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## UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL Initiatives and Actions - 8 Month Progress Report

**International Environment** – leading world universities are all building their international competitiveness and performance. For the University of Sydney and Australia, the international arena holds the major opportunity for growth in research and education, along with new revenue from grants, scholarships and students. The Australian education export industry is now at \$10bn/year (ABS 2007).

**Restructure** – The Senior Executive Group responsibilities were restructured in April 2006, including the appointment of the first full time Deputy Vice Chancellor (International). The realignment of the Faculties continues, with international development in research, education and community engagement as a priority.

**International Triennium (2006-9)** – the triennium coincides with Vice Chancellor Gavin Brown's Presidency of the Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) from June 2006. The purpose of the triennium is to achieve a quantum leap in the University's international performance and rankings, with reform at all levels to internationalise research, education, community engagement, the staff and the student experience.

The objectives and actions of selected current initiatives are listed below. Details are available in the UniNews (International Editions) and the new International Portfolio website: [www.usyd.edu.au/international](http://www.usyd.edu.au/international)

### *Selected International Activities – External*

#### **Leadership Program**

**Objective:** – Achieve active membership and leadership in selected international higher education and research networks, including APRU, Academic Consortium 21 and others (see Annex A). Similarly, to participate and lead in global higher education and research fora including the UN (WHO, UNESCO), OECD, APEC

**Actions:** *Over a dozen keynote lectures have been delivered by senior executive staff in these fora and other global conferences. The APRU Presidents' Conference met in Sydney in June and AC21 met in Warwick in July. We have joined the World University Network, enhancing our access to the USA and Europe. Senior staff have been appointed to significant national and international strategic committees. The VC spoke at the UN Princeton Forum and at the Nobel Public Sector Conference. John Hearn represented the University at the OECD Global Forum in May: the University joined OECD as a knowledge partner (the first from the Asia-Pacific) and as a member of the Bioeconomy 2030 Program. WHO has invited us to be a 'mentor university' for projects in the Asia-Pacific region.*

#### **Governments Program**

**Objective:** – Provide partnership, briefings on options and advice to the Australian Government through Departments (especially DEST, DFAT/AusAid, DISR), Ministers and Ambassadors in target countries. Provide briefings and cooperation with foreign governments, industry and universities in target countries.

**Actions:** *The program has delivered personal briefings to over 20 Australian Ambassadors and Consul Generals, 15 Senior AEI officers, 3 Australian Ministers. Personal briefings and materials have been provided to 12 Foreign Governments, including the USA, UK, China, India, Malaysia, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, The Netherlands and Germany.*

#### **International Events Program**

**Objective:** - Develop further the "Beijing Model" with graduation, alumni and VIP events accompanied by academic symposia, government relations and media programs to raise the profile of the University.

*Actions: Events and associated programs were held in September in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore and in November in Shanghai and Hong Kong. In 2007 events are being developed in the USA, UK, EU, South America and India. Results from the Beijing initiative in September 2005 include the implementation of a major Chinese Government Scholarships Program\* with the University of Sydney, enhanced cooperation with the top Universities in China and improved status for the University and for its alumni in China*

### **Alumni Programs**

**Objective** – Support and develop alumni chapters in principal target countries, enabling participation in the University's international programs. Alumni chapters will assist their members in business development and continued dialogue with the University, the attraction of top level students and the orientation of students going to Sydney or returning with their degrees. Alumni assist also as ambassadors for the University and champions in achieving the University's objectives with local universities, government and business.

*Actions: In conjunction with the Alumni Office, new or revitalised international alumni chapters have been established in Beijing, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Enhanced alumni activities are being carried out in the USA, UK and New Delhi.*

### **Selected International Activities – Internal**

#### **International Institute**

**Objective:** – the Institute is being developed to focus international engagement and activities, including the Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific, an Americas Centre and a Europe Centre to build University-wide bid capacity. Negotiations are proceeding for a Confucius Centre. The Institute will consolidate the Universities capacity and reach, monitor international regional and country action plans, provide intelligence to faculties and staff and develop major bids for international projects and programs. The first International Forum of a series was launched. Due diligence for 3-4 potential off-shore offices is being completed. The University won the competition for the American Studies Centre.

*Actions: Space and resources for these activities are being finalised, staff redeployed and priority programs implemented.*

#### **International Services**

**Objective:** – greater coordination of service units including the International Office, Summer and Winter Schools, Centre for English Teaching and the International Student Support Unit is improving the performance, competitiveness and speed in attracting the best students – and in broadening the student base from its relatively narrow dependence. A new commercial arm is being explored to manage foundation courses and joint ventures on and off shore.

*Actions: A restructure of each of the above mentioned units has been completed. Performance indicators show that growth and management targets are being met. The capacity for improved results is being developed A series of agents training workshops have been completed.*

#### **Marketing and Communication**

**Objective:** – we are improving our communication with international stakeholders and the marketing of the University's strengths and academic assets.

*Actions: New international websites are completed and launched. A University Intranet for briefing staff is launched. Management structures and communication networks have been instituted throughout the University for students and staff. A program of briefing notes and news is being implemented for stakeholders and the media. A university-wise international video was produced.*

### **Selected Further Developments**

**Other Recent Events** - with international dimensions include the Sesquicentenary celebrations of the Faculty of Medicine; the Angkor Wat International Conference at the University of Sydney; the visit to the University by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; the University of Sydney/APRU International Conference on the Brain and Mind; and the Malaysian Global Higher Education and Research conference.

**Resource Development: Scholarships** – There are positive results from a number of sources

- (i) **China Scholarships Council** – a senior delegation visited on August 14 to expand its training program.
- (ii) **Saudi Arabia** – a student and scholarships program was achieved by Diane Ranck and colleagues. Similar programs are in development with the UAR and Pakistan, potentially with Malaysia.
- (iii) **USA** – exchange supervision and studentships are in negotiation with the National Institute of Health, with the involvement of Matt Hall, the Vice-chancellor and D Ranck. Enhanced research cooperation through the Fogarty International Centre is being explored by John Hearn.
- (iv) **Malaysia** – the Malaysian government has indicated an interest in working more closely with the University of Sydney and to funding research collaboration and scholarships for places at the University. John Hearn visited the Ministers of Health, Science, Agriculture and Education recently, as well as being received by the Prime Minister.

**Commencing Student Numbers, Semester 2, 2006** – While final figures are not yet available, the University has seen a healthy 14% increase in commencing international student numbers for Semester 2, 2006. This compares with reductions of 18% at UTS and 5% at Wollongong. In an increasingly competitive international market, the University of Sydney will need increased and sustained visibility, marketing and agent training to attract the best students and to build the quality of Masters and PhD degrees.

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

### Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)

Website: <http://www.apru.org/>

- Consortium of 36 leading research universities in the Pacific Rim
- Objective is to foster education, research and enterprise thereby contributing to the economic, scientific and cultural advancement in the Pacific Rim.
- Professor Gavin Brown is the Chair of APRU since June 2006.

### Academic Consortium 21 (AC21)

Website: <http://www.ac21.org/Portal>

- International network of worldwide educational, research and industrial organisations established to encourage active exchanges of students, faculty members and administrative staff, provides shared access to information on research interests and academic activities, develops cooperative education programs and supports international exchange of culture between local communities.
- Professor Gavin Brown was President of AC21 until July 2006.

### The World University Network

Website: <http://www.wun.ac.uk>

- An international alliance of 16 research led universities.
- Mechanisms to build research scale and competitiveness.
- Focus on global issues and major cooperative research programs.
- Capacity for bid development and support from international organisations.

### The Global Foundation

Website: <http://www.globalfoundation.org.au>

- Initiated by a small group of Australia's most prominent citizens
- Members include heads of state, global business leaders, officials from international institutions and governments, prominent academics, media figures and civil society leaders
- Objective is to encourage Australia's sustainable national development in the global context
- Professor Gavin Brown is on the Board of Directors

### Australian Davos Connection

Website: <http://www.ausdavos.org>

- Leadership organisation consisting of leaders from Australian business, government, the public sector, academia and the broader community
- Objectives of ADC include:
  - promoting business excellence in Australia;
  - improving the quality of leadership within this country;
  - enhancing Australia's position in the region and the world; and
  - encouraging Australia to play a responsible, and leadership role where appropriate, within the global community.

### The Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL)

Website: <http://www.asaihl.org>

- Network of universities from South East Asia including Australia and New Zealand
- Founded as a non-governmental organisation in 1956
- Secretariat for ASAIHL is located in Thailand
- Objective is to assist member institutions to achieve international distinction in teaching and research through provision of staff and student exchanges, consultancy services, and information on academic and university development and developments in the region.

### Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

Website: <http://www.acu.ac.uk>

- Global network of 500 universities from the Commonwealth countries
- Objective of ACU is to enhance international cooperation and understanding in higher education
- Dr John Rowett, Chief Executive of the Rhodes Trust, University of Oxford, is the Secretary General of ACU