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United Nations Asst. Secretary General Signs Memorandum of Understanding Expanding Cooperation With Monterey Institute
New Agreement Enhances UN Internship, Employment Opportunities for MIIS Students

Monterey, CA – A new agreement between the United Nations and the Monterey Institute of International Studies signed Thursday is expected to expand internship and employment opportunities for current and future Institute students and graduates.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed Thursday morning in Monterey by UN Assistant Secretary General Franz Baumann and Institute President Sunder Ramaswamy, outlines specific steps both organizations will take to expand cooperation in the training and future employment of translation and interpretation professionals.

“It is an honor for the Institute to be recognized as a leader in training the translation and interpretation professionals who play essential roles in international organizations such as the UN,” commented President Ramaswamy. “We greatly appreciate the spirit of partnership behind this new agreement and look forward to seeing its future benefits accrue to both the UN and our very talented students.”

The new MOU notes that the UN has been “confronted with increasing shortages of qualified conference interpreters” and translators in recent years. The Institute’s translation and interpretation, conference interpretation, and translation and localization management degree programs have long been considered leaders in the field internationally.

“The UN and associated international agencies already employ a substantial number of Institute graduates in senior translation and interpretation positions,” noted Graduate School of Translation, Interpretation, and Language Education Dean Renee Jourdenais. “More than anything, what this agreement does is to ensure that as the international need for translators and interpreters continues to expand, the pipeline will continue to be filled with extremely well-prepared candidates.”

Among other points of cooperation, the MOU envisions collaboration between UN officials and Institute faculty to ensure Institute degree programs are geared to preparing students to take the UN’s competitive language examinations, and that Institute students are encouraged to apply for internships and take the appropriate language examinations to qualify for employment as UN interpreters.

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The Monterey Institute of International Studies is at the forefront of international professional education, preparing students for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors. A private graduate institution located in Monterey, California and affiliated with Middlebury College, the Institute offers fully accredited degree programs in international business, translation and interpretation, international policy studies and language teaching. The Institute's approximately 800 students come from more than 50 countries. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.