MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND,
Kingston, Rhode Island, USA

and

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA,
Qingdao, Shandong Province, China

Dual Degree Doctoral Program

A. Rationale

As the next step in following the MOU between the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the Ocean University of China (OUC) signed on December 13th, 2010, the two universities propose a Dual Degree Program at the doctoral level in engineering fields, in particular ocean engineering. Both universities are convinced that promoting URI/OUC collaboration on joint research opportunities is not only desirable, but also necessary, in preparing the next generation of engineers for work at all levels in the global workplace. As stated in the MOU, both parties agree to encourage academic cooperation through research and study, specifically “to facilitate the admission of qualified students from one institution to the other for the purpose of enrolling in undergraduate and graduate programs, professional learning certificate programs and, in the case of advanced graduate students, participating in research.” The program also aims to increase Ph.D. student enrollment in the College of Engineering at URI, while also enhancing the quality of the Ph.D. program in the College of Engineering at OUC. Such participation is beneficial to both institutions as URI will receive top Ph.D. students from OUC to conduct research projects, and OUC Ph.D. students will receive world class research guidance from URI professors. Since the participating Ph.D. candidates in the foreseeable future will be those from OUC to URI, this agreement will focus on the eligibility and requirements of OUC Ph.D. candidates pursuing the doctoral degree at URI.

B. Eligibility

1. Minimum Prior Study and Minimum Qualifications: To be eligible to participate in this program of dual doctorate recognition, candidates must be in its Ph.D. program at OUC for at least one year and must pass the qualifying exam of URI which will be conducted at the OUC campus. Doctoral candidates seeking dual doctorate recognition will be expected to complete two years of full-time study and/or research at OUC and two years of full-time
study and/or research at URI. In all cases, doctoral candidates must meet the requirements of the regulations of the respective Ph.D. programs (examination regulations).

2. **Mutual Faculty Mentorship:** Participation in this program will depend on the availability and willingness of faculty in the respective departments of both institutions to support, coordinate, evaluate, and approve the doctoral studies and research of the candidate in concert with each other and the requirements of each university. The collaboration of one major advisor and one committee at each institution will be needed to direct the candidates through the dual degree program.

3. **Language Fluency:** Participation will also depend upon the ability of the doctoral candidates to carry out their course of study and research in the English language at URI. All candidates must fulfill the English language requirements of URI before beginning coursework and research at URI. This demonstration of English proficiency will be assessed based on the results from their TOEFL exam.

   a. Students must submit the official results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or the Pearson Test of English taken within the past two years.

   b. Students must arrange for ETS to report their scores directly to URI Graduate School. The minimum score on the Paper-based TOEFL is 550; the computer-based 213 or iBT score of 79. Minimum requirement for the IELTS is a 6.5, and the minimum requirement for the Pearson Test of English is 53.

C. **General Regulations**

3. **Learning Agreement:** Both universities will conclude an individual co-operation and learning agreement for every doctoral candidate participating in the program. The learning agreement will determine the conditions and terms for the individual dual doctorate project and the members of the committee at both institutions.

4. **URI Program Requirements:** For the URI ocean engineering doctoral program, a total of 42 credits composed of at least 18 credits of course work and 24 credits of dissertation research are required. Courses must include one in advanced applied mathematics, one in engineering and oceanography, and a minimum of two in ocean engineering. For other URI engineering doctoral programs, specific requirements can be found in the URI University Catalog.

5. **Coursework and Transfer Credits:** Participants of the Dual Degree Doctoral Program will be allowed to transfer up to 9 credits of coursework from OUC to the URI doctoral program. Approval of transfer credits will be granted on a case-by-case basis at the departmental level. The additional required coursework will be taken at URI at the doctoral course level.
6. **Tuition and Fees**: In principle, participants of the Dual Degree Doctoral Program will be responsible for all costs of the program. An URI University Scholarship of up to $5,000 per year may be awarded to a limited number of students from OUC. To be considered, OUC students must not be receiving any other funding or financial support from URI, including from faculty grants. Eligible students must have a minimum GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent and must meet published URI English proficiency standards. Awards will be made on a competitive basis, based upon academic interest and achievement. The scholarship amount will be deducted from the cost of out-of-state tuition. The awarding of the University Scholarship of $5,000 normally will not exceed two years for any specific degree program. *No scholarships will be awarded to students who are conditionally admitted to URI.*

7. Additional funding for teaching or research assistantships will be subject to availability. The final costs to study at URI will depend on the tuition rate in the year of admission.

8. **Financial Support**: OUC students are technically responsible for their own expenses, including travel and living costs. Every effort from URI faculty will be made to support doctoral candidates through research grants. OUC students are also encouraged to apply for Chinese government funded scholarships to study abroad from the Chinese Scholarship Council.

9. **Research Supervision**: Participants of the Dual Degree Doctoral Program will conduct appropriate research at both institutions. Dissertation work will be jointly supervised and evaluated by faculty from both universities.

10. **Thesis Language**: The thesis will be written in English.

11. **Examination Regulations**: Before enrolling at URI for the Dual Degree Doctoral Program, each Ph.D. candidate must pass the URI qualifying exam. The URI qualifying exam is an English oral exam. The exam will be held at the OUC campus, conducted by a URI committee with two or more URI professors. OUC professors are highly recommended to join the qualifying exam committee.

12. **Doctoral Committees and Thesis Defense**: Dual Degree Doctoral candidates will be expected to complete a doctoral dissertation to the satisfaction of faculty at both institutions. Two independent dissertation defenses will be held for each candidate, in which there will be a major advisor and a doctoral committee at each institution in accordance with the respective regulations of this institution and/or department.

D. **Procedures for Candidates**
OUC doctoral candidates planning to complete the Dual Degree Doctoral Program will formally apply for admission to the Graduate School of the University of Rhode Island. Admission decisions will take place first at the departmental level. A record of all prior studies shall be submitted in English. It is understood that OUC Ph.D. candidates participating in this program will already be in the OUC Ph.D. program for at least one year and must pass the URI qualifying exam. The study and research program at URI is to be established by the faculty of both institutions in accordance with the learning agreement.

E. Applicability of Agreement

This agreement shall apply to doctoral candidates in the fields of engineering. It is the framework for an individual co-operation and learning agreement for every doctoral candidate participating in the Dual Degree Doctoral Program.

SIGNATURES

This Agreement is effective and hereby agreed upon by:

For the University of Rhode Island  
Donald H. DeHayes, PhD  
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Date: December 15, 2012

Raymond M. Wright  
Dean, College of Engineering  
Date: December 15, 2012

For Ocean University of China  
Professor Li Huajun  
Vice President  
Date: December 15, 2012

Professor Shi Hongda  
Dean, College of Engineering  
Date: December 15, 2012