

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**MICHELE AMARI STATE
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IN PALERMO**

and

**SATIT DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL
AT CHIANG MAI RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY**

and

**ITALIAN ACADEMY OF NUAD BO
RARN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

for

*the realization of initiatives of cultural exchange in the sector
of Education for Sicilian and Thai teachers and students.*

SEEING the bilateral agreement for cultural, scientific and technological Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand signed in Rome on 22 September 2004 by the Italian Minister for Education, University and Research and by the Thai Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, which came into force on 15 May 2006, whose objectives include developing *“the updating of knowledge of the respective educational systems, exchanges of teachers, researchers, administration personnel of the education sector and experts that will be able to participate in lectures, study visits, conferences and symposia...”*;

SEEING the law of 15 March 1997, no. 59 and particularly art. 21, which recognizes legal status for all school institutions and allows school to interact as a protagonist with local autonomous bodies, public corporations and associations in the territory and establishes their autonomy, as a guarantee of liberty of teaching and cultural pluralism;

SEEING art. 7 of Decree of the President of the Republic 275/99 (Regulation of Autonomy of scholastic institutions) permitting accords and conventions between scholastic institutions for the coordination of activities of common interest, in accordance with art. 15 of Law 241/90;

SEEING the ministerial directive protocol 5843 of 16 October 2006 containing the *“Outlines on democratic citizenship and legality”*;

SEEING decree-law 137 of 1 September 2008, converted into law 30/10/2008 no. 169, in which the opportunity emerges to plan actions of support and sensitization to favour the best acquisition of a culture of education to citizenship;

SEEING the “European framework” attached to the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2006 referring to *key competences for permanent learning*, in which it is stated that they first of all imply “personal, interpersonal and intercultural competences ...”;

SEEING the Letter of intent between the Regional Scholastic Office for Sicily, the National Agency for the Development of Scholastic autonomy, the Royal Embassy of Thailand signed in Palermo on 05 October 2009, in which the signatories pledged to develop cooperation between Sicilian and Thai educational institutions for the purpose of creating initiatives of cultural exchange in the sector of education also in order to promote mutual understanding and to consolidate relations of friendship between the two countries;

SEEING the Protocol of agreement drawn up between the M. Amari Teaching District in Palermo (now M. Amari State Comprehensive School) and the Nuad Bo Rarn Cultural Association on 1 September 2008 with the purpose of creating jointly and with respect for each party's roles and institutional competences initiatives aiming to promote, in other contexts, both knowledge and the development of local culture and Thai culture;

CONSIDERING that in November 2008 at the Satit Demonstration School at Chiang Mai (Thailand) the Deputy Director of the SATIT Demonstration School, the Assistant Director General of the Department of Export Promotion – Royal Thai Embassy of Chiang Mai, the President and the Director of the Italian Academy of Nuad Bo Rarn Cultural Association in Palermo met to discuss initiatives of cultural exchange between the M. Amari School in Palermo and the Satit Demonstration School to which the present protocol refers;

CONSIDERING the academic cooperation formalized in April 2009 between the Michele Amari State Primary School (now State Comprehensive School) and the SATIT Demonstration School of the Chiang Mai Rajalahat University in Northern Thailand to promote a project of twinning between an Italian primary school and a Thai primary school called “*School, Sanook (Well-being) and Intercultural Competences in the Land of the Smile (Thailand) and in Sicily*” to be activated during the current scholastic year;

With these premises;

the Michele Amari State Comprehensive School in Palermo, the Satit Demonstration School at Chiang Mai Rajabhat University and the Italian Academy of Nuad Bo Rarn Cultural Association in Palermo

SIGN

the following accord.

Art. 1

Premise

What has been said so far is an integral part of the present accord.

Art. 2

Coordinators

The coordinators of this Protocol of agreement are the Director of the Satit Demonstration School at Rajabhat University, Prof. Wantanee Chumchob (or a delegate of hers), the Scholastic Executive of the Michele Amari State Comprehensive School in Palermo, Lucia Carmela Sorce (or a delegate of hers), the President of the Italian Academy of Nuad Bo Rarn Cultural Association in Palermo, Anna Terminello (or a delegate of hers).

Art. 3

Aims

The purpose of the protocol of agreement is to develop cooperation between the Amari School in Palermo, the Satit Demonstration School of Chiang Mai and the Italian Academy of Nuad Bo Rarn Cultural Association in Palermo to:

- Promote mutual knowledge of the Italian and Thai educational systems and of the respective organizational-teaching models in an outlook of internationalization of school, of promotion of the intercultural dimension of learning and education to world citizenship;
- Promote in teachers and students in the respective countries improvement of social and intercultural competences (*life skills*) and communication in a foreign language (English) in a multicultural context;
- Promote research projects in the field of methodology and disciplinary teaching;
- Appraise the potential positive impact of the planned actions on teachers and students in the two countries, their ability to produce an effect of multiplication of the experience of cultural exchange, their capacity for leadership and initiative, their ability to be “good representatives” of the culture of their own country and to be promoters of “integrated teaching models” in an intercultural outlook.

Art. 4

Specific activities

The Contracting Parties:

- will exchange books, publications and audiovisual material in the cultural and artistic field and in that of scholastic training;
- will exchange good practices in the field of teaching methodology above all with reference to the teaching of artistic-musical and motor disciplines and citizenship and constitution;

- will promote initiatives of exchange of visits between teachers of the respective institutions scholastic and experts in the field of training;
- will cooperate on the preparation of books and audiovisual teaching tools for the promotion of Italian culture in Thailand and Thai culture in Italy;
- will organize an Italian language course for Thai teachers at the Satit Demonstration School;
- will develop the research project School, Sanook (Well-being) and Intercultural Competences in the Land of the Smile and in Sicily (attachment 1 of the protocol of agreement) with the objective of investigating the relationship between teaching methodologies for the artistic-musical and motor disciplines and the development of intercultural competences at the Satit Demonstration School and in the Michele Amari School in Palermo;
- will organize in Sicily in 2010 the seminar “*The school of Excellence as a Place of Knowledge and Smiles. The results of a good practice of twinning between Sicilian and Thai schools*”;
- will publish the proceedings of the Conference with an accompanying CD-Rom in Italian, English and Thai to be distributed in primary schools in Palermo, Chiang Mai and Bangkok;
- will participate in the 2011 Bangkok Education Fair to promote good practices in the field of Internationalization of School and to spread the results of the project Sanook (Well-being) and Intercultural Competences in the Land of the Smile and in Sicily.

Art. 5

Financing

The Signatories pledge to seek financings for carrying out the activities agreed on in the present protocol of agreement, including costs for travel, lodging and health insurance for the administrators of the school and teachers who are guests of the foreign institution;

Art. 6

Disagreements

The activities contemplated in this protocol will take place in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country. The signatories will exchange information on the modalities of application of the protocol of agreement and any disagreement will be resolved in a friendly way.

Art. 7

Validity and Duration of the Protocol of agreement

The present accord will be valid from the day following its signing by the legal representatives of the Contracting Parties and will remain in force for a period of three years.

Signed in two original copies, in Italian and English, all the texts being valid, with numbered pages.

Palermo 5 October 2009

For the SATIT Demonstration School at Chiang Mai Rajabhat University

President of Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, Assistant Prof Dr. Ruangdet Wongla

For M. Amari Comprehensive School in Palermo

Executive Lucia Carmela Sorce

For the Italian Academy of Nuad Bo Rarn Cultural Association

President Anna Terminello

In presence of Department of Export Promotion, Thai Ministry of Commerce

Minister Counselor Commercial, Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Rome

Mrs Suchana Chucherd