

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY (IITM),
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES,
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

And

MALDIVES METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (MMS),
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT (MOTE),
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Republic of India, and the Maldives Meteorological Services (MMS) of the Republic of Maldives (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties")

Recognising the mutual benefits of collaborative scientific and technological efforts, particularly through the open exchange of ideas, data, and information;

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation in Earth Sciences—including, but not limited to, meteorology, climate variability and change, hydrology, atmospheric composition, and environmental monitoring—as a means to advance shared scientific understanding and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between their peoples;

Noting the strategic geographical position of both countries within the South Asian outflow zone, which offers unique opportunities for studying long-range pollutant transport, regional climate variability, and monsoon dynamics—critical for evidence-based decision-making in support of sustainable development;

Aiming to foster international collaboration through the use and promotion of technologies that enhance the availability, accessibility, and interoperability of spatial and Earth observation data;

Seeking to establish cooperative arrangements that support joint activities and coordinated programs in Earth Sciences and Earth Observations;

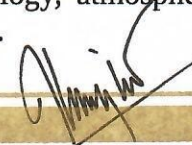
Desiring to strengthen data management systems to facilitate effective data sharing and improve the quality and reach of scientific outputs;

Wishing to enhance the impact of their respective scientific efforts through a sustained partnership in Earth Observations and related fields;

Have decided as follows:

Article 1 – Objective and Areas of Cooperation

1.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Parties in the fields of meteorology, atmospheric sciences, climate studies, environmental monitoring, and related disciplines.



1.2 This MoU seeks to promote collaboration through the exchange of knowledge, data, expertise, and technical capabilities, while fully respecting the sovereignty, regulations, and applicable laws of each Party.

1.3 Subject to mutual agreement, the Parties may cooperate in, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- a) Climate science and services
- b) Capacity building, including exchange programmes and training
- c) Technology development and application of observational tools
- d) Severe weather forecasting and research
- e) Air pollution, transboundary air pollution and atmospheric composition studies
- f) Hydrometeorology
- g) Joint planning and implementation of research projects
- h) Sharing of expertise, including personnel exchanges
- i) Support for regional and international environmental and climate initiatives
- j) Public outreach, education, and awareness activities related to meteorology and climate
- k) Other areas mutually agreed upon.

The Collaborative Activities will be jointly decided by the Parties and specific details of the form, Party responsibilities, and activity conditions will be mutually agreed and set out in separate arrangements ("Implementation Agreements").

Article 2 - Implementation Agreements

The implementation of cooperative activities under this MoU shall be governed by individual Implementation Agreements (IAs), which will set out detailed terms for each project or program.

Each Implementation Agreement will include, where applicable, the scope and objectives of the activity; the roles and responsibilities of each Party; defined timelines, deliverables, and milestones; financial arrangements and resource contributions, if any; agreed terms for data sharing and management; provisions governing intellectual property rights and confidentiality; and mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

The Parties may also invite other cooperating entities or stakeholders to participate in specific activities, as appropriate, under the terms agreed in the respective IA.

This MoU provides an overarching framework for cooperation and does not, by itself, create binding legal, financial, or operational obligations.

Article 3 - Responsibilities of the Parties

3.1 The Parties will:

- (a) develop and conclude Implementation Agreements to support any agreed Collaborative Activities;
- (b) act in accordance with their respective national laws, executive order, guidelines, policies and approvals procedures;



(c) manage and coordinate the Collaborative Activities to be carried out under this Memorandum;

(d) designate appropriate personnel to manage and co-ordinate the Collaborative Activities;

(e) cooperate in making the necessary arrangements to facilitate personnel visiting their respective countries and any equipment required to support the Collaborative Activities;

(f) provide personnel, facilities and/or any other support (which may include the exchange of technical information or data) as jointly decided by the Parties. Such support will be provided subject to the availability of resources and in accordance with policies and/or any legal requirements of the Party providing the support; and

(g) ensure its personnel when working or visiting a Party's premises observe the rules and procedures relating to those premises.

Article 4 – Financial Arrangements

4.1 Each Party will provide staff, facilities and other support necessary for implementation of activities as mutually decided by the Parties. Such support will be subject to the availability of funds and personnel and will be in accordance with the laws and regulations of its respective country.

4.2 In accordance with the principle of equity and reciprocity, each Party will bear its own individual full costs it incurs in performing, managing, and administering its own efforts under this Memorandum. In the event that either Party is unable to carry out the activities using its own resources, it may request financial assistance from the other Party. The provision of such assistance shall be at the sole discretion of the Party receiving the request.

4.3 The funding contribution and national restrictions for Parties will be detailed in the relevant Implementation Agreement for any decided Collaborative Activities. The terms of funding will be established by the Parties in a signed Implementation Agreement before commencing each activity.

4.4 It is not intended that any exchange of funds will occur between the Parties under this Memorandum unless otherwise agreed and set out in an Implementation Agreement.

4.5 Expenses relating to exchange visits connected to the Collaborative Activities will be borne by the sending Party unless otherwise agreed by both Parties.

Article 5 –Mechanisms for co-operation

Designated Points of Contact: The Parties have designated the following individuals as the designated point of contact for matters relating to this Memorandum:

Maldives Meteorological Services (MMS):

Name:



Address:

Email:

IITM:

Name: Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

Address: Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune - 411008

Email: surya@tropmet.res.in ; belguide@tropmet.res.in

Article 6 - Working Arrangement

6.1 The Parties shall jointly establish a Joint Working Group at an appropriate time to:

- Review ongoing collaborative activities and amend them as necessary.
- Recommend new projects or termination of existing projects.
- Organize workshops, symposiums, seminars, and exchange visits.
- Evaluate the benefits of cooperation.
- Discuss other mutually agreed topics.

6.2 The Parties shall encourage participation and exchange of early-career personnel to nurture future collaboration.

6.3 Personnel shall:

- Comply with all relevant laws, regulations, and institutional policies.
- Refrain from political, commercial, or any activities inconsistent with the MoU's objectives.
- Respect intellectual property rights of both Parties.

Article 7 - Information Exchange

7.1 Information that may be exchanged under this Memorandum may include information that is intended to identify common interests, and other such matters as may be necessary to properly define the appropriate level of cooperation between the Parties. This may include the exchange of reports or other documents, from workshops and other collaborative sessions that focus on research outcomes and the planning of the Collaborative Activities.

7.2 Each Party will ensure, that any information, data or products of a confidential nature ("Confidential Information") provided by the other Party is sufficiently protected and not disclosed to any third party without the expressed written permission of the disclosing Party. This protection will be at least the same level of protection, which a Party applies to its own Confidential Information.

7.3 The use of any information exchanged between the Parties will be strictly for the purpose of the Collaborative Activities under this MoU. The Parties will not use the information for purposes other than that specified without the prior written consent of the other Party.

7.4 Each Party will ensure that its use of any information exchanged under this Memorandum is used in accordance with Article 7.3.

7.5 A Party is not under any obligation to provide any information and may at its own discretion, choose not to provide certain information or cease to provide certain information, unless agreed upon in the Implementation Agreement.

7.6 All Confidential Information shall remain the exclusive property of the disclosing Party. The Parties agree that this agreement and the disclosure of the Confidential Information do not grant or imply any license, interest or right to the Recipient in respect to of any intellectual property rights of the other Party, wherever in the world enforceable.

7.7 A Party in consultation with the other Party only, may publish information regarding their own activities carried out under this Memorandum. Any publication, document and/or paper arising out of joint work conducted by the Parties pursuant to this Memorandum will be owned as set out in the Implementation Agreement. The use of the name, logo, official emblem and/or any other trademark of the Parties on any publication, document and/or paper will require prior permission of both the Parties. Both Parties shall ensure that their official emblems and logo are not misused.

Article 8 – Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The treatment of intellectual property to be used and created in the course of Collaborative Activities under this Memorandum will be detailed in the appropriate Implementation Agreements but will comply with the existing policies of the Parties. Both Parties affirm their commitment to all local laws governing the licensing of intellectual property and of public sector information. No license to use any intellectual property rights is granted or implied except by the permissions expressly granted in this Memorandum or Implementation Agreement.

Article 9 - Dispute Resolution

The Parties will resolve any disputes regarding the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum amicably and in good faith, through mutual discussion and negotiation between the Parties' Designated Points of Contact.

In the event that any dispute or question cannot be resolved by the Designated Points of Contact within after 30 calendar days or within any longer period agreed between the Parties in writing, the matter shall be referred to senior management of the Parties.

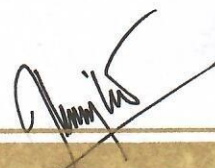
Any dispute that cannot be resolved using the above procedure may be referred to non-binding mediation with the consent of both Parties.

Article 10 – Entry into Force, Duration, and Termination

10.1 This MoU shall come into force on the last date of its signature by the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years.

10.2 This MoU may be amended or modified by the Parties in the written form of mutual consent within the effective duration of the MoU.

10.3 This MoU may be renewed by mutual consent in writing.



10.4 Either Party may at any time terminate this MoU by giving, in advance a six (6)-month written notification to the other Party. The termination of the MoU shall terminate any committed or planned activities under this MoU. Ongoing programs and projects under this MoU may be carried out if both parties agree to do so even after termination of this MoU.

10.5 Equipment and items imported/exported by one party to the counterpart country under this MoU shall remain as assets belonging to the party where it is located at the time of termination of this MoU, unless otherwise communicated prior to commencement of the activity.


10.6 IPR shall be honored as given under Article-8 of this MoU even after termination of this MoU.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Government, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at Maldives on Twenty-fifth Day of July 2025 in two originals, in English and Hindi languages, both texts being equally authentic. In the event of a divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**For and on behalf of
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology,
Ministry of Earth Sciences,
Government of India**

**For and on behalf of
Ministry of Tourism and Environment,
Republic of Maldives**


**G. Balasubramanian
High Commissioner of India
to the Republic of Maldives**


**Thorig Ibrahim
Minister of Tourism and
Environment**