

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

Development of vocational education programmes in collaboration

between

NORTH KARELIA MUNICIPAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CONSORTIUM, RIVERIA
(hereinafter referred to as Riveria)

AND

HOKKAIDO COLLEGE OF NORTHERN FORESTRY
(hereinafter referred to as Kitamori College)

FIRST:

I) **Riveria** is a provincial vocational (technical) institution in North Karelia, Finland which offers more than 100 qualification programmes to 15 000 students and has 750 staff members. Riveria has wide experience in education and it specializes in competence-based services, responsibility and effectiveness in vocational training and development of working life.

Work-based teaching methods have an important role to play in collaboration with companies. Riveria enhances developing skills and entrepreneurship in all fields of study. In addition to student training, Riveria educates a large number of entrepreneurs and workers in companies. There are several study programmes for continuous education and specialisation studies, but also competence testing methods for operators. The Ministry of Education has awarded Riveria The National Quality Award of Vocational Training in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. (applicable every 4th year)

Managers, trainers, operator and maintenance specialists have been educated worldwide. Riveria has nearly 30 years of experience in international programmes and activities. The quality and work life collaboration are at a high level (including such companies as Normet, Sandvik, John Deere, KESLA). Considering the simulator development, Riveria has collaborated with companies, to create the digitalized training settings and technology. In addition, Riveria collaborates with the best, such as like Karelia University of applied science and University of Eastern Finland.

II) **Kitamori College** is a prefectural specialized training college due to be established in April 2020 in Asahikawa City, Hokkaido, Japan. The college will be offering a 2-year forestry and timber industry programme for training workers in the relevant industries, with a student number capacity of 40 individuals per year. It will provide upper secondary school graduate-level students (under the age of 40) who are motivated to work in the forestry and timber industry fields in Hokkaido, with expertise knowledge and skills, business management competencies and leadership capabilities through practical education, along with acquiring a total of 14 licenses which are necessary when working in the industry, and coordinating on-site training and internships, aiming to provide the industry with skilled workers who will eventually play key roles in the business.

To foster the student's practical abilities related to the forestry and timber industries, Kitamori College has concluded a cooperation agreement with the Hokkaido Research Organisation which has expert knowledge, while closely cooperating with companies, local municipalities and educational institutions such as Hokkaido University and Tokyo University of Agriculture.

SECOND: Through this Memorandum of Understanding, the parties recognize their support and commitment to the collaboration. Riveria and Kitamori College are developing education in Hokkaido, Japan, based on Finnish Vocational education and training and best practices in the forestry industry.

The parties shall collaborate in the following:

1. Riveria offers the following EduSolution services (consultation) to support development and establishment of forestry education in Hokkaido. Services are designed according to the needs of Kitamori College, and the price will be agreed separately.
 - 1.1. Development of education curriculums (such as goals, curriculum, qualifications, assessment, collaboration with companies, teaching settings and methods, on the job training and education of assessors)
 - 1.2. Competence development, through organizing tailor-made study visits for teachers, company trainers, managers of different organization in forestry and governmental visitors (1-7 days), or Educational Experience Camps (EduCamp 1-3 weeks). These programmes may include workshops and cultural activities. These are always designed according to the needs of the participants and price will be agreed separately.
 - 1.3. Development of standardized training assessment methods, competence tests, and the documentation process by using digital tools and materials.
 - 1.4. Education of company trainers to take a role as teachers in practical operator skills training and to act as assessors to ensure high quality education.
 - 1.5. Development of the teaching process and content for simulator training, creating videos and adapting to different learning environments.
 - 1.6. Development of digital platforms suitable to provide students with personalized study paths, to be used for the whole duration of the training.
 - 1.7. Enhancement of collaboration with forestry manufactures.
2. Gather information about forestry in both Finland and in Japan, and organize online-meetings as well as seminars together.
3. Support the exchange of students and teachers, based on a self-financed model. Each student/school pays one's own costs. Education or on the job training are organized by the receiving organization, with duration, goals, group size being negotiated separately.
4. Creating and implementing projects together to develop common topics and to share practices. Searching for suitable finance is reciprocal.

THIRD: The implementation of the collaboration mentioned above is subject to the conclusion of specific written agreements between both parties, separately in which development services of education programmes and other conditions are mentioned. Both parties will sign separate agreement for the execution of the joint Hokkaido- Riveria education programme development project (Centre wise/Project wise), as well as in relation to financials.

FOURTH: The collaboration will be implemented in Japan and Finland or other countries relevant to the activities, as agreed by the parties in writing.

FIFTH: One party shall not be liable to the other party for any indirect, incidental or consequential damages or costs: The parties will attempt to resolve any dispute, controversy or claim related to this Memorandum of Understanding through negotiations.

SIXTH: This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from the date of signatory by both parties and shall be renewable after re-negotiation procedures have been completed. Either party shall be able to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding on giving at least six months prior notice to the other party in writing. This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up and signed in English. Each party shall keep one copy.

SEVENTH: The parties agree as an essential proposal for any cooperative effort, that all participants in the programmes created in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding will be selected with full respect for equal opportunities for all people in accordance with the policies of each party and without distinction of race, sex, age, national origin or religious affiliation of the participants or candidates to participate.

EIGHTH: The parties agree that all specific financial agreements are agreed separately through negotiations.

NINTH: Each institution shall designate a contact person to develop and coordinate specific activities or programmes.

TENTH: Any difference or dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved amicably through consultations or negotiations between the parties.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Riveria: The Head of International Vocational Education and Training
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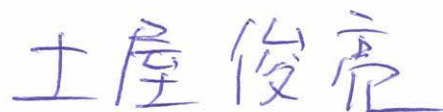
Kitamori College: Director for the Establishment of the college of Forestry ,Hokkaido Government
Teiji Tsuchiya, e-mail: tsuchiya.teiji@pref.hokkaido.lg.jp Tel: +81 11 206 6578

As a sign of their comformance and ratification of all the above, two copies of the same shall be signed herein.

Joensuu, Finland, on 21st January 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Esa Karvinen".

(Esa Karvinen, Principal, Riveria)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "土屋俊亮" (Tsuchiya Shunsuke).

(Shunsuke Tsuchiya, Vice Governor of Hokkaido
on behalf of Naomichi Suzuki, Governor of Hokkaido)