



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
(Divyangjan)**

and

Council of Architecture



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is brought into effect on 14.02.2023 between **Council of Architecture** (A statutory authority set up under the Architects Act, 1972) having its office at Core 6A, First Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003 (party of First part), and **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability in Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Govt of India, facilitates the empowerment of the persons with disabilities in India having its office at 5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi, 110003

Council of Architecture (COA) is a statutory authority set up under the Architects Act, 1972 in the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The COA has been charged with the responsibility of enforcing the Act throughout the territory of India, including registration of architects, regulating architectural education and profession at all levels. The COA consists of members nominated by Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, AICTE, Ministry of Defence, CPWD, Institution of Engineers (India) and Institution of Surveyors of India and members elected from amongst Members of the Indian Institute of Architects and Heads of Architectural Institutions in the country.

COA : Aims and Objectives :

- To register qualified persons as Architects;
- To prescribe minimum standards of Architectural Education for imparting recognised architectural qualifications and fixing intake of students in the Institutions;
- To recommend recognition and de-recognition of architectural qualifications;
- To enter into reciprocal arrangements with foreign authorities dealing with registration of Architects;
- To receive complaints against Architects for professional misconduct;
- To file complaints against persons misrepresenting and misusing the title and style of Architect in India; and
- To carry out any other activity to further objects of the Act.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment was set up in May 2012 with the aims to facilitate empowerment and inclusion of the persons with disabilities and acts as a nodal agency to look after all development agenda of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan). Empowerment of persons with disabilities is an inter-disciplinary process, covering various aspects namely, prevention, early detection, intervention, education, health, vocational training, rehabilitation and social integration.

DEPwD has been instrumental in promoting to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives. The Department works proactively in the disability sector and encourage the empowerment of PwDs by various means such as



providing rehabilitation services to PwDs, run courses for rehabilitation professionals but also provide financial support to large number of NGOs for similar services, provision of loans at concession rates of interest to PwDs for self- employment etc.

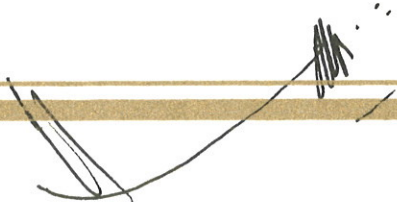
DEPwD envision to empower Persons with Disabilities, through its various Acts/ Institutions/Organizations and Schemes for rehabilitation and to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and enables them to participate as independent and productive members of society.

SCOPE OF COLLABORATION AND OBJECTIVES MOU:

COA and DEPwD have joined hands to work together for following objectives.

- Inclusion of mandatory credits/modules etc. related to universal accessibility, accessibility features for PwDs in the B. Arch course.
- To develop and deliver refresher courses for practicing Architects/academicians/faculty members related to universal accessibility, accessibility features for PwDs so that all future buildings are designed and planned with such mandatory features.
- COA and DEPwD would work together to facilitate the Architects by developing a certified course to create expertise for them to conduct accessibility audits of the buildings all over India.
- COA and DEPwD agree to work together to reach out to all local self-government institutions, such as Development Authority, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Cantonment Board and Municipal Councils, etc. to identify if the accessibility norms are incorporated in the local building byelaws for approval of building plans and issuance completion certificate of buildings.
- COA and DEPwD in collaboration would work together to develop a comprehensive document/manual comprising of best practices of existing guidelines/documents/standards (national as well as international) as a ready to use reference to all the Architects and other building professionals for making universally accessible norms and their implementation.
- COA and DEPwD may jointly conduct workshops, seminars, training programme/accessibility design competition etc. for the promotion and create awareness about making public spaces and buildings accessible for PwDs.
- COA and DEPwD to undertake any other activity to further the objects of this MOU.
- DEPwD may facilitate COA by providing financial support in order to achieve the objectives of the MoU as when required.

This MOU shall be valid for a period of three years and can be extended with mutual consent of both the parties from time to time. The MOU can be terminated by giving 2 months' notice on either side.



For and on Behalf of COA

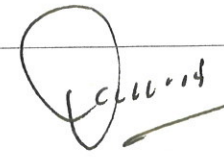

अध्यक्ष / President
वास्तुकला परिषद् / Council of Architecture
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Education
भारत सरकार / Government of India
Core-6A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

For and on behalf of DEPwD

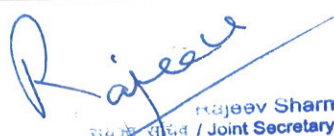

Secretary, DEPwD
राजेश अग्रवाल / Rajesh Aggarwal
सचिव / Secretary
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Bhawan, C.G.O., Complex, New Delhi-3

Witnesses:

1.


रजिस्ट्रार / Registrar
वास्तुकला परिषद् / Council of Architecture
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Education
भारत सरकार / Government of India
Core-6A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

2.


Rajeev Sharma
सह सचिव / Joint Secretary
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Place: New Delhi

Dated: 14.02.2023