

November 6, 2011

Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement
Free Trade Agreement Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

Dear Sir /Madam,

Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

I represent a growing group of Design professionals, the Indo Australia Design Research Alliance, interested in developing a collaborative presence in India as an alternative to China as manufacturer of designs for product across architecture, engineering and design.

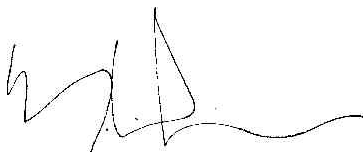
There is support for a trade agreement subject to improvements in foreign equity and branch offices limitations and other conditions such as intellectual property. Offshoring using digital formats is a concern especially around qualifications recognition, and the current Indian visa restrictions are a major cost impost on collaboration.

Assistance focusing on Design as an integral part of innovation is an area where joint government agreement can benefit, where design is excluded from the funded programmes of the Australia India Strategic Research and the Grand Challenge Fund. These Science and Technology grants acknowledge design, especially product and industrial design yet exclude it as an area of research in itself.

The current situation sees India with a Design policy and an Innovation policy in review while Australia has an Innovation policy but no Design policy, I believe the Indians have it in the right order.

I support a move to freeing up trade and look forward to participating pioneering a strong relationship with India.

Yours Faithfully,



Mark Watson
Director