

ASSOCIATE STATUS
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
GLOBAL NETWORK OF MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to delineate the roles and responsibilities of the **Master's in Development Practice Secretariat** and those accorded **Associate Status** in the **Global Network of Master's in Development Practice Programs** in the achievement of the objectives of the Network. It also outlines the benefits associated with participation in the Network. In order for the Network to succeed, all participating institutions and organizations must fulfill their responsibilities.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding agreement nor does it obligate any of the participants to any financial expenditures. Network Associates may only represent their institutions as a participant of the Network and not as a branch or designated entity of the Earth Institute or Columbia University.

The terms of participation in this Global Network will be revised every three (3) years.

I. BACKGROUND

The new Master's in Development Practice (MDP) program is a two-year, graduate level program that has been designed to train aspiring practitioners to understand and manage integrated approaches to sustainable development challenges across the health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences and management. This rigorous cross-disciplinary, academic curriculum emphasizes the development of critical knowledge, skills and attributes of an effective professional in developing societies.

The MacArthur Foundation has committed \$16 million dollars to create MDP programs at up to 20 universities worldwide over the next three years. In June 2009, MacArthur announced the first 10 universities across the globe that would receive seed funding to establish new MDP programs. In 2010, MacArthur will fund up to ten additional universities to create additional MDP programs or develop the capacity to offer such a program.

II. NETWORK DEFINED

The Global Network of MDP Programs refers to all universities or academic institutions that have developed MDP programs or are interested in developing MDP programs. There are three levels of membership within the Network— Partners, Associates and Affiliates.

Institutions with full MDP programs are considered “Partners” and those that are interested in building their capacity to eventually offer such a program are “Associates.” Associates are also institutions that are interested in participating in some of the activities of the Global Network of MDP Programs including the global online course, Global Classroom; the development of the virtual repository; and, MDP related meetings and conferences. “Affiliates” are institutions that do not have and are not in the process of building an MDP program but wish to partake in the Global Network of MDP Programs.

The Network comprises both MacArthur Foundation funded institutions and other universities that do not receive MacArthur funds. All of the institutions in the Network are committed to inter-disciplinary, rigorous, and practice-based training in sustainable development.

III. NETWORK OBJECTIVES

The Network has the following objectives:

- To create exemplary MDP programs worldwide in accordance with the curricular recommendations of the International Commission on Education for Sustainable Development Practice report.
- To build international dialogue on the training of sustainable development practitioners through conferences, resources and information exchange on the Secretariat and Global MDP Website: (www.globalmdp.org).

IV. NETWORK PRINCIPLES

The Global Network of MDP Programs is based on the following principles:

- *Reciprocity*: The Network is strengthened on the basis of inputs from all its participants. In return, Network participants can expect benefits and the added value of belonging to a Global Network of MDP programs.
- *Cross-Disciplinarity*: The Network believes in the creation of graduate degree programs that are inter-disciplinary, rigorous and grounded in practice-based training in sustainable development.
- *Institutional Innovation*: The interdisciplinary nature of the MDP program fosters collaboration among multiple departments, schools, colleges, universities, institutes, and governments and NGOs and serves as a broad-based lens and catalyst for innovative problem-solving.
- *Leadership*: The Network aims to become the leader in the development and implementation of Master’s in Development Practice programs by developing and expanding its membership and activities worldwide.

- *Language:* The working Network language is English. Whenever possible, translation of resources into the following five United Nations languages (French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Mandarin) will be provided.

V. NETWORK PARTICIPANTS: ASSOCIATES

Associates are universities or academic institutions that are interested in building their capacity to develop MDP programs. Such universities can be at any stage of their MDP program development. Associates can also be universities or institutions that are interested in participating in or contributing to the activities of the Global Network of MDP programs including:

- Global Classrooms: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development
- Virtual MDP repository with resources such as case studies, course syllabi, readings and other materials
- Local, regional, national or international events or activities that increase the awareness of the MDP approach to sustainable development
- MDP field training programs or faculty and student exchanges

VI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSOCIATES

Associates agree to work with the MDP Secretariat to build their capacity to offer the MDP program or maximize their participation in or contribution to the Global Network of MDP programs.

VII. MDP SECRETARIAT ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In its role as the umbrella organization overseeing all Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs and activities worldwide, the MDP Secretariat agrees to:

- Provide relevant news, information and resources to the Network via the Global Network of MDP Programs website: www.globalmdp.org
- Develop a virtual repository of MDP resources that are aligned with the MDP curriculum
- Promote the Network and its members via the website and other media
- Offer opportunities for sharing of MDP experiences and "best practices" through meetings and conferences, both online and face-to-face.
- Provide virtual and real time global partnerships and networking opportunities.
- Offer online, blended, global courses including the Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development.

- Raise awareness of the MDP programs through the dissemination of articles, papers and presentations.
- Provide guidance in the development of the MDP field training programs and student and faculty exchanges.
- Provide assistance with strategic planning for developing MDP programs and field trainings.
- Develop an alumni network
- Provide access to employer and career information

VIII. ASSOCIATE FEE AND BENEFITS

Participating in the Global Network as an Associate is free. It is based on an application and approval process. At some time in the future the Secretariat may wish to consider voluntary membership fees to help it sustain its work when MacArthur Foundation funding expires. The Secretariat will also seek other donor support.

IX. NETWORK MANAGEMENT

The MDP Secretariat manages the day-to-day operations of the Network.

- The MDP Secretariat serves as the umbrella organization overseeing all Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs and activities worldwide.
- The MDP Secretariat is the official representative of the Network to the public. The Director acts in close co-operation with the International Advisory Board and the Network.
- The MDP Secretariat is housed at Columbia University's Earth Institute in New York City.
- More information on the Secretariat is available at www.globalmdp.org

This Memorandum of Understanding is understood and agreed:

University

MDP Secretariat

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____