
AMENDMENTS

This MoU may be amended, revised or modified at any time through mutual written consent of all Parties.

ARTICLE 16
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be resolved amicably through consultation, dialogue and mutual understanding among the Parties.

ARTICLE 17
LEGAL STATUS

- 17.1 This MoU reflects the intentions and understanding of the Parties regarding cooperation and collaboration.
- 17.2 Nothing contained herein shall be construed as creating any legally binding financial, commercial, employment, agency, partnership or joint venture relationship among the Parties.
- 17.3 Any legally enforceable commitments shall be subject to separate written agreements executed by the relevant Parties.

ARTICLE 18

DURATION AND TERMINATION

- 18.1 This MoU shall become effective upon signature by all Parties.
- 18.2 The MoU shall remain valid for a period of **three (03) years**.
- 18.3 It may be renewed for further periods through mutual written consent.
- 18.4 Any Party may withdraw from this MoU by providing ninety (90) days prior written notice to the other Parties.
- 18.5 Ongoing activities initiated prior to termination may continue until completion unless otherwise agreed.

ARTICLE 19

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 19.1 Nothing in this MoU shall prejudice the autonomy, policies or statutory responsibilities of any Party.
- 19.2 Participation in activities under this MoU shall be subject to availability of resources and applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- 19.3 The Parties may enter into supplementary agreements, project documents, implementation plans or terms of reference for specific activities

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the Parties have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date first written above.

FOR SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

FOR NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION




SYED AHTESHAM MAZHAR
President

FOR BILTEHQEEQ SIALKOT


MR. ALAMGIR CHAUDHRY
Chief Executive Officer

FOR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE WOMEN UNIVERSITY SIALKOT

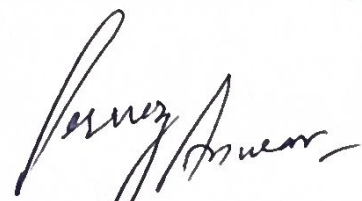

DR. RAZA ULLAH SHAH
Chief Executive Officer


PROFESSOR DR. SHAZIA BASHIR
Vice Chancellor

FOR UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, SIALKOT CAMPUS

FOR UNIVERSITY OF SIALKOT


DR. ALI ABDULLAH
Convener Oric


PROFESSOR DR. PERVEZ ANWAR
Director ORIC

FOR GRAND ASIAN UNIVERSITY, SIALKOT


PROFESSOR DR. MUHAMMAD SHARIF BHATTI
Dean Engineering & Technology