

# The Rt Hon John Denham MP

Secretary of State for Innovation,  
Universities and Skills

Department for  
**Innovation,  
Universities &  
Skills**

Dr. T. Ramasami,  
Secretary,  
Department of Science & Technology,  
19, Technology Bhawan,  
New Mehrauli Road,  
New Delhi 110 016.

17 September 2008

*Dear Dr Ramasami:*

## **CONTRIBUTING TO THE UK GOVERNMENT'S DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF HE**

As you know, in February this year, I began the process of producing a 10-15 year framework for the expansion and development of HE in the UK. I commissioned a series of contributions from experts within the university sector which will provide recommendations on how Government, the Funding Council and Higher Education Institutions should respond to these challenges. These will be published on our website ([www.dius.gov.uk](http://www.dius.gov.uk)) at the start of October.

The debate that has been started by these strands of work underlines the ability of the higher education sector itself to think radically and creatively about the future. But many other people too have a huge interest in the success of our universities and colleges. So I thought we should complement the work being done within the sector with what I hope will be equally challenging and provocative work from outside the sector.

I am very grateful to you for agreeing to take part in this stage of the process. Your experience and perspectives will be most useful, as someone who is able to provide an external point of view.

Your views will be particularly valuable and interesting as the HE sector in India is growing and becoming more competitive internationally, and also because India sends many students to the UK. You may also wish to compare the changes we are planning to those in India, and to

suggest how, in the increasingly global economy, the recommendations we have received will have an impact as we aim to have a world-leading HE system.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your thoughts by the end of November. I am not setting out a template for you and others taking part in this exercise, but you may wish to consult the guiding principles we issued on our website (<http://www.dius.gov.uk/policy/he-debate.html>).

I am very much looking forward to receiving your views.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Denham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**JOHN DENHAM**