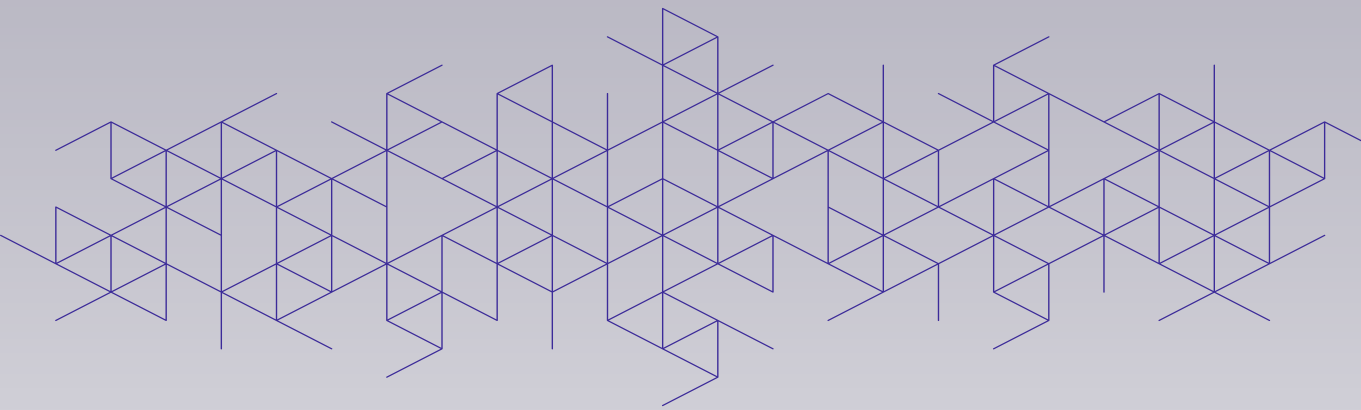


Operational Guidelines for
BIMSTEC-India Marine
Research Network (BIMReN)

Split-site Doctoral Fellowship
Twinning Research Project Grant



A Joint Initiative by



विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



BOBP

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About the Guide

The Operational Guidelines for the Programmes under the BIMSTEC – India Marine Research Network serve as a comprehensive framework outlining the operational procedures and principles governing the various initiatives within the network. This guide provides a roadmap for collaborative research efforts aimed at regional development, with a specific focus on fostering the blue economy in the Bay of Bengal Region. It delineates the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of participating entities, ensuring a cohesive and effective approach towards achieving the objectives outlined in the BIMSTEC declarations.

Citation

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>BE</i>	<i>Blue Economy</i>
<i>BIMReN</i>	<i>BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network</i>
<i>BIMSTEC</i>	<i>Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation</i>
<i>BOB/BOBR</i>	<i>Bay of Bengal/Bay of Bengal Region</i>
<i>BOBP-IGO</i>	<i>Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation</i>
<i>CRI-BOB</i>	<i>Collaborating Research Institute in BOB</i>
<i>E & R</i>	<i>Education and Research</i>
<i>EDT</i>	<i>Emerging and Disruptive Threats</i>
<i>IUU</i>	<i>Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated</i>
<i>LOA</i>	<i>Letter of Agreement</i>
<i>LRII</i>	<i>Lead Research Institute in India</i>
<i>MEA</i>	<i>Ministry of External Affairs of India</i>
<i>MOA</i>	<i>Memorandum of Agreement</i>
<i>MOU</i>	<i>Memorandum of Understanding</i>
<i>PI / PL</i>	<i>Principal Investigator / Project Lead</i>
<i>PRI-BOB</i>	<i>Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB</i>
<i>PRII</i>	<i>Partner Research Institute(s) in India</i>
<i>UNESCO</i>	<i>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</i>



The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), the organisation is now known as BIMSTEC and comprises seven Member States with the admission of Myanmar on 22 December 1997, and Bhutan and Nepal in February 2004.

Being the bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, BIMSTEC has attracted significant strategic and diplomatic attention in recent years. BIMSTEC has identified 14 priority areas where a member country takes lead. Member nations play pivotal roles as Lead Countries, each assuming responsibility for a specific sector.



The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), set up in 2003, is a unique regional fisheries body, specifically mandated to assist the member countries in increasing the livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the small-scale/ artisanal fisher folk in the Bay of Bengal region. The current members of the Organisation are Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka while Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand are cooperating non-contracting parties. The Organisation evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) founded in 1979.

The core objectives of the BOBP-IGO are to increase awareness and knowledge of the needs, benefits and practices of marine fisheries management; enhance skills through training and education; transfer appropriate technologies and techniques for development of the small- scale fisheries; establish regional information networking; and promote women's participation in marine fisheries value chain.



“.... Keeping in view the Bay of Bengal, we are also trying to promote joint research on Marine Sciences. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to quality education is an important part of our national policies. We are working towards expanding the scope of the BIMSTEC Scholarship Scheme.....”.

Shri. Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

at the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit held in Colombo, on 30th March 2022

1. Background

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) is among the 64 designated LMEs globally. BOBLME plays a crucial role in the economies of the countries bordering it, providing valuable resources such as fish, minerals, and oil and gas. The fishing industry relies heavily on the ecosystem's productivity. The Bay of Bengal region is re-emerging as the global destination for food, trade, and investment. Blue Economy (BE) provides a framework for the sustainable use of the water bodies of the region. BIMSTEC lays significant focus on promoting BE in the region. BIMSTEC adopted a unique mountain-to-sea landscape approach, recognizing that BE should benefit landlocked and coastal states alike. The BE concept evolving from the BIMSTEC declarations envisions multi-faceted uses of seas and rivers.

India and the BIMSTEC countries have a history of cooperation in education. Many students from the BIMSTEC nations, particularly from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar, pursue higher education in India. It is, therefore, a natural progression for Indian institutions to play a proactive role in education and research (E&R) while also opening the door for other E&R institutes from the region to foster an environment of ‘coopetition’ or cooperative competition for the inter-country relationship to be further enhanced.



The BIMSTEC-INDIA MARINE RESEARCH NETWORK (BIMReN) would serve as a platform for regional collaboration in research on regional development issues, fostering BE in the Bay of Bengal Region. BIMReN is in furtherance to the main objectives of BIMSTEC, namely improving people-to-people contact and cultural cooperation and contributing to other BIMSTEC objectives, such as promoting fisheries, aquaculture, trade, and energy.

BIMReN is the outcome of the HD-BOBP Dialogue on the Development of a Marine Fisheries Research Network for the Bay of Bengal Region conducted at Kochi on 14 Feb 2023. The participants called for the establishment of a "Bay of Bengal Marine Research Network" under the aegis of the BOBP-IGO as envisioned in the "Kochi Declaration for Cooperation in Marine Sciences amongst Bay of Bengal Littoral Countries."

The programme draws inspiration from ‘**SAGAR: Security and Growth for all in the Region**’ and ‘**Neighbourhood First**’ policy of the Government of India. The initiative also fits into India’s desire to promote greater regional cooperation in this domain. The platform will effectively contribute to the ongoing Indian initiatives on BE and the development of a sound fisheries management framework in the region to ensure livelihood security, healthy stocks, and annihilation of IUU fishing activities.

2. Objectives of BIMReN

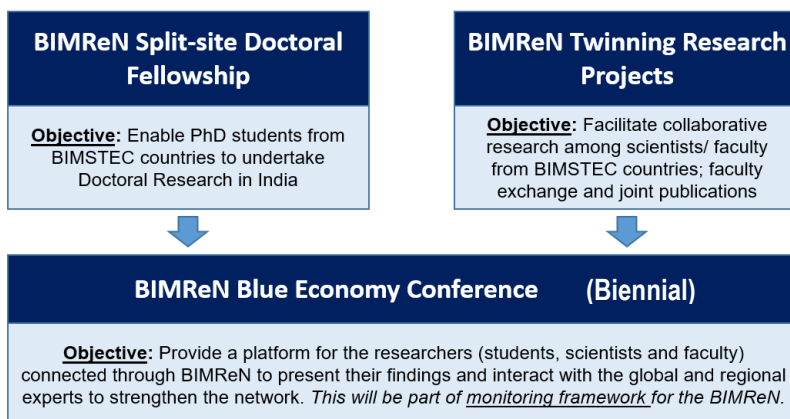
BIMReN will be a stepping-stone to implement the Indian Prime Minister's call for networking amongst BIMSTEC countries. The BIMReN Fellowships and Grants are designed to achieve the following specific objectives:

- **Recognize** the transboundary nature of fisheries in BOBR and the need for collaboration among the BIMSTEC Member Countries.
- **Expose** the students from BIMSTEC Member Countries to the key developments in marine fisheries research in India and provide them with a platform to share their experiences and initiatives at the country level for strengthening collaboration.
- **Enhance** the regional research capacity to address emerging and disruptive threats (EDTs), such as climate change, overexploitation of fish stocks, IUU fishing and safety of fishers, etc., which are inherently transboundary in nature.
- **Enable** evidence-based management of fisheries and ecological resources and implementation of coordinated regional plan of action on issues like marine environmental degradation and depletion of fish stocks; and
- **Recognize** the traditional knowledge and cultural connectivity among the BIMSTEC Member Countries and strengthen the same.



3. Programme Structure of BIMReN

The three principal components of BIMReN Programme are illustrated schematically below.



3.1. BIMReN Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship

Split-site Doctoral degree is an arrangement wherein a student shall complete the course work in the University where registered and undertake doctoral research in an external lab – fully/partly as per the approved research plan.

Under this programme, PhD students registered in any UNESCO recognized University or in an entity affiliated with an UNESCO recognized University in the BIMSTEC countries except India, after completing the mandatory course work, shall be able to undertake their Doctoral research in India's premier Universities and research laboratories, with established research focus in marine /ocean/fisheries sciences.

A national of BIMSTEC countries, undertaking PhD in any UNESCO recognized University or in an entity affiliated with a UNESCO recognized University in a country outside the region, would also be eligible to avail the Fellowship.

3.2. BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Projects with Faculty Exchange

The BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project, a Small Grant Scheme, aims at facilitating collaborations between institutions and individuals with expertise in fisheries/ marine/ ocean sciences from BIMSTEC Member Countries, to implement research programmes of regional interest.

The Organization in India shall be the Lead Research Institute and those from other BIMSTEC Countries will be the Collaborating Research Institutes (CRI), who in turn can network with partner institutes in their respective countries. A single twinning project

network shall comprise of two to four Universities/ Research Organizations and a maximum of six researchers/faculty members.

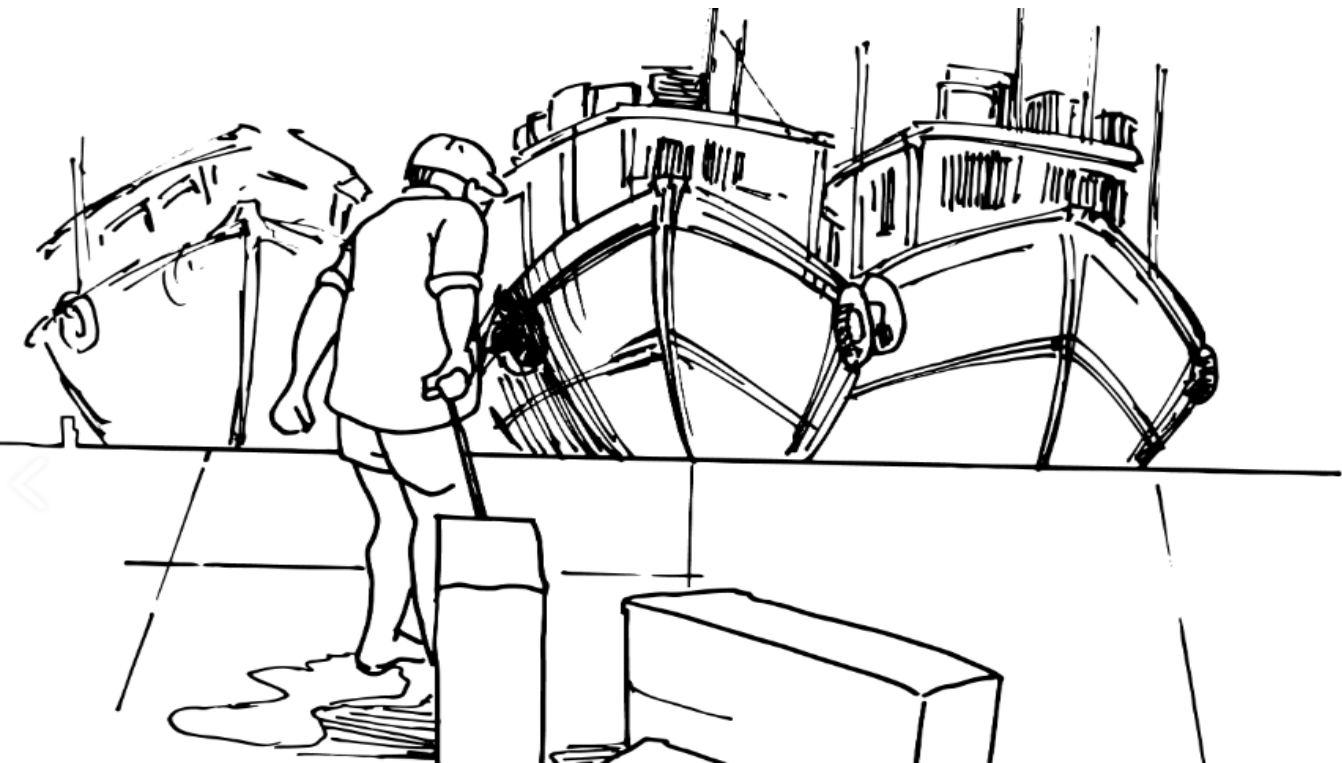
The grant includes a Faculty Exchange component among the collaborating institutions in BIMSTEC countries, necessitating at least three collaborators from the research team to visit the university/lab in another collaborating country for a period of 3 months each.

3.3. BIMReN Blue Economy Conference: A Track 1.5 Discussion Forum

This Biennial Conference will be organized by BOBP-IGO to provide a platform for the recipients of BIMReN split-site doctoral fellowships and BIMReN twinning research project grants (i) to present their research findings and experiences in terms of establishing long-term research networks; (ii) To evaluate and validate their learnings with global and regional subject matter experts invited by the organizers to facilitate interaction.

The BIMReN Conference will be organized as a side event in any International Seminar/Conference in the maritime domain as a Track 1.5 Discussion Forum, enabling participation of policy makers and researchers, in alignment with the objective of the scheme to strengthen Science-Policy Interface for more harmonious regional management policies.

Detailed guidelines for the Split-site Fellowship and the Twinning Research Project Grants are provided in the ensuing section.



4. BIMReN Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship

4.1. About

The fellowship is an arrangement wherein a student shall complete the course work in the University where registered and shall undertake doctoral research in an external laboratory – fully/partly as per the research plan, approved by the University. The programme is called the **BIMREN SPLIT-SITE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**, and the awardee will be called a **BIMReN Doctoral Research Fellow**.

4.2. Tenure

- Fellowships are tenable for a period ranging from 6 to 12 Months to undertake doctoral research in India's premier Fisheries Colleges / Universities and research laboratories, with an established research focus in fisheries/marine/ocean sciences.
- The tenure can be divided into two periods if permitted by the Parent University and the Host Institute in India.

4.3. Number of Fellowships

The number of fellowships available every year under this scheme shall be THREE. However, the number shall be revised at the discretion of the granting agency.

4.4. Value

- The Fellowship shall be provided in Indian currency. The candidate shall receive an amount of INR 50,000 / month towards living allowance.
- An amount of INR 400,000 /fellowship shall be provided as Travel and Research contingency.
- Travel includes international travel between the country of origin and India and visa charges, where applicable. Airfare will mean only economy class travel. It also includes travel and accommodation within India for research, and participation in the Biennial conference organized in an Indian city by the BIMReN Secretariat.
- The fellowship does not cover tuition fees, bench fees and payments towards healthcare or accidents. However, the candidate may use the living allowance/research contingency for said purposes at their own discretion.

4.5. Key terminologies

- **Parent University:** The academic institute in the BIMSTEC Member Country where the candidate is enrolled in a PhD programme.

- **Supervisor:** A permanent faculty at the Parent University who guides and supports the doctoral candidate throughout the PhD programme.
- **Host Institute:** The academic / research Institute in India, where the candidate aspires to conduct their research work as a part of their PhD programme.
- **Co-Supervisor:** A permanent faculty at the Host Institute who guides and supports the candidate's research work at the Host Institute in India.

4.6. General Conditions

- PhD students registered in any UNESCO recognized university or in an entity affiliated to a UNESCO recognized university in the BIMSTEC Member Countries, other than India, after completing the mandatory course work, shall be able to undertake their doctoral research in India's premier Fisheries Universities and research laboratories with established research focus in fisheries/marine/ocean sciences.
- The Parent University will award the final PhD degree to the applicant.
- Candidate must submit a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the appropriate authority of the University to avail the Fellowship and an Invitation letter from a Faculty / Scientist serving on a regular basis at a Fisheries College / University/ National Research Institute in India.
- It is strongly advised that the applicant, in his/ her own interest, should make prior contact with the host university in India, where work is in progress in his/ her area of interest, or with a concerned scientist/research institute in India, and obtain consent that the applicant, if selected for the Fellowship, will be accepted to work in the institution on the proposed research project.
- The problem statement of the proposal should clearly state how the study addresses a research issue pertaining to the Bay of Bengal region or an issue specific to the partnering countries (from among the BIMSTEC Member Countries).

4.7. Eligibility

- The candidate must be a permanent resident of any of the BIMSTEC Member Countries and be in possession of a valid passport.
- The candidate must have obtained a master's degree in any of the following subjects viz., Fisheries, Engineering, Business Science, Ocean Law, Environmental Science, Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social sciences, and related disciplines.
- The candidate must have registered for a PhD in a UNESCO-recognized university before the last date of application for the fellowship.

- A national of BIMSTEC Member Countries, other than India, undertaking a PhD in any recognized university in a country outside the region would also be eligible to avail the Fellowship.
- The candidate should have successfully completed all the coursework required before the start of the doctoral research, where applicable, as per the norms of Parent University.
- The scholarship will be available for both fresh as well as in-service candidates.
- Candidates receiving fellowship/salary from another source from a country other than India, will also be eligible to receive this fellowship. However, this fellowship cannot be combined with any other Fellowships or Grants being provided by the Government of India. In-service fellows may continue to receive his/her salary, types of leave and benefits, etc., from the parent organization.
- Applicants with PhD degrees or those at the final stage of PhD thesis submission (last six months of PhD) will not be eligible to apply for this fellowship.

4.8. Submission of Application for Fellowship

Interested Candidates shall visit www.bobpigo.org and submit their application online with necessary enclosures. The sample format of application and other documents are provided in **Annexure I(A) – I(C)**.

Essential Details to be provided online:

Personal (Weight: 0)	: Name, Address, Marital Status, Date of Birth, Nationality, Experience, Language Proficiency
Education (Weight: 20)	: Highest qualification, Specialization, University, Grade PhD Registration (University, Date of registration, Period)
Research (Weight: 30)	: Research area (1-10), Topic, Rationale, Approach, Deliverables, Output & Outcome.
Motivation (Weight: 50)	: What is the topical relevance of the research? Why you should be awarded this fellowship? Highlight your relevant unique credentials.

4.9. Selection Process

The fellowships will be awarded based upon:

- Applicant's academic merit.
- Quality of the research proposal based on relevance / long-term impact over the BOB region.
- Letter of Motivation (800 words maximum)

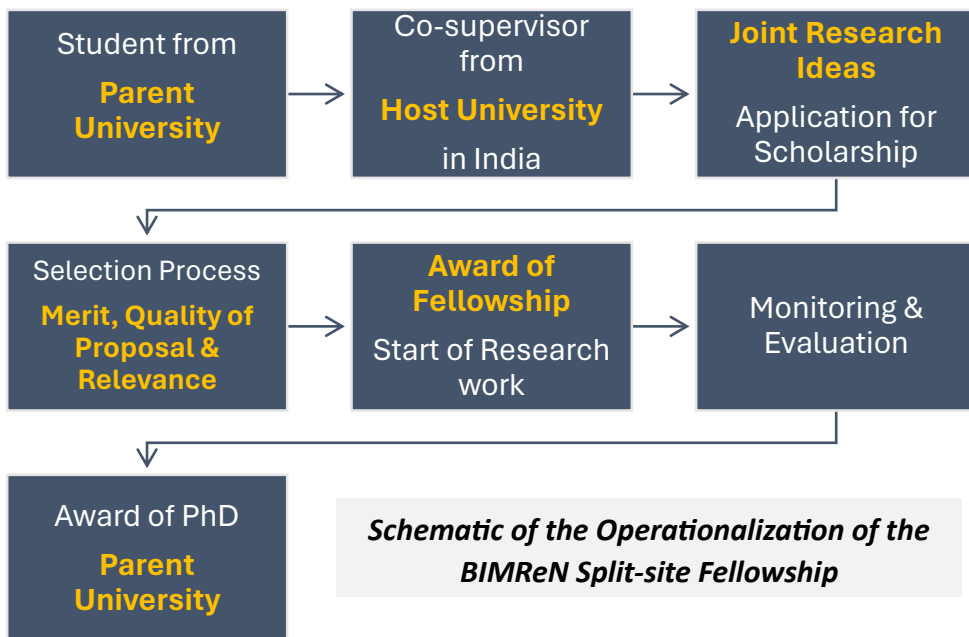
4.10. Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Fellow shall submit his progress reports to the BIMReN Secretariat every 3 months.
- A satisfactory report from the Supervisor in the host institute every three (3) months is necessary for the continuation of the fellowship.
- On completion of the programme, a candidate should submit a copy of the PhD Thesis to the BIMReN Secretariat.
- The candidate shall participate in the Biennial Blue Economy Conference organized by the BIMReN Secretariat.

4.11. Termination

Fellowship will be terminated under the following circumstances.

- On completion of the proposed study period as given in the application.
- A conclusion by the host/parent University that the candidate has committed serious misconduct.
- The planned research is not carried out with competence.
- Failure to attend a formal periodic review of progress.



5. BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Projects

5.1. About

A Twinning Research Project is an arrangement wherein a proposal is developed and implemented in two or more institutions located in different BIMSTEC Member Countries. This support programme is called the **BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project**. The award will have a component of Faculty Exchange between the collaborating countries, and the awardee will be called a BIMReN Visiting Professor/Scientist, based on the nature of the host institute, i.e., university or research institute, respectively.

This is a SMALL GRANT scheme, and it is expected that the collaborating professors/scientists will be able to meet part of the operational costs through their host institutes.

5.2. Tenure

- Twinning research projects shall be designed for a period of 24 months. However, projects of smaller duration will be encouraged.
- The tenure of grant may be extended, for a maximum of 6 months without any additional cost, subject to review and recommendation by the expert committee.

5.3. Number of Grants

- A total of two (2) Grants shall be available. However, the number shall be revised at the discretion of the granting agency.

5.4. Value

- The Grant shall be provided in Indian currency and the total outlay for a single twinning project is INR 5 million
- The Grant includes the following components: Research contingency (60%), Travel (10%) and Living Allowance (30%) - to support 12 person-months @ INR. 125,000/month. The applicants will have to provide details of budget break-up between the collaborators under these broad categories.
- Airfare will mean only economy class travel.
- and will include visa charges, where applicable. The travel cost will necessarily include the cost of participation of representative(s) of the collaborative project in the Biennial conference organized in an Indian City by the BIMReN Secretariat.
- The Grant does not cover payments towards health, insurance, purchase of equipment, computers, and furniture. However, the researchers may use the living allowance for the said purposes, upon approval from the BIMReN Secretariat.

5.5. Key Terminologies

- **Lead Research Institute in India (LRII):** The research or academic organization which submits the proposal for the BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project as the nodal institute to BOBP-IGO.
- **Partner Research Institute(s) in India (PRII):** The research or academic organization(s) in India, partnering with the LRII for implementing the BIMReN Twinning Research Grant proposal submitted to the BOBP-IGO.
- **Collaborating Research Institute in BOB (CRI-BOB):** The research or academic organization in the BIMSTEC Member Countries, which collaborates with the LRII for implementing the BIMReN Twinning Research Grant proposal submitted to the BOBP-IGO.
- **Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB (PRI-BOB):** Research or academic organization(s) in BIMSTEC Member Countries, which partner with the CRI-BOB for implementing the BIMReN Twinning Research Grant proposal submitted to the BOBP-IGO.

5.6. General Conditions

- The LRII and CRI-BOB are the essential nodes for the operationalization of the BIMReN Twinning Research Project. PRII and PRI-BOB are NOT mandatory elements but enabling options for the LRII and CRI-BOB, respectively, to widen the research network.
- The total number of organizations involved in the BIMReN Twinning Research Project shall be limited to FOUR and the total number of researchers / faculty members associated shall be limited to SIX numbers. From each of the associating organizations, there shall be a maximum of TWO researchers.
- Any research or academic organization based in India can submit the proposal as the LRII.
- LRII will be responsible for all academic, research and administrative arrangements associated with the research project.
- The LRII shall identify an academic or research organization in any of the BIMSTEC Member Countries as CRI-BOB.
- There shall be involvement of researchers from at least two BIMSTEC Member Countries, one of whom shall necessarily be from an Indian Institution.
- The proposal may originate from a researcher from India or any BIMSTEC Member Country, however, the Organization in India shall be the Nodal/Lead Institute.
- The principal investigator from LRII must provide evidence that the proposal is developed collaboratively and will be implemented collaboratively in the event of

getting the BIMReN Grant. Approvals from the competent authorities of the collaborating / partner institutions need to be enclosed to support the claim.

- On approval of the Grant, LRIL should execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with BOBP-IGO for facilitating the implementation of the BIMReN Twinning Research Project.
- LRIL is responsible for enabling and facilitating faculty movement(s) and participation of the project team in the relevant scientific meetings/conferences including the BIMReN Biennial Conference.
- LRIL will be responsible for all academic, research and administrative arrangements associated with the research project, as the “Implementing Agency”.
- On approval of the Grant, LRIL should execute a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the CRI-BOB for facilitating the implementation of the twinning research project and facilitating faculty exchange/movement.
- **In-built Faculty Exchange Scheme:** The Grant will have a provision for 12 person-months (half of the project period) of faculty exchange, necessitating at least three collaborators from the research team to visit the university/lab in another collaborating country for a period of 3 months each.
- During the visit of the researcher to the collaborator’s facility in the region, they will be designated as Visiting Professor (in case of a university) or Visiting Scientist (in case of a National Research Laboratory). During this period, the visiting faculty will be required to contribute to the teaching and research mandates of the host institution.
- The candidate’s application should specify the motivation for the collaborative application, explaining how the proposed twinning research project would benefit the participating scientists, institutions and countries.
- The funding for the selected projects will be provided in annual instalments. The second instalment for each project will be provided after receipt of the financial documents mentioned above, and on evaluation of intermediate technical reports.
- No financial support towards purchase/maintenance of major equipment will be considered.
- The problem statement of the proposal should clearly state how the study addresses a research issue pertaining to the Bay of Bengal region or specific to the partnering countries (from among BIMSTEC Member Countries).

5.7. Eligibility

- The applicant must be a permanent resident of any of the BIMSTEC member countries and serving on a regular basis in a UNESCO-recognized University / National Laboratory.
- A faculty from a recognized university or a scientist from a national laboratory in India (LRII) may submit a proposal as Principal Investigator (PI) / Project leader (PL), in collaboration with one or more institutes (CRI-BOB) in BIMSTEC Member Countries. The PI / PL should possess a PhD and a minimum of 5 years of post-PhD experience in regular roles in a reputed university / institution.
- The researchers participating in the grant should have served at least 3 years in their current affiliation on a regular role and should have at least 2 years of service after the project period.
- Principal Investigator / Project Leader at LRII is responsible for collating the inputs from the collaborators and submitting 'interim' / 'final' progress reports including the Audited Statement of Accounts, Utilization Certificate and Assets Created Certificate, duly certified by the competent authority of the institution, in specified formats to BOBP-IGO
- Candidates must submit an undertaking from the appropriate authority from the university to avail themselves of the Grant.

5.8. Submission of Application for Grant

Interested Candidates shall visit www.bobpigo.org and submit their application online with necessary enclosures. The sample format of application and other documents are provided in **Annexure II(A) – II(C)**.

Essential Details to be provided online:

Personal (Weight: 0)	:	Name, Address, Marital Status, Date of Birth, Nationality, Experience, Language Proficiency
Personal Credentials (Weight: 20)	:	Highest qualification, Specialization, University, Grade Publications, Patents, Projects handled, Awards and Honours received.
Research (Weight: 30)	:	Research area (1-10), Topic, Rationale, Approach, Deliverables, Output & Outcome.
Motivation (Weight: 50)	:	What is the topical relevance of the research? Why should you be awarded this Grant? Highlight your relevant, unique credentials. How will the benefits of the proposal be sustained beyond the project period?

5.9. Selection Process

The Grant will be awarded based upon

- Applicant's academic merit.
- Quality of the research proposal based on relevance / long-term impact over the BOB region.
- Letter of Rationale for cooperation (1000 words maximum).
- Letter of Motivation (500 words maximum).

The selection will be made based on the evaluation score and subsequent interview by an Expert Committee constituted by the BIMReN Secretariat.

5.10. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- The PI / PL should submit his progress reports to the BIMReN Secretariat every 6 months, in the proforma.
- On completion of the project, a candidate should submit a copy of the report to the BIMReN Secretariat.
- The candidate shall participate in the Biennial Blue Economy Conference organized by the BIMReN Secretariat in an Indian City, using the grant funds.

5.11. Termination

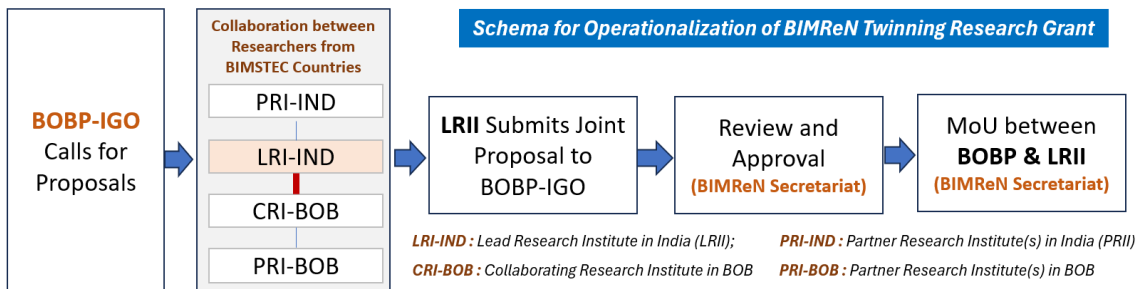
- BOBP-IGO reserves the right to terminate the MoA if the LRIL fails to comply with the terms of the MoA, or the progress of the research is not satisfactory.
- The project may be terminated if the parent scheme sanctioned by MEA to BOBP is terminated prematurely.
- In case of premature closure/termination of the project, the LRIL shall submit the necessary Audited Utilization Statement for the amount received till then.

5.12. Declaration

In the event of the selection of the proposal for the grant, the investigating team may have to provide a declaration stating the following:

- The research work proposed in the scheme/project entitled "[Project Title]" does not in any way duplicate the work already done or being carried out elsewhere on the subject by the team or by others, to the best of their knowledge.

- The same project proposal has not been submitted to any other agency for financial support.
- The institute/university agrees that the equipment, other basic facilities, and such other administrative facilities as per terms and conditions of the grant will be extended to the investigator(s) throughout the duration of the project.
- The institute assumes to undertake the financial and other management responsibilities of the project.



6. Operationalization of BIMReN

6.1. Granting Agency

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, will provide policy direction and funding for the programme.

6.2. Implementing Agency

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) will be the nodal agency for implementing the Programme for the BIMReN Scheme of MEA.

The BOBP-IGO is a regional fisheries advisory body with Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka as its contracting parties. It is mandated to enhance cooperation amongst its member- countries and other countries (especially Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand) for sustainable fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal region. The Organisation evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) founded in 1979.

The BIMReN Cell established under the overall administrative structure of BOBP-IGO will operationalize the scheme as per the guidelines.

6.3. Period and Scope

- BIMReN shall be piloted for a period of 5 years with three principal components (Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship, Grants for Twinning Research Projects, and Biennial Blue Economy Conference).
- The project shall be initiated in the 2023-24 financial year. The project will be initiated on the signing of the MOU between the parties and on receipt of the first instalment from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- The principal activity of this phase will be to operationalize collaborations by building networks, institutionalizing opportunities for the mobility of students and faculty members between institutions in the BIMSTEC Member Countries - with **India as a hub**.

6.4. Prioritized Research Areas

A list of priority research areas to be supported under the BIMReN Scheme are given below.

- **Achieving SDG 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development including [1] marine pollution; [2] protecting and restoring ecosystem; [3] ocean acidification; [4] sustainable fishing; [5] increasing contribution of small-scale fisheries; [6] Special needs of islands; [7] development of sustainable marine technology, etc.

- **Promoting blue economy/blue growth:** Freshwater aquaculture, fisheries, mariculture and seaweed farming including strategy for multi-realm uses of aquatic resources sustainably.
- **Climate change:** In line with the priorities of the International Panel on Climate Change and Paris Declaration of the UNFCCC, including climate change monitoring, adaptation and mitigation strategies, insurance, modelling and forecasting, and technological needs, including uses of alternative sources of power with special reference to marine activities.
- **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,** including sustainable production and consumption in fisheries and aquaculture; minimisation of environmental impact from fisheries and aquaculture; seed, feed and breeding technologies; fisheries management, including control of fishing capacity, IUU fishing, and dealing with abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear; conservation of shared and transboundary stocks; conservation of endangered, threatened and protected species such as sharks; and implementation of international treaties and agreements, including ecosystem approach to fisheries management and marine protected areas.
- Implementation of FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)
- **BIMSTEC priority areas** on marine transportation and communication, assessing and neutralizing uses of sea routes for illegal activities, smuggling, piracy and terrorism.
- **Development of technology and policy measures** for harnessing production from aquatic resources including uses of IT; Ocean policy and economics; Exploration of ocean beds for the benefit of humanity; and Management of transboundary and shared resources.
- **Any emerging or innovative area** not explicitly identified above but considered relevant to the overall context and objective of BIMReN.

7. Potential Organizations to Network under BIMReN

BIMReN envisions to strengthen the Science-Policy interface and development of harmonious regional management policies by forging a functional network of researchers from national research organizations and academic institutions, who contribute to shaping the fisheries management policies in the respective countries.

The host institutions in India would include research organizations and academic institutions under public and private sector, recognized by competent agencies of Government of India. An indicative list of institutions is provided in **Annexure III**.

An indicative list of organizations / institutions in the BIMSTEC Countries from which researchers / students will be encouraged to avail the BIMReN Grants / fellowships is provided in **Annexure IV**.

Annexure I (A)

BIMReN Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship - Application Form

1. Personal Details

a. Title	:
b. First Name	:
c. Last Name	:
d. Father's full name	:
e. Mother's full name	:
f. Gender	:
g. Date of Birth	:
h. Age (as of the last date of application)	:
i. Marital Status	:
j. Nationality	:
k. Country Pursuing PhD	:
l. Passport Details	:
a. Passport No	
b. Date of Issue	
c. Date of Expiry	
d. Place of Issue	
m. Present Address	:
n. Communication Address	:
o. E-mail	:
p. Mobile No	:

2. Educational Qualification *(Attach Supporting Documents)*

3. Research Experience and Achievements *(Attach Supporting Documents)*

4. PhD Research

Parent University in BIMSTEC Country	:	Mandatory Field
Date of Admission at the University	:	Mandatory Field
Course works completed (Provide details)	:	Mandatory Field
Research Supervisor / Guide in Parent University	:	Mandatory Field
Proposed Host Institute in India	:	Mandatory Field
Proposed Co-Supervisor in Host Institute in India (Provide complete contact details)	:	Mandatory Field
Proposed Duration of the Research in Host Institute	:	Mandatory Field

4.1. PhD Thesis Title

4.2. PhD Research Area

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achieving SDG14
Click here to provide the exact research area | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting blue economy / blue growth
Click here to provide the exact research area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change
Click here to provide the exact research area | <input type="checkbox"/> Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
Click here to provide the exact research area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management of Transboundary and Shared Resources
Click here to provide the exact research area | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental management
Click here to provide the exact research area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Technology, Policy and Economics
Click here to provide the exact research area | <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging and /or Innovative areas
Click here to provide the exact research area |

4.3. Plan of Work for the PhD

(Briefly provide the Scientific Rationale, Objectives, Approach, Expected Outcome)

4.4. Relevance of the Study to the Region

4.5. Motivation for the BIMReN Split-site Fellowship (800 words maximum)

(How the Split-site Fellowship will help in your proposed study)

5. Check List for the Enclosures

No	Particulars	Tick
1	Proof of Nationality (Copy of Passport)	Mandatory
2	PhD Admission Letter from Parent University	Mandatory
3	Undertaking from the Parent University	Mandatory
4	Undertaking from the Host Institute in India	Mandatory
5	Brief Bio-data of the Supervisor and Co-supervisor	Mandatory

6. Any other relevant information

I certify that:

- I hereby declare that the particulars given in the Application Form are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, that I have understood and agree to abide by the guidelines and terms and conditions of the BIMReN Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship
- I have acquired consent from the competent authorities from my Parent University [Institute Name] [Country], and Host Institute in India i.e., [Institute Name] for submission of the application for BIMSTEC Split Site Doctoral Fellowship.
- Upon selection for the fellowship, I will submit progress reports, research proposals, and other required documents within the specified timeframes, ensuring compliance with the policies of both institutions viz., [Institute Name] [Country] and [Institute Name] [Country].
- During the entire tenure of the Fellowship, I shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Host Institute [Institute Name], India and comply with the prevailing laws of the Country.

Date:

Signature of Candidate

Annexure I (B)

Certificate from the Parent University

(To be given on the Institutional Letterhead)

Name of the Scheme	:	BIMReN Grant for Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship
Title of the PhD Research Work	:	
Research Period	:	
Proposed Host Institute in India	:	
Proposed Co-Supervisor at Host institute	:	

It is certified that:

- i. [Candidate Name] is enrolled in full-time PhD programme since [DD/MM/YY] with enrollment No [Number] in our institute.
- ii. The University has No Objection in his / her receiving the BIMReN Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship from BOBP-IGO. In the event of his/her selection for the Fellowship, he/she will be permitted to undertake part of his PhD Research at [Institute Name] in India, under the guidance of [Proposed Supervisor Name] as Co- Guide/Co-Supervisor.
- iii. The University has clear internal policies for the students to undertake part of their doctoral research in external laboratories and for joint research publications, sharing intellectual property rights, etc.
- iv. The University shall extend necessary administrative support [Candidate Name] for the implementation of the BIMReN Split Site Doctoral Fellowship.

Seal of the Institute:

Date:

**Signature of the
Supervisor**

**Signature of the
Competent Authority**

Annexure I (C)

Certificate from the Host Institute in India

(To be given on the Institutional Letterhead)

Name of the Scheme	:	BIMReN Grant for Split-Site Doctoral Fellowship
Title of the PhD Research Work	:	
Research Period	:	
Parent University	:	
Name of the Major supervisor	:	

It is certified that:

- i. [Candidate Name] is enrolled for the full-time PhD programme since [DD/MM/YY] with enrollment No [Number] in [University Name] at [Country Name].
- ii. In the event of his selection for the Fellowship, [Candidate Name] will be permitted to undertake part of his PhD Research at [Institute Name] in India under the guidance of [Proposed Supervisor Name] as Co-Guide/Co-Supervisor.
- iii. The Organization shall provide access to all research facilities and student amenities to the extent available in the organization as per prevailing norms.
- iv. The University shall extend necessary administrative support [Candidate Name] for the implementation of the BIMReN Split Site Doctoral Fellowship.

Seal of the Institute:

Date:

**Signature of the
Supervisor**

**Signature of the
Competent Authority**

Annexure II (A)

BIMReN Grant For Twinning Research Project - Application Form

1. Project Summary

Project Title

Project Research Area

(Please see the advertisement)

<input type="checkbox"/> Achieving SDG14 Click here to provide the exact research area	<input type="checkbox"/> Promoting blue economy / blue growth Click here to provide the exact research area
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate change Click here to provide the exact research area	<input type="checkbox"/> Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Click here to provide the exact research area
<input type="checkbox"/> Management of Transboundary and Shared Resources Click here to provide the exact research area	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental management Click here to provide the exact research area
<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Technology, Policy and Economics Click here to provide the exact research area	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging and /or Innovative areas Click here to provide the exact research area
Proposed Duration of the Project (in months)	: Mandatory Field
Lead Research Institute in India (LRII)	: Mandatory Field
Partner Research Institute(s) in India (PRII)	: Optional
Collaborating Research Institute in BOB (CRI-BOB)	: Mandatory Field
Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB (PRI-BOB)	: Optional
Total Budget Requested from BOBP-IGO	: Mandatory Field
Nature of the Project	: Bilateral / Multilateral

Expected In-Kind contribution by partners

BIMReN Grant is essentially a top-up grant to facilitate multi-lateral and multi-institutional cooperation in the field of marine sciences. The Grant may not cover all the costs required to undertake the project activities. The project team may use the institutional infrastructure and resources or other resources in their command. The plans of the Team in this regard may be provided hereunder.

LRII	PRII	CRI-BOB	PRI-BOB

2. Research Team

2.1. Proposed Core Project Team

Name	Role of Investigator*	Name of the Institute	Role of Institute**	Country

*Principal Investigator (PI); Collaborating Centre Principal Investigator (CCPI); Co-Investigator (Col)

**LRII; PRII; CRI-BOB; PRI-BOB

2.2. Excellence of the Research Team

Briefly describe how the scientific qualifications, breadth of experience and roles of each of the Project team members are best suited to achieve the outcomes of this project. Be sure to highlight their expertise in the proposed field of work.

Project team member	Particulars

3. Project Technical Information

a.	Problem Statement
b.	Scientific Rationale <i>(500 words)</i>
c.	Objectives
d.	Approach <i>(Activities and Methodology)</i>
e.	Key milestones <i>(Provide quarterly milestones to be achieved in a table)</i>
f.	Expected Outcomes / Deliverables
g.	Unique and Innovative Aspects of the Proposed Project
h.	Relevance of the Project to the Region
i.	Sustainability of the Project Tasks / Outcome beyond the project period
j.	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
k.	Risks and Assumptions

4. Plans and Benefits of Faculty Exchange

(Explain how the exchange programme is planned to be integrated in the scope of the project)

Team Member	Expected Period and person-months	Plan of Work

5. Financial and Administrative Information

5.1. Year-wise Budget (Amount in INR)

Budget head	1 st Year	2 nd Year	Total
Research Contingency (Operational cost, local travel and contractual manpower)			
International Travel (Air tickets, Visa charges, etc)			
Living Allowance (Accommodation, food cost, subsistence allowance, etc)			
Total			

5.2. Organization-wise Budget (Amount in INR)

Budget head	1 st Year	2 nd Year	Total
Research Contingency (Operational cost, local travel and contractual manpower)			
International Travel (Air tickets, Visa charges, etc)			
Living Allowance (Accommodation, food cost, subsistence allowance, etc)			
Total			

Note: The PI shall re-appropriate the budget across the budget heads / partner institutions, for a given year, not exceeding the total sanctioned amount for a given year.

6. Bank Account Details*

Particulars	CRI-BOB	PRII	PRI-BOB
Account Name			
Account Number			
Bank Name and Branch			
IFSC code			

*LLRI shall provide the details of project-specific Savings Bank Account may be provided, upon selection for the Grant.

7. Check List for the Enclosures

No	Particular	Tick
1.	Certificate from the Lead Research Institute in India (LRII)	Mandatory
2.	Certificate from the Collaborating Institute in from BIMSTEC member Countries	Mandatory
3.	Certificate from the Partner Research Institute(s)	Optional
4.	Brief Biodata of participating institutions, Principal Investigator and Project Team	Mandatory

8. Any other information from the Team relevant to the proposal

I certify that:

- I have acquired the consent from the competent authorities from my Organization [Organization Name], which is the Lead Research Institute from India, collaborating institute i.e., [Organization Name] from [Country Name] and all the partner institutes viz., [Organization Name] and [Organization Name].
- I have been authorized to submit this proposal on behalf of the team and I shall implement the project as per the work programme submitted by networking with all the organizations.

Date:

Signature of Principal Investigator

Seal:

Lead Research Institute in India

Annexure II (B)

Certificate from Lead Research Institute in India

(To be given on the Institutional Letterhead)

Name of the Scheme	:	BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project
Title of the Project	:	
Principal Investigator from LRRI	:	
Project Period	:	
Project Budget (INR)	:	
Collaborating Research Institute	:	
Partner Institutes (List all)	:	

It is certified that:

1. [Organization Name] shall comply with the General guidelines / Terms and Conditions of the BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project.
2. [Organization Name] shall provide access to its research facilities and extend support to implement the above twinning research project effectively.
3. An exclusive Savings Bank Account shall be opened for the project, with enabling provisions for the transfer of funds to foreign institutes, in the event of award of the Grant to [Organization Name], and the details shall be shared with BOBP-IGO.
4. [Organization Name] will transfer funds to the PRII and CRI-BOB as per the approved proposal and ensure utilization of the grant money for the intended purpose. The Organization may request the BOBP-IGO to facilitate transfer of funds, if required. The transaction cost, if any, shall be borne by the LRRI within the funds sanctioned by BOBP-IGO for the project. Any transaction fee in the receiving country shall be borne by the concerned CRI-BOB.
5. The PI / PL of LRRI will collate the inputs from the collaborators and submit 'interim' / 'final' progress reports including the Audited Statement of Accounts, Utilization Certificate and Assets Created Certificate, duly certified by the competent authority of the institution, in the specific formats to BOBP-IGO.
6. [Organization Name] shall undertake financial & other management responsibilities related to the project work.
7. In the event of the PI / PL leaving the Institute or not being available to execute the project tasks, [Organization Name] shall make alternate arrangements and inform the BOBP-IGO immediately.

Date and Seal of Institute

**Signature of the
Principal Investigator from LRRI**

**Signature of the
Head / Competent Authority From LRRI**

Certificate from Collaborating Research Institute from BIMSTEC

(To be given on the Institutional Letterhead)

Name of the Scheme	:	BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project
Title of the Project	:	
CC-Principal Investigator	:	
Project Period	:	
Project Budget	:	
Lead Research Institute in India	:	
Partner Research Institute	:	

It is certified that:

1. [Organization Name] shall comply with the General guidelines / Terms and Conditions of the BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project.
2. [Organization Name] shall provide access to its research facilities and extend support to implement the above twinning research project effectively.
3. Co-Principal Investigator will assist and provide necessary inputs to the Principal Investigator from [Organization Name], [Country Name] for the preparation and submission of 'interim' / 'final' reports including the Audited Statement of Accounts, Utilization Certificate and Assets Created Certificate, as when needed.
4. [Organization Name] shall undertake financial & other management responsibilities related to the project work.
5. In the event of the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) leaving the Institute or not being available to execute the project tasks, [Organization Name] shall make alternate arrangements and inform the LRIL and BOBP-IGO immediately.

Seal of Institute:

Date:

**Signature of the
Co-Principal Investigator**

**Signature of the
Competent Authority**

Certificate from Partner Research Institutes

(To be given on the Institutional Letterhead)

Name of the Scheme	:	BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project
Title of the Project	:	
Name of Co-Investigator (s)	:	
Project Period	:	
Project Budget (INR)	:	
Lead Research Institute in India	:	
Collaborating / Partner Institutes (s)	:	

It is certified that:

1. [Organization Name] shall comply with the General guidelines / Terms and Conditions of the BIMReN Grant for Twinning Research Project.
2. [Organization Name] shall provide access to its research facilities and extend support to implement the above twinning research project effectively.
3. The Co- Investigator(s) from will assist and provide necessary inputs to the Principal Investigator from [Organization Name], [Country Name] for the preparation and submission of 'interim' / 'final' reports including the Audited Statement of Accounts, Utilization Certificate and Assets Created Certificate, as when needed.
4. [Organization Name] shall undertake financial & other management responsibilities related to the project work.
5. In the event of the Co-Investigator (Co-I) leaving the Institute or not being available to execute the project tasks, [Organization Name] shall make alternate arrangements and inform the BOBP-IGO immediately.

Seal of Institute:

Date:

**Signature of the
Co-Investigators**

**Signature of the
Competent Authority**

Annexure II (C)

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

and

BIMReN Lead Research Institute in India

The Memorandum of Agreement (“**MOA**”) is made and entered into, (**“Effective Date”**), BETWEEN, with its Headquarters located at, (hereinafter referred as “**Lead Research Institute in India or LRII**”)

AND

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, with its office at 91, St. Marys Road, Chennai – 600 018 (hereinafter “**BOBP-IGO**”)

Under this MoA, the parties are hereinafter referred to collectively as “**THE PARTIES**”

WHEREAS:

The BOBP-IGO and the LRII recognize the importance of fostering broad-based cooperation among BIMSTEC member countries in the field of marine research and education and express our intent to establish the BIMSTEC-INDIA MARINE RESEARCH NETWORK (BIMReN) with the goal of

- **Promoting** greater regional cooperation in the field of marine sciences and blue economy in the Bay of Bengal region, through collaboration in research, education, and development;
- **Aligning** with the principles of the 'SAGAR: Security and Growth for all in the Region' and 'Neighbourhood First' policy of the Government of India;
- **Contributing** to the objectives of the BIMSTEC, including enhancing people-to-people contact, promoting fisheries, aquaculture, trade, energy, and cultural cooperation.

BIMReN is in alignment with India's intention to support research in marine sciences among the Bay of Bengal littoral countries and develop platforms and initiatives that can enhance collaboration between the regional scientists and experts in maritime domain as outlined by Shri. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, and endorsed by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi during Fifth BIMSTEC Summit, held in Colombo, during 29-30 Mar 2022.

This MOA outlines the terms and conditions of the collaboration between MEA and BOBP-IGO for the implementation of the BIMReN Scheme.

Key Terminologies

Lead Research Institute in India (LRII): The research or academic organization which submits the proposal for BIMReN Twinning Research Grant as the nodal institute to BOBP-IGO.

Partner Research Institute(s) in India (PRII): The research or academic organization(s) in India, which partner(s) with the LRII for implementing the BIMReN Twinning Research Grant proposal submitted to BOBP-IGO.

Collaborating Research Institute in BOB (CRI-BOB): The research or academic organization in BIMSTEC Member Countries, which collaborates with the LRII for implementing the BIMReN Twinning Research Grant proposal submitted to BOBP-IGO.

Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB (PRI-BOB): The research or academic organisation (s) in BIMSTEC Member Countries, which partner with the CRI-BOB for implementing the BIMReN Twinning Research Grant proposal submitted to BOBP-IGO.

Note:

While LRII and CRI-BOB are the essential nodes for the operationalisation of the BIMReN Twinning Research Project, PRII and PRI-BOB are not the mandatory elements but enabling options for the LRII and CRI-BOB, respectively, to broad base the research network.

The key provisions of the MOA are as follows:

1. Agreement

It is agreed that, [Organization Name] expressed its desire to undertake the BIMReN Twinning Research Project entitled,, as a **Lead Research Institute in India (LRII)**, in collaboration with [Organization Name], [Country Name] as **CRI-BOB**.

The PRII and PRIBOB in the Proposal are as under:

PRII(s) : [Organization Name], INDIA
PRIBOB(s) : [Organization Name], [Country Name]

2. Responsibilities of Parties

The BOBP-IGO and LRII will adhere fully to all relevant laws and rules of India, and/or Directives of the Gol, when making decisions regarding BIMReN Twinning Research Programme.

(a) BOBP-IGO

- i. Disburse the funds as per the funding schedule agreed.
- ii. Monitor the progress of the programme and ensure it is implemented effectively.
- iii. Review the outcomes and assess the overall achievements and impact of the Twinning Research project.
- iv. Network / liaise with CRI-BOB / PRI-BOB and with their respective government's countries to facilitate effective implementation of the BIMReN Twinning Research Project.
- v. Ensure that networking under the BIMReN Twinning Research Project takes place within the parameters of the approved proposal.
- vi. Coordinate the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) as required and release the grants / instalments of money periodically.

(b) LRII [Organization Name]

- i. Assume full responsibility for all academic, research and administrative arrangements associated with the research project.
- ii. Networking with CRI-BOB and PRIIs / PRI-BOBs, as applicable, for effectively implementing the research proposal.
- iii. Execute a Letter of Agreement with the CRI-BOB for facilitating the implementation of the twinning research project and facilitating faculty exchange/movement.
- iv. The LOA with between the LRII and the CRI-BOB shall be drawn in Indian Currency (INR) and the rate of exchange shall be as on the date of transfer of funds from LRII.
- v. The transaction cost, if any, shall be borne by the LRII within the funds sanctioned by BOBP-IGO for the project. Any transaction fee in the receiving country shall be borne by the concerned CRI-BOB.
- vi. Transfer of funds to the PRII and CRI-BOB as per the approved proposal and ensure utilization of the grant money for the intended purpose.

- vii. Coordination among the collaborators and partners in India and BOB countries for proper implementation activity/ activities under the BIMReN Twinning Research Project.
- viii. Open an exclusive Bank Account for the project, with enabling provisions for transfer of funds to foreign institutes and share the details to BOBP-IGO.
- ix. Collate the inputs from the collaborators and submit 'interim' / 'final' progress reports including the Statement of Expenditure and Audited Utilization Certificate (AUC) duly certified by the competent authority of the organization, in the specific formats (**Exhibit B1-B3**) to BOBP-IGO.
- x. Authorize the Principal Investigator / Project leader identified in the project proposal to submit the progress reports and inputs to the BOBP-IGO, as and when needed.
- xi. Acknowledge the support of BOBP-IGO-MEA-BIMReN sponsorship in all publication(s) emanating from the project output and submit a copy thereof to BOBP-IGO.
- xii. Enable and facilitate faculty movement(s) and participation of the project team in the relevant scientific meetings/conferences, including the BIMReN Biennial Conference.

3. Premature closure / Termination

- i. BOBP-IGO reserves the right to terminate the MoA if the LRIL fails to comply with the terms of the MoA, or the progress of the research is not satisfactory.
- ii. The project may be terminated if the parent scheme sanctioned by MEA to BOBP is terminated prematurely.
- iii. In case of premature closure/termination of the project, the LRIL shall submit the necessary Audited Utilization Statement for the amount received till then.

4. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- i. The Expert Review Committee constituted by the BOBP-IGO will review the progress of the projects undertaken by the PRIL.
- ii. The project team shall publish research papers and reports in reputed journals/magazines. Joint publication by the participating scientists in peer-reviewed journals is an essential metric for project performance.
- iii. All the project team members shall participate in the Blue Economy Conference organized by the BOBP-IGO in India and present their study reports.

5. Confidentiality

- i. For all purposes of this Agreement, the term “Confidential Information” shall collectively refer to all non-public information or material disclosed or provided by one party to the other, either orally or in writing, which is marked as being ‘CONFIDENTIAL’.
- ii. Neither party will disclose in whole nor in part did any confidential information related to the other party except as authorize in writing by the disclosing party.

6. Intellectual Property Rights

- i. Any Intellectual Property that emerges from the research pursued under this agreement will be jointly and concurrently owned by the **Lead Research Institute in India**, in this case [Organization Name] and the collaborators [Organization Name(s)] to the extent of their involvement and mutually agreed among them. The LRRI shall formalize the process/processes for securing, managing and disseminating such Intellectual property, among the collaborators.
- ii. The parties agree that they will make all effort(s) to protect the intellectual property of the other party.
- iii. BOBP-IGO shall not be an arbitrator in this process.

7. General

- i. The amount of grant sanctioned is to be utilized within the duration of the project. Any unspent amount of the grant shall be refunded to the BOBP-IGO, soon after the expiry of the duration of the project.
- ii. No amendment, supplement, modification or clarification to this MoU will be valid or binding unless mutually agreed in writing between the parties.
- iii. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of the MoU will be resolved, as far as practicable, by consultation among the parties. The parties each agree that unless otherwise required by law, each will treat the existence of any dispute, negotiation and details of all submissions, proceedings and decisions related thereto as confidential and will not disclose them to any third party or publicize them in any way.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized by their respective organizations, have executed this MOU as of the day and year first above written.

For the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

For the LRIL, i.e.,
[Organization Name]

Dr. P. Krishnan, Director, BOBP-IGO

[Name and Designation]

Name and Signature of Witness

Name and Signature of Witness

Date:

Date:

Place:

Place:

Exhibit B1**Utilization Certificate****Financial Year:****Date:****Lead Research Institute in India:**

1.	Project Title	:
2.	Proposed Project Duration (in months)	:
3.	Project Period	:
4.	BIMReN Project Team	:
	Partner Research Institute(s) in India (PRII)	:
	Collaborating Research Institute in BOB (CRI-BOB)	:
	Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB (PRI-BOB)	:
5.	Total Budget Sanctioned	:
	Sanction Order No and Date	:
6.	Amount Received for Financial Year	:
7.	Amount brought forward from the previous financial year <i>(Not applicable for the first financial year)</i>	:
8.	Total amount available during the financial year <i>(Sum of 7 and 8)</i>	:
9.	Actual expenditure during the financial year	:
10.	Balance amount available at the end of the financial year.....	:

Principal Investigator**Finance Officer****Head of Organization /
Competent Authority**

Overall Statement of Expenditure

Financial Year:

Date:

Budget Heads	Unspent balance carried forward from previous year	Grant received from BOBP-IGO during the year	Other receipts/interest Earned, if any on the BOBP-IGO grant	Total of Column 2 to 4	Expenditure incurred during the year	Balance Amount (5-6)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Research Contingency <i>(Operational cost, local travel and contractual manpower)</i>						
International Travel <i>(Air tickets, Visa charges, etc)</i>						
Living Allowance <i>(Accommodation, food cost, subsistence allowance, etc)</i>						
Total						

Principal Investigator

Finance Officer

Head of Organization /
Competent Authority

Exhibit B2

Proforma for Progress Report

A. <u>Project Summary</u>		
1.	Project Title	:
2.	BIMReN Institutional Partners	:
	<i>Lead Research Institute in India (LRII)</i>	:
	<i>Partner Research Institute(s) in India (PRII)</i>	:
	<i>Collaborating Research Institute in BOB (CRI-BOB)</i>	:
	<i>Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB (PRI-BOB)</i>	:
3.	Project Investigators & Roles	
4.	Project Budget	
	<i>Total Budget Sanctioned</i>	:
	<i>Sanction Order No and Date</i>	:
	<i>Amount Received as on:</i>	
	<i>Total Expenditure as on:</i>	
5.	Project Period	
	<i>Date of Start</i>	:
	<i>Proposed Date of Completion</i>	:
	<i>Expected Date of Completion</i>	:
	<i>Justification if proposed and expected dates are different</i>	:
B. <u>Scientific and Technical Progress</u> <i>(Not more than 20 pages)</i>		
1.	Approved Objectives of the project	
2.	Progress made against the Approved Objectives	
	<i>(Explain the roles of lead and partnering organizations)</i>	
3.	Collaborative Research Outputs	
4.	Expected Outcomes	
5.	Key Milestones Achieved	
6.	Plan of Work for the Remaining Project Period	
7.	Constraints, if any	

Exhibit B3

Proforma for Project Report

A. Project Summary		
1.	Project Title	:
2.	BIMReN Institutional Partners	:
	<i>Lead Research Institute in India (LRII)</i>	:
	<i>Partner Research Institute(s) in India (PRII)</i>	:
	<i>Collaborating Research Institute in BOB (CRI-BOB)</i>	:
	<i>Partner Research Institute(s) in BOB (PRI-BOB)</i>	:
3.	Project Investigators & Roles	
4.	Project Budget	
	<i>Total Budget Sanctioned</i>	:
	<i>Sanction Order No and Date</i>	:
	<i>Amount Received as on:</i>	
	<i>Total Expenditure as on:</i>	
5.	Project Period	
	<i>Date of Start</i>	:
	<i>Proposed Date of Completion</i>	:
	<i>Actual Date of Completion</i>	:
	<i>Justification if proposed and actual dates are different</i>	:

B. Technical Report

1. Problem Statement & Rationale of the Project
2. Objectives of the project
3. Approach (Activities and methods)
4. Progress made against the Approved Objectives
(*Explain the roles of lead and partnering organizations*)
5. Collaborative Research Outputs (*Research Papers, Publications, etc*)
6. Key Outcomes of the Network (*Highlight the Benefits of the Project to the Region*)
7. Plans for Sustaining the Collaboration / Network
8. Way forward: New Leads for Future Work

Annexure III

Indicative List of Fisheries and Oceanic Institutions in India*

No	Institutes	Address
Fisheries Universities / Academic Institutes with Fisheries Focus		
1.	ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE)	Panch Marg, Off. Yari Road, Versova, Andheri (west), Mumbai 400 061. https://www.cife.edu.in/
2.	Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal	College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Tripura 7990210 https://www.cofcau.nic.in/
3.	Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries Univ. (TNJFU)	Vettar River View Campus, Nagapattinam – 611 002. https://www.tnjfu.ac.in/
4.	Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)	Panangad P.O., Kochi-682 506 http://kufos.ac.in/home/
5.	Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU)	College of Fisheries, Souterpet, Mangaluru – 575 002. https://www.cofm.edu.in/
6.	Andhra Pradesh Fisheries University (APFU)	College of Fisheries, Muthukur, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh – 524 344 http://apfu.ap.gov.in
7.	Anna University	Institute for Ocean Management, Koodal Building, Anna University, Chennai-600 025. https://www.annauniv.edu/iom/home.htm
8.	Pondicherry University	Department of Ocean Studies and Marine Biology, Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands 744101 https://www.pondiuni.edu.in/departments/departments-of-ocean-studies-and-marine-biology/
9.	Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)	School of Industrial Fisheries & School of Marine Sciences, Lakeside Campus, Cochin - 682 016 https://cusat.ac.in/index
10.	Annamalai University	CAS in Marine Biology, Parangipettai-608 502. https://annamalaiuniversity.ac.in/T00Centerinfo.php?fc=T00

No	Institutes	Address
11.	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (SIST)	Centre for Ocean Research, Chennai - 600 119. http://centreforoceanresearch.in/
12.	Berhampur University	Bhanja Bihar, Berhampur, Odisha-760007 https://www.buodisha.edu.in/
National Fisheries and Oceanic Institutions		
13.	ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)	Post Box No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi- 682 018. https://www.cmfri.org.in/
14.	ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT)	CIFT Junction, Willingdon Island, Matsyapuri P.O., Kochi - 682 029. https://www.cift.res.in/
15.	ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA)	#75, Santhome High Road, MRC Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600028. https://ciba.icar.gov.in/
16.	ICAR - Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI)	Monirampur (Post), Barrackpore Kolkata, West Bengal - 700 120. http://www.cifri.res.in/
17.	ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGFR)	Canal Ring Road, P.O. Dilkusha, Lucknow - 226 002 https://www.nbfgfr.res.in/
18.	ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (DCFR)	Anusandhan Bhawan, Industrial Area, Bhimtal – 263136, Uttarakhand. https://www.dcfri.res.in/
19.	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)	"Ocean Valley", Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO), Hyderabad – 500 090. https://incois.gov.in/
20.	National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)	Velacherry-Tambaram Main Road, Narayanapuram, Pallikaranai, Chennai - 600 100. https://www.niot.res.in/niot1/index.php
21.	CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)	CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula - 403 004, Goa https://www.nio.org/

No	Institutes	Address
22.	National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)	NIOT Campus, Velacherry-Tambaram Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai – 600 100. https://www.nccr.gov.in/
23.	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)	Anna University Campus, Chennai – 600 025. https://ncscm.res.in/

**This is an indicative list. However, research and academic institutes recognized by Government of India undertaking research in the maritime domain including Marine Science, Ocean Sciences, Fisheries Sciences and related basic and social sciences from both public and private sector shall be eligible to participate in the network.*

Annexure IV

Indicative List of Institutions in BIMSTEC Countries

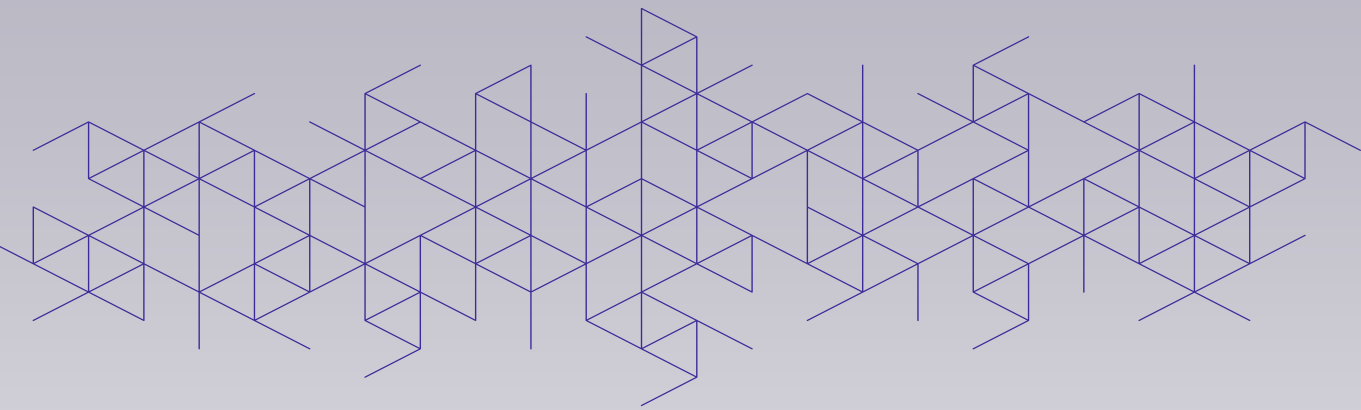
No	Country	Institutes	Address
1.	Bangladesh	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI)	BFRI Head Quarters, Mymensingh-2201 http://www.fri.gov.bd/
		Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)	BAU, Mymensingh-2202 https://www.bau.edu.bd/
2.	Bhutan	Royal University of Bhutan	Lower Motithang, Thimphu, Bhutan https://www.rub.edu.bt/
3.	Myanmar	Mawlamyaing University	Mawlamyine, Mon state, Myanmar http://www.mlmuni.edu.mm/
		Patheingyi University	Kan Thone Sint Estate, Patheingyi Township Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar, 10014 http://patheingyiuniversity.edu.mm/
4.	Nepal	Agricultural and Forestry University	Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal https://www.afu.edu.np/
5.	Sri Lanka	National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency	Crow Island, Colombo 15 http://www.nara.ac.lk/
		National Aquaculture Development Authority	New Parliament Rd, Pelawatte, Battaramulla http://www.naqda.gov.lk/
		University of Jaffna	Thirunelvely, Jaffna https://www.jfn.ac.lk/
		University of Sri Jayawardenepura	Gangodawila, Nugegoda https://www.sjp.ac.lk/
		Ocean University of Sri Lanka	Crow Island, Colombo 15 https://ocu.ac.lk/
6.	Thailand	Asian Institute of Technology	Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathum Thani https://ait.ac.th/
		Kasetsart University	50, Ngamwongwan Rd, Chatuchak Bangkok 10900 https://www.ku.ac.th/

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), set up in 2003, is a regional fisheries advisory body (RFAB) with Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka as its member countries. The Organisation evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) founded in 1979.

The BOBP-IGO is mandated to enhance cooperation among its member-countries as well as other countries and organizations in the Bay of Bengal region and provide technical and management advisory for sustainable fisheries development and management.

BOBP-IGO is committed to contributing towards accelerating the transformation of the fisheries sector of this region towards real-time, evidence-driven, and ecosystem-based management, leveraging our global knowledge networks and effective partnership with the national governments and their constituent research and academic institutions.

For further details, please see: www.bobpigo.org



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