



**Scientific Cooperation Agreement
Between**

**First party: Damascus University in The Syrian Arab Republic
Represented by its president Prof. Hani Mourtada**

**Second party: University of Palermo in Italy
Represented by its president Prof. Giuseppe Silvestri**

Having taken into account

the mutual institutional interests in facilitating and encouraging cooperation and scientific and educational exchanges on an International level

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES ARE AGREED:

ARTICLE 1: FIELDS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT

The collaboration and the exchanges contemplated in this agreement will concern the following fields:

Agronomy and Zootechny
Arab-Islamic Studies
Architecture
Economy
Engineering
Medicine
Natural Sciences and Environment
Philological-Literary sciences and Archaeology
Veterinary Medicine

The two Universities may add fields not included in the agreement to be agreed upon through formal correspondence between both universities.



ARTICLE 2 : VISITS

A - Short- term visits for representatives of the two universities and members of the Teaching Staff (up to three months)

- 1- The two Universities will exchange visits for members in charge of scientific administration in the presidency of each University and the Faculties with the aim of exchanging information and expertise in the field of higher education and scientific research, and to agree upon the conditions of conducting joint scientific research.
- 2- The two Universities will exchange visits of Teaching Staff members to share expertise and research results as well as lecturing and participating in conferences, symposiums, seminars and other scientific activities .

B- Long - term visits for the Teaching Staff members (minimum of four months)

- 1- The two universities will exchange visits for Teaching Staff members to conduct joint scientific research in subjects of common interest. The expenses will be distributed -upon the consent of the two universities -in accordance with the conditions stated in the research project .
- 2- The two universities will receive delegated Teaching Staff members with all expenses covered by the home university in order to carry out scientific research missions .
- 3- The two universities will exchange Teaching Staff members as visiting professors. Expenses are to be considered and organized through formal correspondence in each case individually .

C- Exchange of students:

Both Universities will exchange students of all different academic levels for scientific qualification and training in addition to the participation in sport and cultural activities.



ARTICLE 3: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- 1 - The two Universities will implement and develop joint research projects to be agreed upon by the two parties who will exchange project - related information through direct contact between faculties and departments concerned .
- 2 - Each University will express willingness - upon a request from the other University - to contribute to joint supervision of some of the research theses of postgraduate students within the fields covered by the agreement. The decision of nominating the co-supervisor will be reached in accordance with the present higher education regulations in the two universities .
- 3 - The two universities will express readiness to participate in the examining boards for the defense of some post - graduate theses . The decision of nominating the co - examiners will be taken in accordance with the higher education regulations in force in the two universities.
- 4 - The two Universities in cooperation with the governmental authorities concerned will organize reciprocal qualification- recognition rules plus the conditions of study stages and scientific degrees to enable students and graduates of either University to pursue their studies in the other University . The two Universities will take into consideration the provisions of laws in force.
- 5- Each university will provide health and social care for the delegates.

ARTICLE 4: SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF LITERATURE AND SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

- 1- The two universities will exchange literature, publications and periodicals issued by each University as well as Master dissertations and Doctorate theses.
- 2- The two Universities will exchange syllabi, curricula and regulations regarding scientific administration especially in fields included in the agreement.
- 3- The two Universities will exchange specialized references related to postgraduate curricula.



- 4- The two Universities will encourage the publishing of research and scientific articles issued by either University in periodicals and scientific reviews published by the other University.
- 5- The two Universities exchange information and scientific references on different subjects of common interest in the aim of establishing a data bank.

ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Upon signing the present agreement, the two Universities will sign a two year executive program which includes exact specifications of all details required to execute the agreement such as duration, number and quality of exchanged visits and joint researches and rules and conditions for the selection of candidate- students to be exchanged by the two Universities.

Required executive programs are to be organized consecutively during the enforcement of the agreement.

ARTICLE 6: JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

A joint committee from both Universities will be formed with the main task of drawing up executive programs and to supervise the implementation of the present agreement as well as to suggest prospects, methods and means for developing cooperation between the two Universities .

ARTICLE 7: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

For the realization of the agreed activities each contracting side agrees to ensure in its own country any kind of assistance and facilitation to the participants. Each contracting side will provide a full health insurance for its own staff. In order to realize and support all the activities related to this agreement, each contracting side will exert its best effort to seek and obtain funding from external sources.



ARTICLE 8: EXCHANGING SUPPORT


The two Universities will offer support to participants in the work program. The support will be given through supplying them with information and facilities required by the cooperation in addition to solving other problems related to organization.

ARTICLE 9: RECOGNITION AND VALIDATION

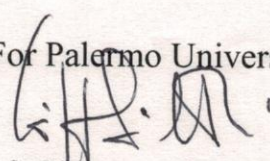
- 1- This agreement will last for four years to be renewed automatically unless one of the two universities expressed a wish to cancel the agreement through a formal request submitted in writing with at least six months notice.
- 2- New articles can be added- upon the consent of the two universities - to the present agreement while it is still valid.
- 3- This agreement is enforced as from the date of its signing by the Rectors of both Universities according to the applied rules in the two universities.
- 4- Upon cancellation, terms of the present agreement remain valid in case of delegates already dispatched in accordance with the agreement up until the end of their designated term. The same applies for research projects and activities till their completion.
- 5- This agreement is written in two original copies in Arabic and in English with equal validity for both.

Date 19.09.2003

For Damascus University


Prof. Hani MOURTADA
Rector

For Palermo University


Prof. Giuseppe SILVESTRI
Rector

