PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKMENISTAN FOR THE PERIOD OF 2015-2017

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

Expressing their desire and mutual interest in deepening of cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology between the Parties;

Convinced that realization of joint projects, scientific exchanges will promote strengthening of friendship between the Parties;

With the purpose of strengthening of the earlier established contacts within the framework of Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology concluded on 25th May 2010 at New Delhi;

The Parties have agreed upon the following Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology for the period of 2015-2017:

Article 1

The Parties will realize cooperation within the framework of this Programme of Cooperation using the following forms:

- a) Exchange of Information with the purpose of familiarization with latest achievements in science and technology in each other's country through participation in bilateral workshops, seminars, international conferences and exhibitions and also through electronic media;
- b) Exchange of Scientists / researchers / experts / technologists (hereinafter the specialists) through short and long-term visits
- c) Joint research through collaborative projects;
- d) Exploratory visits during 2015-2017.

Article 2

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of the Republic of India and the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan along with Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, shall be the Coordinating Agencies (hereinafter referred to as "Coordinating Agencies") for the present Programme.

Article 3

The Parties shall facilitate and encourage collaboration in the following areas:

- a) Astronomy
- b) Biotechnology
- c) Nanotechnology
- d) Information Technology
- e) Renewable Energy (Bioenergy, Solar Photovoltaics, Solar Thermal & Wind Energy)
- f) Chemistry and Petrochemicals
- g) Earth Sciences

Cooperation could be undertaken in other Science and Technology areas as and when required, on the agreement of the Parties.

Article 4

Cooperation shall be carried out by the Parties on equal right basis.

The Parties shall consider scientific projects of mutual interest developed jointly by the Indian and Turkmen scientists according to the form attached at Annexure-I. The joint project proposals shall be simultaneously submitted for approval to the respective Coordinating Agencies in India and Turkmenistan.

The projects approved by the Joint Committee on cooperation in science and technology shall be coordinated by the project leaders (one each from Turkmenistan and India) designated by the Parties. The project activities will be supported by the Parties on their respective sides.

The utilization of the jointly obtained results (making them public, publications, patents, etc.) shall be decided by the cooperating institutes in accordance with their national laws.

The annual as well as the final project reports shall be prepared by the Project Coordinators and shall be submitted to the Indo-Turkmen Science and Technology Committee through the Coordinating Agencies.

Article 5

In order to realize the cooperation within the framework of this Programme of Cooperation, the Parties shall encourage short-term visits of specialists from each side to familiarize them with the state-of-the-art in science & technology in each other's country, participate in international/bilateral scientific conferences, workshops, exhibitions as well as long-term visits to work on joint projects. (Annexure-II)

Article 6

The nomination of specialists traveling under the present Programme of Cooperation shall be communicated to the receiving Party by the sending Party at least two months prior to the beginning of the planned visit.

The receiving Party shall communicate its readiness to receive the proposed specialists, generally within one month of receiving their particulars from the sending Party.

The sending Party shall communicate the exact date of travel of the visiting specialists and the flight number at least two weeks before the planned date of the arrival of the visiting specialists.

The number of institutions to be visited by specialists should not exceed two. The receiving Party shall consider the possibility of granting free-of-charge entry visa to persons visiting each other's states under this Programme of Cooperation.

Article 7

Following are the financial terms for the visits of the scientists on the basis of the Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology between Turkmenistan and India:

Sending Party shall bear expenditure on medical insurance and international travel up to the airport nearest to the host institute, boarding and lodging in the State of the receiving Party.

Receiving Party shall provide local transport in the country of staying and bear organizational expenses in holding mutually agreed seminars/meetings under this Programme of Cooperation.

Receiving Party will ensure waiver of registration charges for participation in international seminars/conferences under this Programme of Cooperation. The duration of such visits will not exceed seven days.

If necessary, the financial terms may be revised after mutual consultations between the Parties.

Article 8

This Programme of Cooperation does not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other international treaties to which they are Parties.

Article 9

In the event of disputes over the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Programme of Cooperation, the Parties shall resolve them amicably through negotiation and consultation.

Article 10

This Programme of Cooperation shall come into force from the date of its signing and will be valid up to 31 December 2017.

This Programme of Cooperation may be amended and introduced addendum at any time by mutual consent of the Parties in writing which will be an integral part of this Programme.

Termination of this Programme of Cooperation shall not affect implementation of ongoing joint projects or cooperative activities undertaken under this Programme and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this Programme.

Done at Ashgabat on 11th July, 2015, in two originals, each in Hindi, Turkmen and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt in interpretation or application of articles of the Programme of Cooperation, the Parties shall follow the English text.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKMENISTAN

(Dr. T. V. Nagendra Prasad)

Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan

(Gurbanmyrat Mezilov)

President of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan