

Memorandum of Understanding

Version 1.0, updated 14 August 2007



1. Preamble

"A Memorandum of Understanding is a legal document describing a bilateral or multilateral agreement between parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action and may not imply a legal commitment." www.wikipedia.org, referenced 13 August 2007

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) forms the basis of a voluntary strategic partnership between RedR UK and Engineers Without Borders UK (EWB-UK) established to better achieve the strategic aims of each organisation.

This MoU is not a contractual document and does not impose any legal obligation on either party. The overall relationship described by this MoU is a voluntary arrangement, intended to provide benefits for both parties and for society. This MoU is independent of agreements signed between other RedR International members and Engineers Without Borders organisations in other countries.

2. Organisations

2.1 Engineers Without Borders UK

EWB-UK is a UK NGO, registered in England and Wales, limited by guarantee, company 4856607, charity 1101849.

Its mission is to 'facilitate human development through engineering'. EWB-UK's operations focus the relief of poverty by engaging young people, particularly engineering students, in projects that share awareness, understanding, skills and experience of international development.

EWB-UK has six programme areas: Placements (work placements for UK students and graduates with development and relief organisations in the UK and overseas); Training (to develop practical skills and raise awareness of particular issues); Research (to deepen understanding of development issues and the role of technology and engineering in development); Bursaries (funding to enable students to undertake their own projects); Outreach (engaging with school children to raise awareness of development and the role of engineering in society); and Education (focussing on change in the UK undergraduate engineering curriculum).

EWB-UK's membership consists largely of undergraduate engineers and young engineers in engineering companies. EWB-UK's board of trustees includes some RedR members.

EWB-UK's donors consist mainly of engineering consultancies (many of whom are also RedR Patrons) and extraction industry companies, in line with an ethical policy. EWB-UK has recently secured its first grant from DFID to raise awareness of engineering in development through its training and research programmes over three years.

2.2 RedR UK

RedR UK is a UK NGO, registered in England and Wales, limited by guarantee, company 3929653, charity 1079752.

Its mission is to 'relieve suffering caused by disasters by selecting, training and providing competent and committed personnel to humanitarian programmes worldwide'.

RedR UK's operations focus on improving emergency relief overseas by developing the expertise in disaster response, particularly through recruitment of quality staff and training of relief workers.

RedR UK has four main programme areas: Recruitment (of pre-assessed staff for organisations involved in relief operations); Training (of relief personnel and potential relief personnel in areas including engineering, health, security and management); International Programmes (to deliver RedR's services in the field where the need is greatest); and Learning (encompassing technical support, publications, awareness-raising events and bespoke training and learning services).

RedR UK's membership includes a significant number of professional engineers. RedR UK's members and staff have been involved in various EWB-UK activities.

RedR UK's donors consist mainly of donor agencies, private donors and engineering companies in line with an ethical policy (many of whom also fund EWB-UK) and that are part of the RedR Patrons scheme.

3. Objectives of the Partnership

The aim of this strategic partnership in general terms is to encourage and support newcomers for future generations of relief and rehabilitation workers, with a particular focus on engineering students and graduates.

Specific objectives are as follows:

1. To provide more opportunities for engineering undergraduates and graduates to obtain experience in international development and relief organisations with a view to future contributions to international development and relief in general, including future employment in the sector and EWB-UK members also becoming RedR UK members (e.g.: Agreement for Collaboration on EWB-UK Placements Scheme - annex).
2. To seek opportunities to share expertise, particularly sharing of online resources and by drawing upon the memberships of each organisation in a mutually agreeable manner to provide speakers for events and other awareness-raising activities (e.g.: the 2020 Vision event with the IET in April 2007; speakers and trainers on disaster relief for EWB-UK branch societies; promotion of TSS and KnowledgeBase; publications etc).
3. To seek funding and in-kind support for collaboration on mutually beneficial projects and to seek to ensure that funds donated to one party is not to the detriment of the other (e.g.: Welsh Assembly Government funding for developing a pool of future aid workers in Wales; support for student places on RedR's So You Think You Want To Be A Relief Worker? workshop).
4. To share information of events, publications and activities of interest to the organisations and their members (e.g.: talks and training courses; finding actors to take part in training course simulations etc).
5. To consider additional specific projects where collaboration may be effective and efficient (e.g.: Technical Support Service review by EWB-UK members; RedR staff input into selection of EWB-UK bursary awards).

5. Schedule

This MoU stands for a period of three years from 1 October 2007. The strategic partnership will be reviewed annually by each party or as required. Either party can cancel this MoU by giving 30 days notice to the other party.

6. Published Materials

This is a public document. Each organisation will be able to clearly state and acknowledge this strategic partnership between the two organisations to donors, members and other stakeholders. Such communications should be checked by the other party wherever possible.

7. Signatures

This MoU reflects the common understanding of the following parties:

Martin McCann
CEO
RedR UK

Thalia Konaris
Co-CEO
EWB-UK

Zareen Sethna
Co-CEO
EWB-UK

Date:

Date:

Date:

8. Annexes

1. Agreement for Collaboration on EWB-UK Placements Scheme