

**GENERAL AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO (SPAIN) AND THE
INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE (QUÉBEC, CANADA)**

Juan A. Vázquez García, Rector of the *Universidad de Oviedo*, acting in the name and on behalf of said institution, whose Institutional address is San Francisco Street, number 3; 33003-Oviedo, Asturias (Spain),

and

Pierre Lapointe, Director General of the *Institut national de la recherche scientifique*, acting in the name and on behalf of said institution, whose Institutional address is 490, rue de la Couronne, Québec, Québec (Canada) G1K 9A9,

AS SIGNATORIES OF THIS AGREEMENT

And in accordance with the positions they occupy, as representatives of their respective institutions, recognise their mutual capacity to sign contracts and assume obligations within the terms of this Agreement, and hence

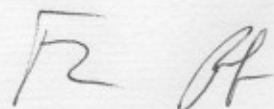
DECLARE

That both institutions are authorized to instruct doctrines that allow to obtain official university diplomas with validity in their respective countries. They also have common objectives with regards to the execution of teaching and research projects, the training of new teaching staff and research scholars in different scientific and technological fields, and to the exchange of students, staff and research scholars. They consider it proper to set up a General Agreement of Cooperation, and therefore sign the present document, which contains the following.

CLAUSES

FIRSTLY:

The object of the present Agreement is to facilitate and promote cooperation between the *Universidad de Oviedo* and the *Institut national de la recherche scientifique* in the fields of teaching, scientific research and general cultural activity, and with this aim the signatories agree to promote:



- the execution of joint teaching and research activities, encouraging the formation of mixed work teams.
- staff exchanges, either for teaching and research purposes, or for assessment concerning fields of interest to both institutions.
- student exchanges for study and research purposes.
- the organisation of joint congresses, symposia, seminars or meetings concerning subjects of interest for both institutions.
- the establishment of a regular exchange of publications by both Universities within fields of mutual interest.

SECONDLY:

The fulfilling of the general objectives of the General Agreement will be achieved by means of specific agreements, which may be discussed and executed when each institution finds it in its interest to do so.

Any such specific agreements established between the *Universidad de Oviedo* and the *Institut national de la recherche scientifique*, which will be annexed to the General Agreement, will deal with any Specific Programmes on which both institutions may agree.

The Specific Programmes will be regulated by their own stipulations in specific agreements, which must respect the clauses in this General Agreement.

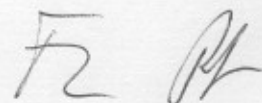
A copy of this General Agreement, specific agreements covering Specific Programmes and any modifications thereof will be registered and filed in both Institutions.

THIRDLY:

The financial aspects concerning staff or student exchanges will be regulated in each Specific Programme, or covered by a specific agreement.

FOURTHLY:

In order to achieve the objectives referred to in the second clause of this General Agreement and in the Specific Programmes developed under it, each of the Universities may appoint a coordinator, who would be responsible for executing the activities corresponding to the Programmes, and any others to which the application of the Agreement may give rise.

If during the execution of the activities established in this Agreement, rise differences between the parties, both Institutions will negotiate directly to overcome them. Should the divergences persist, these will be submitted to the judgement of a unique arbiter, chosen by mutual agreement.

FIFTHLY:

This General Agreement will come into effect (three years) from the date it is signed by both parties, without detriment of the publication in the "Boletín Oficial del Principado de Asturias", for its general knowledge.

It would be extended for periods of the same initial duration, by mutual consent by either Institution, signing it before the expiry of the initial term.

SIXTHLY:

This Agreement will be translated and signed into a Spanish and French version. Both versions must be interpreted as literal translations of the English version which would be the only valid in case of disagreement between the both signatories.

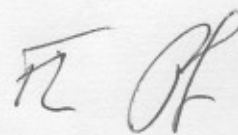
SEVENTHLY:

This Agreement will terminate on the following grounds:

- Through the ending of the stipulated period for its validity.
- By common consent on the part of both signatories.
- Through failure to comply with any of the terms of the Agreement on the part of either signatory.

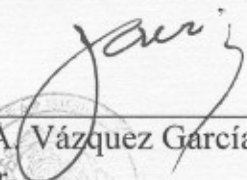
Should this Agreement be terminated, the specific activities corresponding to Specific Programmes established therein, will be continued, in respect of persons already involved, in the same conditions until completion thereof, it being understood that no new initiatives will be undertaken or new persons involved after such termination.

Acknowledging the terms expressed above and the implications thereof, the two signatories of the General Agreement hereby established, declare, as representatives of the two institutions involved, their willingness to accept all the obligations devolving thereon. And as a proof of their conformity therewith, and

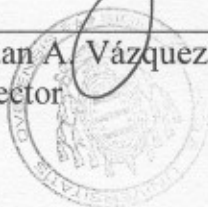


in order that it may be put into effect, this Agreement has been signed in duplicate, in the place and on the date indicated below:

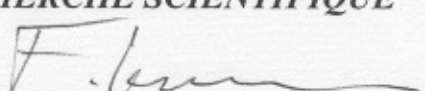
UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO




Juan A. Vázquez García
Rector



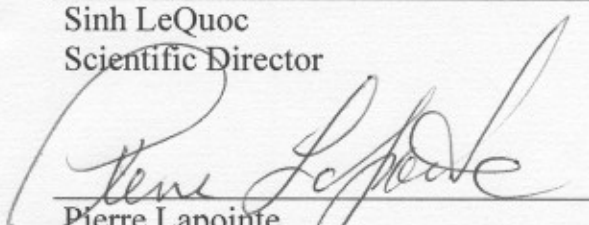
**INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA
RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE**



Johanne Charbonneau
pour: Director, INRS-Urbanisation, Culture
et Société



Sinh LeQuoc
Scientific Director



Pierre Lapointe,
Director General

At Oviedo, 31st March 2008.

At Quebec