

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

Department of Linguistics
and Philology,
Uppsala University, Sweden

and

International Scientific
Cooperation Office,
Gorgan University of Agricultural
Sciences and Natural Resources,
Gorgan, Iran

December 2007

1. Background

Uppsala University is a leading research university where education grows out of research. In a great number of disciplines Uppsala University is on the international research front with a long-term commitment to maintain and reinforce a prominent position. This takes the form of vigorous investments for global excellence in research and education. Today's research and education build on deeply rooted traditions of learning. The Faculty of Languages at Uppsala University offer undergraduate education in about 40 languages and postgraduate education in 18 research disciplines. One of the departments in the Faculty of languages at Uppsala University is the Department of Linguistics and Philology (DLPUU). At this department more than 80 different undergraduate courses and four BA-MA programmes are offered. Ph. D. programmes are also offered in eleven different disciplines. Iranian languages are taught on graduate and post-graduate level and as part of the MA programme of Oriental Studies. Courses in New Persian, Middle Persian and Parthian, Avestan, Old Persian, Kurdish, Balochi, Dari, Pashto, Gilaki and Mazandarani are at present offered. Research in the field of Iranian languages is carried out both in the sphere of linguistics, sociolinguistics and literature with a special focus on minority languages.

Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (GUASNR) is one of the most important specialized universities in Iran located in north of the country, Golestan Province. There are seven faculties conducting BA, BSc, MSc, PhD programs in this university. Humanities and engineering faculties which currently exist in this university may be forming Golestan University in coming years. GUASNR has about 200 academician who perform teaching and research activities in numerous and various specialities and topics. Developing interdisciplinary fields has high importance among the university's interests and policies. The existence of academicians who have been educated or have experience and interest in agricultural, cultural and social studies as well as humanities and language pave the way to achieve this aim. Golestan province may also be unique in Iran in terms of cultural and natural diversity. There are more than 20 different spoken languages and dialects spread over a diverse natural landscape of the province including deserts to forests and low plains to high mountains. Scientific cooperation between GUASNR and international universities and research institutes make the opportunities to explore at present unknown aspects of this diversity and aid the university to achieve its aims.

2. Objectives

This Agreement outlines a programme of cooperation between DLPUU and GUASNR, with the overall aims of:

- * Promoting research and documentation of local languages, dialects and cultures.
- * Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise between researchers of DLPUU, researchers of GUASNR and the wider academic community with an interest in local languages, dialects and cultures.
- * Fostering active cooperation between Asian and Western scholars committed to the study of these languages, and between the academic institutions to which they belong.

3. Specific programmes of cooperation and exchange of expertise

DPLUU and GUASNR will pursue a range of cooperative programmes and joint ventures designed to promote research and documentation of Indo-Iranian languages. These may include:

- * Hosting of international linguistic conferences and facilitating the participation of Asian scholars in such events.
- * Research projects in the field of language documentation.
- * Joint publication of papers and research studies in association with other scholars working in the field of Iranian languages.
- * Developing interdisciplinary programmes and activities.
- * Exchange programmes.

4. Conditions


With effect from January 1, 2008, this Agreement shall extend for an initial period of five years. Extensions of the Agreement beyond five years will be possible if all parties so agree. If any party should wish to terminate the Agreement, it shall give six months advance notice to the other party.


DPLUU will guarantee to cover the financial and material needs of its personnel who participate in this agreement. There will be no financial obligation on the part of GUASNR as a result of this Agreement, other than what may be volunteered and specified in writing by GUASNR in association with a specific project or programme.

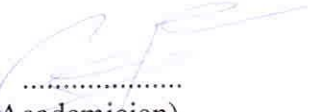
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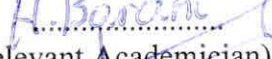
Research proposals and programme plans that come under this Agreement of cooperation will be reviewed and authorised by the Head of Department (prefekt) of DPLUU and the Head of the Office of International Scientific Cooperation (as the representative) of GUASNR.

Uppsala / Gorgan Dec. 2007

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