Memorandum of Understanding

between

the Department of State of the United States of America

and

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

on the Renewal of

the WEST (Work, English Study, Travel) Program

and the Working Holiday Program (WHP)

and

Expansion of Other Reciprocal Exchange Opportunities

The Department of State of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter together referred to as the "Sides"),

Desiring to promote continued cooperation between the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the "United States" or the "U.S.") and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "Korea");

Recognizing the intention of the Sides to expand reciprocal exchange opportunities for the peoples of both countries;

Desiring to provide more exchange opportunities for citizens of the United States and nationals of Korea who may not otherwise have the opportunity to gain broad international study, work, and travel experience;

Wishing to provide reciprocal exchange opportunities so that up to two thousand five hundred (2,500) post-secondary college and university students and recent college or university graduates from each country may participate in these programs annually; and

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Creation of the WEST (Work, English Study, and Travel) Program and Expansion of Other Reciprocal Exchange Opportunities, signed on September 22, 2008; the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of State of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on the Renewal of the WEST (Work, English Study, Travel) Program and the Working Holiday Program (WHP) and the Expansion of Other Reciprocal Exchange Opportunities, signed on October 29, 2013; and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of State of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on Renewal of the WEST (Work, English Study, Travel) Program and the Working Holiday Program (WHP) and

Expansion of Other Reciprocal Exchange Opportunities, signed on October 22, 2018, have reached the following understanding:

1. The Department of State of the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the "U.S. Department of State") intends to continue the work, English language instruction, and travel program known as the WEST (Work, English Study, Travel) Program (hereinafter referred to as "WEST") for Korean participants in the United States, which lasts up to seventy-eight (78) weeks (approximately eighteen (18) months).

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea intends to continue the Working Holiday Program (hereinafter referred to as "WHP") under which U.S. participants can pursue work, study, and travel opportunities in Korea for a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eighteen (18) months.

3. WEST participants are expected to attend structured English language training at an accredited language school, college, or university, and are expected to devote no fewer than eight (8) weeks and no more than twenty (20) weeks to such training. Participants are expected to complete at least ninety (90) classroom hours of English language training in every four (4) weeks of training.

4. While pursuing language instruction, WEST participants are also expected to take coursework in American business practices and gain familiarity with business procedures, corporate culture, and general office management issues. Upon completion of this education, WEST participants are expected to begin an internship not to exceed fifty-two (52) weeks' duration (i.e., approximately twelve (12) months) with a corporate, non-profit, academic, or other host organization. Upon conclusion of this

internship (or between the English language training and the internship), WEST participants are expected to have the opportunity to travel for four (4) weeks (approximately one (1) month), not including the thirty (30) day grace period applicable to the J-1 visa.

5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, recognizing the importance of equal opportunities, intends to provide student loan guarantees for eligible WEST applicants.

6. The U.S. Department of State intends to continue to cover administrative costs of WEST as they relate to oversight by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and to facilitate the WEST Program under the existing regulations for the Intern category of the Exchange Visitor Program (22 CFR 62.22) and 22 CFR Part 62, which apply to WEST except to the extent otherwise indicated by this Memorandum of Understanding.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea intends to conduct the WHP under its existing regulations, except to the extent otherwise indicated by this Memorandum of Understanding.

8. The Sides intend that each participant in WEST and each participant in the WHP:

    a. be a national of Korea (for WEST) or a citizen of the United States (for WHP);
    b. be a full-time post-secondary college or university student or recent college or university graduate (having graduated no more than twelve (12) months prior to the WEST or the WHP participant's program start date); and

provide evidence from his/her post-secondary institution to this effect; and

c. not be accompanied by dependents, including a spouse, unless they are also participants in WEST or participants in the WHP, as applicable.

9. The Sides intend that participants in WEST and WHP not be permitted to remain in the United States or Korea, respectively, beyond the authorized period of stay.

10. The Sides understand that either Side may, consistent with its own laws, refuse any particular visa application it receives.

11. The Sides understand that either Side may, consistent with its own laws, refuse entry into its territory of any person participating in either WEST or the WHP or remove any such person from the territory of its country.

12. The Sides intend to continuously enhance cooperation to expand reciprocal exchange programs other than WEST and the WHP that currently exist between both countries in order for more people of each country to participate in such programs.

13. The Sides intend to hold in-person or virtual consultations two and a half (2.5) years from the date that this Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the selection, monitoring, evaluation, and participation of WEST sponsors.

14. The Sides understand that Korea's National Institute for International Education (NIIED) and program sponsors that are designated by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs intend to discuss further specific details and procedures for WEST implementation consistent with this

Memorandum of Understanding and international best practices.

15. Modifications of this Memorandum of Understanding may be made at any time by a written arrangement between the Sides.

16. The return of WEST and WHP participants to their home countries is expected to be in accordance with the domestic laws of each country.

17. The Sides understand that either Side may, at any time, temporarily suspend its participation in activities described in this Memorandum of Understanding, in whole or in part. Each Side intends to notify the other Side of any such suspension and the intended date of its effect at least thirty (30) days in advance through diplomatic channels.

18. Either Side may discontinue this Memorandum of Understanding at any time but should endeavor to provide a three (3)-month prior written notice to the other Side.

19. Discontinuation of this Memorandum of Understanding or suspension of any activities thereunder by either Side is expected to have no effect on WEST or WHP participants who are already present in the territories of the other at the time of such suspension or discontinuation.

20. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to give rise to any rights or obligations under domestic or international law. Any difference of opinion between the Sides which may arise over the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding are expected to be resolved through consultations between the Sides.

21. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to become effective on December 1, 2023, and expires, without further action by either Side, five (5) years from the effective date. The Sides intend to begin review of the Memorandum of Understanding in the final year prior to the date of its expiration.

Signed in duplicate in the English and Korean languages.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
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Assistant Secretary	Director-General for Consular Affairs and Safety
Washington, DC	Seoul
November 30, 2023	November 30, 2023
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