

Fact Sheet on Enhancing U.S.-India Cooperation on Education

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh are committed to an expanding, dynamic, and comprehensive education partnership. Today, as they did in November 2009 at the White House, they reaffirm that U.S.-India education cooperation enhances each country's emphasis on building a knowledge society. These partnerships are critical to strengthening scholarship and research in each of our countries, improving and expanding access to a quality education, and developing greater mutual understanding and lasting relationships in all fields of human endeavor.

Toward this end, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed to strengthen existing U.S.-India cooperation on education, while encouraging new collaborations:

- **The Fulbright-Nehru Partnership:** President Obama and Prime Minister Singh have substantially increased funding for the Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship Program, the cornerstone of our education partnership. Each government is committed to a nearly 40% increase in funding, initiated in 2010, to expand exchanges in priority fields. The Fulbright program in India is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, and has benefitted more than 17,000 American and Indian students and scholars.
- **The U.S.-India Higher Education Summit:** The United States and India have agreed to convene a bi-national Summit on higher education, chaired by senior officials from both governments, to highlight and emphasize the many avenues through which the higher education communities in the United States and India collaborate.
- **University Delegations:** The United States has sent senior officials on two delegations comprised of U.S. colleges and universities, organized by the Institute of International Education with support from the U.S. Department of Education, to promote U.S. higher education and to assist U.S. institutions in developing partnerships with their counterparts in India. The Indian Minister of Human Resource Development has accompanied Indian institutions on several visits to meet with U.S. institutions in the United States.
- **School to Work:** The United States – through its U.S. Department of Education – is poised to share with India lessons learned from *Skills for America*, a new initiative announced by President Obama on October 4, 2010. This initiative will identify strategies to link education and business leading to apprenticeships, internships and jobs. The United States – through the State Department – has also initiated a pilot community college program linking Montgomery College with three technical institutions in India. The aim of the initiative is, through faculty and administration exchanges, to better align programming including curricula, student support services and internships to the actual needs of local businesses. Pilot program results will be highlighted in a Spring 2011 conference.
- **Community College Student Exchange Program:** The United States has also launched its new Community College Initiative Program for Indian students to earn one-year certificates at U.S. community colleges in fields key to national development; the first cohort of 48 students arrived in the autumn of 2010.

- **Language Learning:** The United States strongly supports language learning and sends 100 American high school and university students to learn Indic languages in India each year, while providing English Access Microscholarships in India to 1,000 disadvantaged 14-18 year old students for quality after-school English language instruction.
- **Room to Read Literacy Empowerment:** The United States is supporting a dramatic scaling up of programs to increase the numbers of local language children's books available in India, through author and illustrator training, the establishment of new libraries and reading corners, and teacher training on how to engage children with books.
- **Girls' Education:** The United States is supporting girls' education in India. Through a partnership with Room to Read, secondary school girls in need are provided with financial support, life-skills training, female mentors and girl-friendly school environments to help ensure school completion.
- **Partnership for Basic Education:** The United States Government, through USAID, in partnership with the Government of India has recently signed an agreement for a new five year program to bring proven best practices, innovations and technology to improve India's basic education by augmenting teachers' competence and effectiveness. USG technology-aided elementary school program already reaches over 40 million children across India and is showing exemplary improvements in teaching-learning practices, and students' learning gains.

In support of these and other initiatives, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed that the Governments of India and the United States will continue their existing robust education cooperation, including the U.S.-India Education Dialogue, the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, and the Women's Empowerment Dialogue (WED) in early 2011.