

A new era of India- UK Educational Relationship-Launch of second phase of UKIERI



India Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh during UK Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to India said "We share the same vision for a renewed and enhanced partnership between our two countries. We will intensify bilateral exchanges at all levels. India and the UK are natural partners to shape a better world". This vision was brought to reality during the recent India visit of UK Minister David Willet which focussed on exploring

opportunities of India and the UK working together including addressing mutual global challenges. The UK Minister was accompanied with a high level delegation of sector heads across education, skills and industry which re-affirmed the UK's commitment to continue to strengthen bilateral links on education with India.

As a next step in this partnership, the second phase of UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) was also launched on 12th November in New Delhi. The UK Minister together with Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resources, Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding on UKIERI and the two governments pledged support to this programme for the next 5 years from April 2011 -2016.

This new phase of the UKIERI programme is comprised of four strands of education collaboration covering:

1. Skill Development
2. Innovation Partnerships
3. Building a new generation of leaders
4. Building harmony and enhancing mobility



The third UK- India Education Forum was also co chaired by the UK and Indian ministers David Willets and Kapil Sibal. The annual bilateral Forum brings together Indian and the UK stakeholders to review the Indo-UK educational relations, deliberate on the progress made since the last Forum, and discuss priorities for further promoting educational co-operation

and exchange.

“... Through partnerships we are looking for a win-win relationship for both countries”, quoted Shri Kapil Sibal at the education forum.

During the Forum, both sides identified areas of critical importance for future partnership. These include school leadership development, implementation of vocational education through use of technology, sector focussed work in skill development and development of qualifications framework for school and higher education, teacher development programme, distance learning programmes.

A joint statement on education was also signed by the two ministers; which reflect successful collaboration across a range of government departments, devolved administrations and institutions in our countries and reaffirms recognition of individual programme successes set out in the Joint Statement from the Second Forum in January 2010.

For further information on UKIERI, please visit www.ukieri.org

