

(IPR) The Human Resource and Development Department Government of Sikkim signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the British Council at the Conference Hall of the HRDD in Gangtok today. The event was headed by Shri. G.P Upadhyay, Additional Chief Secretary cum Principal Secretary HRDD and the officials from the British Council.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the HRDD and British Council officials along with the media. The MoU came as a part to improve the educational structure of the Schools of Sikkim as planned by the Chief Minister and his vision to revolutionize Sikkim's education and help children achieves greater feats in life.

Shri. G.P Upadhyay spoke on the goals of the HRDD and applauded the ambitious plan of the Chief Minister to enhance quality education through the signing of the MoU. He further appreciated the efforts shown by the officials of HRDD while performing their duties with utmost concern. He also addressed the British Council dignitaries to build a comprehensive partnership and engage in a deeper engagement in near future while aiding Sikkim to achieve her educational goals.

The purpose of the partnership is to support the aims and aspirations of the young people of the State of Sikkim through collaborative projects in the area of English, education and skills by strengthening the capacity of the teachers and other professionals, working with youth in the State of Sikkim and supporting its cultural economy. Collaborative projects being jointly designed will include initiatives to support enhancement of teaching skills and awareness of methodology of primary and secondary school teachers of English through a range of programmes on continuing professional development, application of international dimension in the curriculum, provision of access to high quality systems of language assessment. The program also include Capacity Building in teaching, learning and research pedagogy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Social Science teachers from undergraduate colleges and universities in Sikkim by UK higher education experts along with internship of young faculties at relevant UK Universities.

An important role in the partnership was initiated by Hon'ble Minister, HRDD Shri. R. B. Subba who was invited to visit British Council Head Office in New Delhi on 17th April 2017 along with ACS (HRDD) Shri Upadhyaya, Director-SCERT Dr Rabin Chhetri and other officials of HRDD-Sikkim.

The MoU was signed between Shri. G.P Upadhaya, Add. Chief Secretary cum Principal Secretary HRDD and Shri. Alan Gemmell, Head of British Council. During the meeting, Mr Gemmell was accompanied by Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti - Director of British Council (East and North East India) and Mr Joydeep Bordoloi - Head of English Partnership (British Council-East and North East India). Directors of different sections of HRDD and other officials were also present in the meeting.