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OBAMA-SINGH 21ST CENTURY KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

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OBAMA-SINGH 21ST CENTURY KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

Outline of the Presentation

- Overview of the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative (OSI)
- Timeline of Events
- Highlight of the First Indo-US Summit
- Details of Proposal Submission for funding
A Strategic Dialogue was established to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation across

July 2009 - Visit of US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton to India
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November 22-26, 2009

Visit of Indian Prime Minister
Manmohan Singh to USA

“To reaffirm the Global Strategic Partnership between India and The United States of America”
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November 6-9, 2010

Visit of US President Barack Obama to India

“To impart momentum to bilateral cooperation and to establish a long-term frame work for India-US Global Strategic Partnership”
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US-India Global Partnership

The two leaders resolved to expand the

“US-India Global Partnership” for the benefit of their countries, for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in Asia and for the betterment of the World
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They reaffirmed partnership in following areas:

Global Security & Countering Terrorism
Ensuring Sustainable Global Development
and Clean Energy Future
Stimulating Global Economic Revival
Protecting the Health of Our People
Educating & Empowering Future Generations
The two Leaders recognized that:

“Education holds the key to the advancement of their societies and to a more prosperous and stable world”
They agreed that:

“Development of Technology is a cross-cutting requirement to meet the challenges that their two countries are facing”
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They acknowledged that:

“The fruitful collaboration between the two Countries in the fields of Education, Research and Science & Technology, which has contributed to their emergence as Knowledge Societies”
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Taking advantage of that strength,

President Obama & Prime Minister Singh launched the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative

With funding of $5 million from both sides
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Objectives of OSI:

- To increase University Linkages for the development of technologies, skills and knowledge based Societies in both Countries
- To develop Junior Faculties
- To promote exchanges between US & Indian Universities including greater emphasis on Community Colleges.
US Education Trade Mission:

Trade Mission traveled to India from Oct. 10-15, 2011 under the leadership of Suresh Kumar, Assistant secretary of Commerce and DG of the US and Foreign Commercial Service and representatives from 21 US Institutions of Higher Education;

To Promote public-private partnerships between institutions of higher learning in both countries, helping foster economic growth and opportunity;

To reinforce the strong educational ties between US and India under OSI.
Indian Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal,
U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and
Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia

First Indo-US Summit
October 13, 2011
Progress of OSI:

Both Clinton and Sibal expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in the OSI launched in 2009

To review Proposals (invited by both sides till November 1, 2011) a Joint Working Group for Academic Rewards was formed
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Resolution for the Areas of Consensus:

Both the sides endorsed the Resolve of the Stakeholders from Academia, Government and Industry to take forward the following Areas of Consensus
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Areas of Consensus:

1. A continued expanded US-India Higher Education Dialogue with representatives from Govt., Academia, and Business that would interact on a periodic basis to inform and underpin the Dialogue
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Areas of Consensus:

2. Support for the following Goals-

2(a) Promoting strategic institutional partnerships for further strengthening and expansion of collaboration in the priority areas of higher education, including science & engineering, social sciences, and humanities, and addressing societal challenges in areas such as cyber security, energy, environment, health and agriculture;
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Areas of Consensus:

2(b) Encouraging expansion and deepened collaboration in research and development in the above areas between academic institutions of the two countries through existing initiatives;
Areas of Consensus:

2(c) Fostering partnerships in the areas of vocational education and skills enhancement to meet the needs of today’s world;

2(d) Exploration of models for ‘educational institutions for the 21st Century’;
Areas of Consensus:

2(e) Further strengthening programs for student and faculty enrichment and exchange, and development of leadership in academia at all levels;
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Areas of Consensus:

2(f) Welcoming the involvement of the private sector in the two countries to support and deepen collaboration with the higher education community, faculty exchanges, skills development, and institutional partnerships.
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Areas of Consensus:

3. India announced its intention
to set up an
India-US Higher Education platform
as a means to pursue these Goals.
Areas of Consensus:

4. Strengthening educator enrichment and exchange programs (with the Govt. of India indicating its intention to sponsor initially up to 1,500 faculty and junior scholars to leading universities and research institutes in the United States) to promote development of human resources while also enhancing broader interaction between the two countries.
Minister of Human Resource
& Development
Govt. of India
Kapil Sibal
told participants that:
Kapil Sibal further said:

“It’s not easy to collaborate, it’s not easy to move forward, it’s not easy to get the scalability that we desire,” he said.

“But at the same time I get the feeling there’s an honest effort being made at both ends to actually use this as an opportunity to move forward.”
Addressing the participants Hilary Clinton said:

“For those of you who are watching the great rise of India, I hope you share our experiment that this largest of all democracies, this wildly pluralistic nation, is on the path to providing greater benefits for their citizens within the context of freedom and opportunity.” “They know as we know from our own experience that democracy depends on education.”
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Clinton told:

“Educational collaboration is a driving force in our strategic dialogue with the government of India, Clinton explained. “Whether or not this takes hold will depend upon those of you outside government—professors, teachers, researchers, business leaders. You will ultimately determine the success of these efforts.”
Clinton challenged the participants to look at how universities can increase educational collaborations with India, work on more research and provide more student and faculty exchanges.

What institutional barriers- can we and should we break down,” she asked, “and how do we build forward?”
Higher Education Partnerships between the US and India “cannot be taken for granted,” Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in closing remarks at the summit.

“One reason this summit is so timely, so important is that these international cooperation and collaboration work cannot be taken for granted,” Duncan explained. “Unfortunately, in both the United States and India there are some who treat these international partnerships as somehow being a zero-sum game…..instead of treating these partnerships as a win-win proposition for both nations.”
Request for Proposal

The United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) is the monitoring Agency for the OSI. Accredited US post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501 © (3) may submit proposals to support the program’s goals of encouraging mutual understanding, facilitating educational reform, fostering economic development, and engaging civil society through academic cooperation with Indian post secondary educational institutions, in the following thematic areas;
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AREAS:

Agricultural Sciences and Food Security;
Energy;
Sustainable Development;
Climate Change;
Environmental Studies;
Education and Educational Reform;
Public Health; and
Community Development and Innovation
The competition for the 2011-2012 academic year is closed. Please visit website(www.usief.org.in) in July 2012 for the 2012-2013 announcements, application material and other details.
To end, I would like to quote the words of Hilary Clinton:

The partnership between two largest democracies will be shaping the world of the 21st century. Together we can achieve great things for our citizens and for our people everywhere. This is our opportunity and our responsibility.
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Thank You!