

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**International Partnership Programs**

**Between**

**Geospatial Data Center for Education, Research and Development (GDC) at Al-Aqsa University**

**And**

**Institut national de la recherche scientifique**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between

**The Geospatial Data Center for Education, Research and Development (GDC) at Al-Aqsa University (AU)**, Gaza Strip, Palestine, AU is a Palestinian public government institutes of higher education, it was established in 2000 under the *Higher Education Act (No. 11, 1988)*, as an expansion of the formerly College of Education, Gaza, back to the 1955. GDC is recently established in AU (2015) and represented by Wiesam Essa, Director General, GDC aims in advancing the research work to use geospatial science and technology to support its five nucleus units are: Environmental Studies, Urban Studies, Food Security, Health Security and Socio-Economic Studies.

**The Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)**, a legal person created by letters patent pursuant to the *Act respecting the Université du Québec* (R.S.Q., c. U-1), with its head office at 490 de la Couronne Street, Québec City, Québec, Canada, G1K 9A9, represented by Luc-Alain Giraldeau, Director General, duly authorized for the purposes of these presents as he so declares;

In order to promote collaboration and advancement of scientific research between GDC and INRS the two institutions agree to formalize a MoU as follows:

Within fields that are mutually acceptable, the following general forms of cooperation will be pursued:

- i. Research visits / exchange of staff: Mobility programs for exchange scientific staff and experts in short visit
- ii. Participate in research related activities: e.g. courses, seminars, workshops and conferences.
- iii. Guidance and supervision of student's theses: Guidance and supervision of students theses and projects works in Master's and Doctoral courses.

- iv. Invite GDC's scientists and experts to share data and research project outputs (as a non-official partner - Guest) of INRS, and allow them to participate in the production of scientific research (e.g. publications).
- v. Join collaboration research project led to publications, explore possibilities to join twinning research programs in certain field of research of higher relevance to both institutions e.g. Geosciences applications in multidisciplinary subjects.
- vi. Explore possibility to arrange for research consortium project in areas of specialization of high relevance to both institution.

The purpose of this MoU is to express the intentions of the Parties, the terms of cooperation for other research activities contemplated under this MoU shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by both parties prior to the initiation of that activity. Any such activities agreed upon will be recorded and governed by a separate document executed by both parties. Research activities to be organized under this agreement will be the responsibility of the Heads of both institutions or of persons designated by them. This MoU imposes no financial obligations on either party. Both institutions understand that all financial arrangements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds.

This MoU will remain current for five years with the understanding that either party may terminate it by giving the other party twelve months written notice, unless an earlier termination is mutually agreed upon. Each party recognizes that the other party has, may have, or will have arrangements of a similar or different nature with other institutions whether in each party's respective countries or elsewhere in the world, during the currency of this MoU.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES HAVE SIGNED** in 2 copies

**For the Institut national de la recherche scientifique:**



Luc-Alain Giraldeau, Director General



Date

Geospatial Data Center for Education, Research and  
Development (GDC) at Al-Aqsa University (AU)



*Wiesam*

March 4, 2018

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Wiesam Ali Ahmed Essa, Director General

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Date