

Covering Letter

Date:

To,

Subject: - Participation in UMA

Dear Sir,

Through the medium of this letter, I would like to briefly highlight XXXX's interest, motivation and rationale behind participating in the UMA mechanism, both from an institutional and societal perspective. I will also lay down the objectives and goalposts that XXXX aims to achieve and the course of action that will be taken to achieve them.

XXXX shares UMA's concern about making ongoing research in engineering colleges, polytechnics, and other higher education institutes in Maharashtra more public-oriented by analyzing various day-to-day social and developmental problems in the state (for example, rural sanitation, toilets, drainage management, drinking water, road development, evaluation and reinforcement of roads, water conservation, fuel and energy, health, drought, etc.). Aligning curricula and research with development needs will serve two purposes-

- (i) contribute to socio-economic development agenda of the state through the provision of skilled manpower (societal objective)
- (ii) enable students, researchers and faculty members to work on live socio-economic problems in an inter-disciplinary manner, leading to more well-rounded professionals with diverse skill sets (institutional objective)

As a leading engineering institution in this region, we would like to be at the forefront of solving regional societal challenges through academia and research. UMA will help us enhance our competitive edge by facilitating the development of new research practices and protocols, new job descriptions and new avenues for inter-disciplinary professionals.

The short to medium term objectives of XXXX are-

1. Establishing engagement with government agencies and local bodies
2. Networking with regional institutions
3. Initiating and fostering research practice according to regional needs, sensitivities and demands
4. Encouraging interdisciplinary teams for project work that include social science practitioners as well as science and engineering researchers

To achieve the above objectives, our agenda is as follows-

1. Set up a meeting with the collector of our district
2. Set up a meeting with other UMA empaneled institutions in the region
3. Identify 2 or more developmental areas for research per department and gradually build a file of case-studies in each area
4. Create academic space for inter-disciplinary regional field projects that can be undertaken by students (similar to TDSL course offered at IIT-B)
5. Start the groundwork (identify funding, compile existing case-studies, pass guidelines) for the establishment of an inter-disciplinary T&DC

A list of projects undertaken by XXXX in key development sectors has been provided in the participation sheet.

We hope XXXX's application to join the UMA framework will be seriously considered.

Thank you.

Regards,

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