



AC21 Newsletter

Contents:

Greetings	1
Message from Former AC21 President Gavin Brown	2
Letter from Professor Lindley – Chair, AC21 3rd International Forum	2
Moving AC21 Forward	3
The Third AC21 International Forum at the University of Warwick	4
Next Student World Forum (SWF) to be held from July 21 to 31 in Paris	5
Letters from 2005 SWF Participants	5
Web-based Intermediate Japanese Listening Course	8
AC21 Activities and Events	9
Member Institutions and Partners Visited	9
From the Editor	10

Greetings

Professor Nigel Thrift
AC21 President 2006-07



I write with fraternal greetings from the University of Warwick and on behalf of the network of universities within AC21. I hope you find this newsletter informative and that it leads to much more collaboration between our universities in the future months and years.

Inside this issue you will find a report on the 3rd AC21 International Forum, which was held at my university in July 2006. This was also the month in which I became Warwick's 5th Vice-Chancellor, and it was a particular pleasure for me to have the opportunity to meet so many of the University's international friends and colleagues.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the events at the Forum. For me, the most salutary remarks came from the President of Baghdad University, whose university struggles to remain operational in the midst of civil strife. It was a stark reminder of how fortunate most universities are to enjoy peace and prosperity – and the responsibility that we all have to use the prospects that lay before us to good effect.

During my AC21 presidential year (2006–07), I want to urge all members to become more proactive in increasing the range of activities between and amongst our institutions. A network such as this can only be as vital as the energies that we as member institutions put into it.

With very best wishes

Professor Nigel Thrift

Biography

Professor Nigel Thrift became President of AC21 in July 2006 succeeding Professor Gavin Brown of Sydney University. Professor Thrift was educated at Aberystwyth and Bristol, and is an internationally renowned research figure in the field of geography. He became the University of Warwick's fifth Vice-Chancellor in July 2006, joining Warwick from the University of Oxford, where he was Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research. He is an articulate exponent of internationalisation in higher education, with a firm belief that universities have an important mission in educating global citizens for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Message from Former AC21 President Gavin Brown

**Professor Gavin Brown AO FAA
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Sydney**



The existence of the AC21 network encouraged various research linkages between subsets of our members.

It has been a pleasure to serve for two years as President of AC21. The beginning was the AC21 International Forum 2004 held in Sydney and the end was the AC21 International Forum 2006 held at Warwick. Both were highly successful events bringing together government officials, industry leaders and students and staff from a wide range of universities. There were differences of emphasis but at both events the overarching theme was the changing interactions between universities and their society as the 21st century brings new opportunities and challenges.

What else has our organisation achieved in the period between these special occasions? In July/August 2005 the first Student World Forum, bringing together students from 18 AC21 member institutions, took place in Nagoya. Not only was this a great choice of venue because of the proximity to the Aichi World EXPO, it also reflected the home and origins of AC21. Throughout my time as President I have been deeply grateful for support and resources provided by Nagoya University and the excellent work of the permanent secretariat there.

Several of our member institutions engaged in a benchmarking project which compared teaching and learning environments and the student response. With the objective of migrating best practice across our partners, this is also a fascinating cross-cultural study. Aware as we are of globalisation and convergence it is also salutary to be reminded that students and teachers interact in very different ways in different societies.

The existence of the AC21 network encouraged various research linkages between subsets of our members. Some of this included regional conferences to share ideas and in other cases specific research projects were begun. I hope to see much more in coming years.

The value of our university network to each member institution is proportional to their active commitment to using it. We have tried to make opportunities for collaboration reaching beyond the presidents and beyond the biennial flagship events – successful though they are.

I look forward to even greater achievements.

Letter from Professor Lindley – Chair, AC21 3rd International Forum

**Professor Robert M Lindley
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs)**



I feel privileged to be Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs at one of the UK's leading research universities and fortunate to have chaired the 3rd AC21 International Forum. *Global Education: Universities in the 21st Century* provided a unique snapshot of how universities are responding to the challenges of globalisation at the beginning of the third millennium.

The core activities of universities are taking place in an increasingly global context. At the University of Warwick we experience this on an almost daily basis, working in our international communities of students and staff and interacting with colleagues across the world in trans-national research partnerships.

As with any conference, the informal networking that took place between the sessions allowed for cultural exchanges and discussions through which attendees extended and solidified their own partnerships. The social programme was as invigorating and useful in this regard as the main conference pro-

gramme.

The Forum was certainly a success, and it was a pleasure to work with the AC21 Secretariat at Nagoya University in bringing colleagues from five continents and 37 countries to the University of Warwick.

Global Education: Universities in the 21st Century provided a unique snapshot of how universities are responding to the challenges of globalisation at the beginning of the third millennium.

Moving AC21 Forward

Professor Tsutomu Nomizu
Director, AC21 General Secretariat

On September 1, 2006, I was appointed new Director of Academic Consortium 21 (AC21) General Secretariat to take over from Professor Misao HAYAKAWA. I am a Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, and also the Academic Coordinator of Nagoya University's short-term student exchange program, NUPACE (Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange) (<http://www.ecis.nagoya-u.ac.jp/nupace/>).

Since the establishment of AC21 five years ago, I have been serving as a member of AC21 General Secretariat, especially in student exchange activity planning. I have contributed to activating the student exchanges among AC21 institutions through NUPACE these past five years.

The University of Sydney and the University of Warwick held two great International Forums under AC21. Both Forums had many participants from various universities, organizations and educational authorities. The Warwick Forum very much appealed the presence of AC21 to more than a thousand participants from 37 countries. At the General Assembly last year, it was decided that Nagoya University will host the Fourth International Forum next year.

The Student World Forum, which started at Nagoya University in 2005, received much

attention from both inside and outside AC21. It was evaluated as a unique event to motivate young students internationally among AC21 institutions. I am very pleased to hear that Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC) holds the next Student World Forum this summer. In addition, AC21-related activities, such as symposiums and conferences, have been undertaken among member institutions. I believe these world-wide cooperative activities will be very valuable both at the present and in the future.

I know we have to struggle to further activate the consortium meaningfully. We are now planning on holding several mini-forums prior to the next International Forum on various subjects. With more frequent issuing of the AC21 Newsletter, updating the AC21 web-site, and activating interactions among members, we, the AC21 General Secretariat, would like to motivate mutual communications among the AC21 institutions and develop collaborations with partner organizations. AC21 is also discussing adding several new members for further development. This will be determined at the Steering Committee meeting which will be held at Nagoya University this year.

It would be very much appreciated if all of the members could positively cooperate with the AC21 activities and propose new AC21 activities.



With more frequent issuing of the AC21 Newsletter, updating the AC21 web-site, and activating interactions among members, we would like to motivate mutual communications among the AC21 institutions.

The Third AC21 International Forum at the University of Warwick



Many guests visited AC21's exhibition booth at the Conference



Vice-Chancellor VandeLinde, Vice-Chancellor Brown and President Hirano exchange ideas with students



President Hirano, Vice-Chancellor VandeLinde, and Professor Singer at the welcome ceremony

Last summer the University of Warwick hosted the AC21 2006 Forum. It was a major international conference on the theme of global education.

Warwick hosted the forum during its presidency of AC21. It was co-sponsored by AC21, Nagoya University and Advantage West Midlands (AWM).

Over 1,300 delegates from 37 countries attended the events.

The conference had as its theme *Global Education: Universities in the 21st Century*, allowing participants to engage with critical issues facing higher education in light of the rapid internationalisation of the sector.

Three sub-themes focused on Leadership and Management; Innovation and Enterprise; and Global Student Imprints.

An impressive line-up of speakers from around the world included Bill Rammell MP, the UK Minister for Higher Education; Professor Georges Haddad, Director of the Division of Higher Education, UNESCO; Ms Gina Poole, Vice President, Innovation and University Relations, IBM; Professor Mosa Al-Mosawe, President, Baghdad University; and Judith Cone, Vice-President of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, USA.

During the Forum the University of Warwick organised a concurrent Research Festival that examined issues such as:

- Sustainable Manufacturing
- Personalised Medicines
- Nanotechnology
- Corporate Responsibility
- English in Higher Education.

600 pupils from local schools attended the nanotechnology workshop hosted by the Chemistry Department.

In addition to the formal sessions, a wide-ranging social programme allowed delegates to sample the very best of West Midlands culture. Delegates were treated to an evening concert of local music, a 4th of July fireworks display and a Ska concert. The conference culminated in a Gala Dinner featuring Bollywood dancers and the West Midlands' famous balti cuisine.

Over 70 staff were involved in organising the conference—without their help the Forum would not have been such a success. Thank you to all involved!

PowerPoint slides from the Forum together with abstracts from the Research Festival are available from the conference website: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/globaled>

For the full report of the forum, please visit
<http://www.ac21.org/if2006/report.pdf>
For the hard-copy of the report, please contact
office@ac21.org

Next Student World Forum to be Held From July 21 to 31 in Paris

The Second Student World Forum will be hosted by Ecole Nationale des Ponts Chaussées in Paris, France, from July 21 to July 31. The theme for this year's Student World Forum is "Sustainable cities". The theme will be developed from three perspectives: 1) Energy, 2) Transportation, and 3) Building and Housing. Each participant shall choose one of the topics, and shall take part in a program consisting of field trips and workshops. According to Mr. David Chupin, the Deputy Director at ENPC, this year's Forum theme was specifically selected in order to recognize the significance of urban infrastructure, and transportation networks. Given the vast geographic, and cultural representation of the AC21 institutions, we anticipate a very interesting exchange of ideas amongst our participants.

The Student World Forum shall begin from Monday, July 23, and students shall arrive on either Saturday or Sunday immediately before

this date. There will be five days of company visits and workshops, conducted concurrently for each of the selected topics. Furthermore, excursions to museums in Paris, and a visit to Euro Disneyland are also being planned. Participants will fully prepare for an exhibition on each topic, and a general assembly will be held, including local officials and sponsors. Details and events for Student World Forum will be updated on our website at <http://www.ac21.org>, and e-mail announcements will be sent to AC21 associates and representatives.

AC21 Student World Forum was established for the purpose of providing students (of AC21 member institutions) from all over the world with an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas concerning pressing international issues, sharing their perspective from different cultural backgrounds. The first forum was held at Nagoya University in 2005 with the theme, "Coexistence of Nature and Humans".



Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées

The Second Student World Forum will be hosted by Ecole Nationale des Ponts Chaussées in Paris, France, from July 21 to July 31.

Letters from 2005 Student World Forum Participants

First Student World Forum was held in Nagoya University in July, 2005. 18 participants from AC21 member institutions, over 30 student volunteers from Nagoya University and faculty worked together to make this a great success. The two articles below are letters from two students who participated in the SWF.

The 10 Days in Japan That Changed My Life

Wit Wichaidit
Representing Kasetsart University, Thailand

If I was to name the highlight activity of my undergraduate studies, the AC21 Student World Forum 2005 would instantaneously come to mind without hesitation. For the first time in my life, I actually had a chance to meet extraordinary students and professors

from around the globe who all share one common issue of concern: our future.

Before the Forum, we all submitted a paper each containing our views on one of the three topics discussed: Ecotourism; Science, Technology and our Responsibility; and

If I was to name the highlight activity of my undergraduate studies, the AC21 Student World Forum 2005 would instantaneously come to mind without hesitation.



Wit explaining the importance of Environmental Education

Wit finished his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Kasetsart University in March, 2006. He is currently studying towards an M.Sc. in Tropical Medicine, majoring in Epidemiology, at Mahidol University, Thailand. He is planning to defer his Master's Thesis for one year after finishing his coursework in April, 2007, to gain practical job experience in humanitarian or development work, preferably with an NGO in Thailand. He still is very interested in ecological and environmental issues.

To be invited at a conference which is taking place on the other side of the globe is a great and most unique opportunity in the life of a student, and it is something worth working hard for!

Environmental Education. On the first day of the forum, we all made our individual presentations and were divided into groups according to our chosen topic. We were asked to come up with a declaration at the end of the Forum a few days later. Through hard work and hard play, as well as the dedicated support from the volunteers and the staff, we all came up with a declaration and presented it at a press conference on the last day of the SWF.

One very lasting impression of the Forum was the kindness of the volunteers and staff, as well as that of the Japanese people in general. At the SWF 2005, we were so nicely taken care of, and fed all the time, by the people of the AC21 Secretariat and their peers, much to our delight. The Forum volunteers, who were students of our age, were always willing to take us places to see and do things, even though those places were out of town and the time was beyond their normal work hours.

It was very interesting to work in groups with students from different nationalities and socio-economic-political backgrounds. As our backgrounds influenced the way we thought, our opinions frequently clashed with each other at first. For example, my group had to propose a sustainable solution for management of ecotourism. Our friends from the EU proposed an NGO-based system while their Asian counterparts suggested a more State-dominant system, thus the two ideas immediately and

inevitably clashed. Not very long afterwards, we all learned a very valuable lesson on how to overcome the differences, find a common ground, and work together on any particular issue and finished our work on time.

The SWF benefited me greatly, both in my studies and in my life. At the personal level, the Forum expanded my world view greatly, particularly in understanding the viewpoints of students from other countries. I also learned a lot about leadership from my team supporter as well as my colleagues. But most of all, I befriended a group of amazing individuals.

In my studies and future career, the Forum was one of the factors that influenced me to choose the field of my graduate studies in Epidemiology. Going to the SWF and talking to the people there confirmed that I was more suited for a broader field of science than the hard-core, lab-intensive one.

By the way, have I mentioned the benefit that the Student World Forum has on my curriculum vitae? Going to an international forum as a science major really did capture the attention of recruiters at job fairs.

For those of you who will be in Paris for the Student World Forum 2007, whether you will be a staff member, a volunteer, or a student delegate, I wish you all the best of luck and a great time in France. I hope that that your life will be changed as profoundly as my life did.

Intercontinental Ecotourism

Johannes Edelmann

Representing the University of Freiburg, Germany

To be invited at a conference which is taking place on the other side of the globe is a great and most unique opportunity in the life of a student, and it is something worth working hard for!

This is the first and most important conclusion that I can offer to anyone who thought about writing an application for the AC21 Student World Forum. The advantages of an international environment for discussing global

issues like Ecotourism, Ecological Education and Global Responsibility were obvious from the first moment. Be it in the presentations or the informal discussions of our topics, the specific perspectives of American, Thai, European, Chinese, and Japanese students revealed very different approaches to the problems discussed, and concluded in different solutions. Isn't it interesting that nuclear energy is discussed in the United States as a possible solution for the increasing CO2 emission, while the German "Green party" and the German environmental movement fight harder against nuclear energy than against any other form of conventional energy? I also learned a lot about hybrid cars like the Toyota Prius – a technological concept that German car constructors had completely neglected before 2005. However, I found the most interesting difference was not the "technical" ideas that the participants contributed, but the "political" ones. While me and my British colleague always fought for the rights of local communities in the course of touristical development, some of our Chinese counterparts insisted on the utmost importance of national development, and the right of the state to „force“ their people to develop. At some moments we could find the patterns of global politics reproduced in our conference room, and our discussion was less an intellectual exchange than micro-level diplomacy in the style of the United Nations.

I guess it was also diplomatic reasons that made me withhold most of my criticism on the conference. Our hosts were simply too polite and friendly! But I still ask myself whether

it was really necessary to cross half of the world to discuss about Ecotourism, since my intercontinental flight alone caused tons of CO2 emission! And no one seemed to find this hypocritical or at least questionable. Another point that could be discussed is that AC21 spent about four thousand US-Dollars on me alone, half of which were the costs of the flight. Would a conference made with international students from Nagoya university not have been as multinational, multicultural and productive as ours, and that with much less funds, and much less ecological devastating impacts? And why did I have to carry a whole suitcase full of advertisement from the universities of the other participants back home? Universities should know that an intelligent and friendly student makes much better advertisement for university than plastic highlighters and tie ins! In my opinion those points endanger the character and spirit of a student forum, and risk to change it into a platform for public relations and advertisement.

Nevertheless, I think that the AC21 Student World Forum was a great success for all participants, and therefore equally for all participating universities. Japan, our hosts, the great organization, my fellow participants, and their culture, their knowledge, their personality – I would never want to miss this experience! And that's why I want to emphasize the unique capacity of this conference for the AC21 universities and their students to produce ideas, concepts and solutions for the problems of our world, and not its capacity for public relations.



Johannes giving his opinions at the conference

Johannes is currently finishing an MA in political science, modern history and sociology at the University of Freiburg, Germany, where he specializes in development policies and democratisation processes. Besides his studies he is involved in several student groups that are engaged with international and developmental issues. Since 2006 he has held a scholarship from the foundation of the German political party "The Greens". After finishing his studies he is planning to work in an international organisation.



Students discussing "Ecotourism"

Web-based Intermediate Japanese Listening Course

“Nagoya University Japanese Language Education Media & Systems Group” has been working on a project to transform the listening textbook *Modern Japanese I & II - Revised Edition* (Nagoya University Japanese Language Education Research Group, University of Nagoya Press, 1998) and three listening books of worksheets *Listening Practice, Listening Worksheet I & II, Listening Practice, Listening Worksheet I & II* (Nagoya University Japanese Language Education Research Group, University of Nagoya Press, 1992) and their accompanying tapes into web-based material.

The textbook and worksheets mentioned above have been used in our Japanese classes and have a great reputation among Japanese learners worldwide. However, they have some limitations. Firstly, it is not easy to use three separated textbooks and tapes simultaneously. Secondly, tape deterioration is severe and since tape recorders are no longer produced extensively it is becoming harder every year for learners to obtain them. Finally, because the workbooks include lots of questions, they impose a heavy marking burden on teachers. Therefore, our project has the following

aims: (1) to provide learners with material that they can call up immediately and which is at an appropriate level for them (2) to give learners computer-based materials which are not subject to problems like tape deterioration and (3) to create learning material which does not rely on a teacher to mark. The computer-based exercises have an interactive element and provide immediate feedback. As well as tackling the limitations of the paper-based text book and accompanying worksheets, the computer-based material should also aid students’ motivation and enhance the learning effect.

Available free of charge for AC21 Member Institutions

- ◆ You can try the demo course at <http://opal.ecis.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~ijlc/> (proceed to “Guest” → “Guide Course” → “Guest”)
- ◆ If you would like to register for the course please contact: ijlc-admin@ecis.nagoya-u.ac.jp

Interested in learning Japanese? Web-based Japanese Intermediate Listening Course is free for AC21 members!



AC21 Activities and Events

2002	June	First AC21 International Forum –The University Architect of the New Century– Nagoya University
2003	October	First Steering Committee, Nagoya University
2004	July	Second AC21 International Forum –Universities, Cities and Society in the 21st Century– The University of Sydney
	July	Second Steering Committee, The University of Sydney
	July	First General Assembly, The University of Sydney
2005	July	Third Steering Committee, Nagoya University
	July-August	First Student World Forum –The Coexistence of Nature and Humans– Nagoya University
	October	Symposium at Tongji University Sustainable Urban Transport and City –Technologies and Policies for Long Term Planning and Expo–
	November	Nagoya University Shanghai Forum –International Academic Exchange–
2006	July	Third AC21 International Forum –Universities in the 21st century– The University of Warwick Fourth Steering Committee, The University of Warwick Second General Assembly, The University of Warwick
2007	July	Second Student World Forum –Sustainable Cities– Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
	[TBA]	Automobile Conference in Shanghai
	October	Fifth Steering Committee, Nagoya University
2008	July	Fourth AC21 International Forum, Nagoya University Sixth Steering Committee, Nagoya University Third General Assembly, Nagoya University
2009	[TBA]	Graduate Students Summer School Program Third Student World Forum

Member Institutions and Partners Visited

2006	January	The University of Sydney
	February	Shanghai Jiao Tong University
		Huazhong University of Science and Technology
		Zhejiang University
	March	Nanjing University
		Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
		The University of Warwick
		Peking University
	May	Fudan University
		ITOCHU Corporation
July	The University of Warwick • AC21 Third International Forum • Fourth Steering Committee • Second General Assembly	
December	The University of Warwick	
	Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées	
	The University of Freiburg	
	Chemnitz University of Technology	
2007	February	The University of Sydney Chulalongkorn University



Upcoming AC21 Events

July	Second Student World Forum –Sustainable Cities– Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
[TBA]	Automobile Conference in Shanghai
October	Fifth Steering Committee, Nagoya University

**Visit our Web-site
for the latest information!
www.ac21.org**

From the Editor



With Ms. Chantal Weber, AC21 communicator from the University of Freiburg, AC21 Director Prof. Nomizu, and the Editor of the Newsletter and AC21 Project Coordinator Nami Iwaki at the train station in Freiburg Dec. 2006

Welcome to the Volume 3 of AC21 Newsletter. It starts with a greeting from the new AC21 President, Professor Thrift of the University of Warwick. AC21 also welcomed a new Director, Professor Nomizu, and his message also can be found in this volume. We have two letters from students of AC21 member institutions who participated in the First Student World Forum held at Nagoya University in 2005. As you can see, they were able to appreciate the uniqueness of this event, and after engaging in extensive exchange between students from across the globe, they were able to realize the different perspectives people have concerning a pressing global issue, that

of the environment. Their letters also attest to the social value of the event, describing how much students enjoyed meeting each other, and friendship they subsequently formed, which continues even today. Incidentally, the Second Student World Forum will be hosted by Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in France this year in July.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter, and get a good grasp of AC21 activities in the process. We welcome any AC21-related articles or information you would like to report to other member institutions. We also look forward to hearing your opinions regarding this newsletter.

Yours Sincerely,
AC21 Project Coordinator
Nami Iwaki

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