



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

AND

AL-KITAB UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made this day of , 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “**MoU**”);

BETWEEN

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA, a public institution of higher learning established under the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and for the purpose of this MoU is represented by its *******, with its main address at Level 6, Chancellery Building, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia (hereinafter referred to as “**USM**”), of the first part;

AND

Al-Kitab University, a private university in Iraq established in 2012 under the approval of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research with its letter C / 1655 on 26/3/2013. And for the purpose of the MoU is represented by its president Professor Ayad Barznchy with its main office at Alton Kopri, Kirkuk 36015, Iraq (hereinafter referred to as “**Al-Kitab University**”) of the second part.

(USM and Al-Kitab University shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as “**Parties**” and individually as “**Party**”, where the context so requires)

WHEREAS:-

- A. USM is Malaysia’s premier research university which strives to enhance and strengthen its educational programs and has taken various initiatives to complement its educational excellence. With its research and teaching facilities, experience, and a multi-disciplinary team of experts from among its staff members, USM has entered into various collaborative arrangements with other parties in its efforts to enhance its research content and strengthen its industrial networking.
- B. Al-Kitab University is a prominent private educational institution in Iraq, focusing on advanced educational technology and a global system to meet the evolving demands of the labor market. The university is dedicated to enriching society by prioritizing knowledge development, sustained competitiveness, and fostering creativity. With a clear vision, Al-Kitab aspires to be a leading institution in the Middle East, actively seeking a distinctive role in international cooperation and fostering exchanges in education and scientific research.
- C. The Parties are desirous of entering into this MoU to declare their mutual intentions to establish collaboration and explore opportunities to develop, support and enrich the research, educational and training programs in the fields that will be beneficial to both Parties.
- D. Based on the principles of equity and reciprocity, this MoU sets out the general framework for the establishment of an academic link and cooperation between the Parties and to facilitate the detailed discussions on the scope of the academic link and cooperation.

NOW IT IS HEREBY UNDERSTOOD as follows:

1. Scope and Fields of Linkages and Cooperation

1.1 Subject to their respective laws, constitution, regulations and/or policies from time to time in force, the Parties will endeavour to take necessary steps to promote, develop and establish the research, education and training programs co-operation in the following fields:-

- (a) exchange of students and/or staff;
- (b) joint academic programs;
- (c) joint research and development programs;
- (d) joint workshops and training programs;
- (e) exchange of publication; and
- (f) any other academic linkages and cooperation that will be mutually identified and agreed by the Parties from time to time.

1.2 This MoU shall form the basis of consensus for the Parties to examine the feasibility of the cooperation stated in clause 1.1 (hereinafter referred to as “Programs”) until such time when a specific written agreement(s) (hereinafter referred to as “Specific Agreement”) is entered into by the Parties in respect of the Programs, upon terms and conditions to be mutually agreed upon.

1.3 For the purpose of examining the feasibility of the Programs and implementing the Programs, USM and Al-Kitab University shall be led by the following researchers respectively:

For USM : ***

For Al-Kitab University : Ibrahim M. Abdulbaqi Almalla Yousif

Each researcher from USM and Al-Kitab University may appoint such other researcher or researchers to assist in the implementation of any of the Programs.

2. Financial Arrangements

The Parties agree that this MoU shall not impose any financial commitments on either Party and that all financial arrangements for any of the Programs will be negotiated and mutually agreed in writing between the Parties, depending on the availability of funds.

3. Confidentiality

3.1 Neither Party shall at any time publish or, disclose to any third party the contents of this MoU or any Confidential Information of the other Party acquired pursuant to this MoU without the written consent of the other Party.

3.2 For the purpose of this MoU, “Confidential Information” means any and all technical and non-technical information including patent, copyright, trade secret, know-how and proprietary information, techniques, sketches, drawings, diagrams, methods, processes, apparatus, equipment, algorithms, software programs, software source documents, and formulae related to a technology or invention, and includes, without limitation, its respective information concerning research, experimental work, development, design details and specifications, engineering, financial information, procurement requirements, purchasing manufacturing, customer list, business forecasts, sales and merchandising and marketing plans and information designated in writing to be confidential or by its nature intended to be for the sole knowledge of the receiving

party or if orally given in the circumstances of confidence or confirmed promptly in writing as having been disclosed as confidential or proprietary for the purpose of this MoU; that is conveyed by the disclosing party to the receiving party, in written, oral, digital, magnetic, photographic and/or whatsoever forms.

3.3 The obligations of the Parties under this clause 3 shall survive and remain binding on the Parties for a period of three (3) years from the expiry or the earlier termination of this MoU (as the case may be) or, the expiry or the earlier termination of the renewed period (as the case may be) as provided in clause 5.3 herein.

4. Non-Binding Nature of the MoU

Save and except for clause 3 and clause 12 herein, this MoU shall not create any enforceable right or any binding obligations on either Party under domestic or international laws and the Parties shall not be legally bound until and unless a Specific Agreement for each or any of the Programs has been negotiated, approved, executed and delivered by the Parties.

5. Validity, Termination and Renewal of the MoU

5.1 This MoU is valid and shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from the date of this MoU regardless of the diverse dates the Parties may have signed this MoU.

5.2 Either Party may terminate this MoU by giving one (1) month's written notice to the other Party.

5.3 This MoU may be renewed upon the mutual agreement of both Parties.

6. Notices

Any notice or communication between the Parties shall be delivered to the addresses as hereinbefore appearing or sent to the facsimile number or emailed to the Party concerned.

7. Variation

The terms stipulated in this MoU shall not be amended, altered, changed or otherwise modified without the mutual consent of the Parties and such amendments, alterations, changes and modifications shall be made in writing and signed by the Parties. The variation made under this clause 7 will take effect on such date as may be determined by the Parties.

8. Dispute Resolution

Any disputes, controversies, or differences arising out of or in connection with this MoU, including its implementation and interpretation, must be resolved by way of discussions and negotiations with a view to an amicable settlement and mutual benefit of both Parties, without reference to any third party or, local or international tribunal.

9. Governing law

This MoU shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Malaysia.

10. No Agency

Nothing contained herein is to be constituted as a joint-venture partnership or formal business organization of any kind between the Parties or so to constitute either Party as the agent of the other.

11. Assignment

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, both Parties shall not transfer or assign all or any of their rights, obligations, interests or benefits hereunder to any third party.

12. Name, Official Emblem and Logo

12.1 Neither Party shall use, nor permit any person or entity to use the name, acronym, official emblem, logo, trademark (or any variation thereof) or other Intellectual Property (hereinafter referred to as "Brand Materials") that is/are identified with or belongs to the other Party on any publication, document, paper, audio or visual presentation, or for publicity purposes.

12.2 Any use of the Brand Materials for the purposes stated in clause 12.1 above shall first obtain the written consent of the other Party and shall comply with all conditions set by the other Party on the use of its Brand Materials.

13. Language of MoU

If this MoU is translated into another language, both texts would be deemed to be authentic, but the English text would prevail in the event of a dispute.

14. Counterparts

This MoU may be executed in any number of counterparts and each such counterpart shall constitute an original of this MoU. This MoU shall not be effective until each Party has executed at least one counterpart.

15. Non-Discrimination

USM and Al-Kitab University agree not to discriminate against any person because of age, sex, national origin, race, ancestry, colour, religious creed, disability or handicap, and sexual orientation. Neither institution shall impose criteria for the exchange of staff and students that would violate the principles of non-discrimination.

16. E-Communication

The Parties acknowledge and agree that electronic communication is an acceptable method of correspondence and communicating information between the Parties without having to communicate the same on paper. Any communication and subsequent electronic signature that has been sent or signed in the past, present, or future between the Parties will hold the same force and effect as a document signed and inked on paper.

17. Mutual Cooperation and Relationship

The Parties realize that it is not feasible to adequately foresee and address every issue involving the collaboration of the Parties herein. Hence the Parties shall use their best endeavours to realize their expertise in carrying out the steps and measures necessary for furthering their mutual interest under this MoU in accordance with the spirit of close cooperation and mutual assistance.

[next page is the signing page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF USM and Al-Kitab University have hereunto executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date and year first above written:

SIGNED BY
For and on behalf of

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

SIGNED BY
For and on behalf of

Al-Kitab University

.....
**PROF. DATO' SERI IR. DR. ABDUL RAHMAN
MOHAMED, FASc**
Vice-Chancellor

.....
PROF. DR. AYAD BARZNCHY
President of Al-Kitab University

In the presence of:

In the presence of:

.....
[HoD's name and designation]

.....
[name and designation]