



AC21 Newsletter

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Greetings

James L. Oblinger
Chancellor, North Carolina State University
President-Elect, AC21



Although my term as president of AC21 does not begin for a few months, I am delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to our newsletter. I want my colleagues to know how much I look forward to working with you as AC21 considers expanded membership and continues toward its goal of encouraging global cooperation to benefit higher education and contribute to world and regional society.

As we all know, the benefits of membership in AC21 extend well beyond the opportunity for institutional leaders to speak with their peers about common concerns for our universities in the 21st century. We recently had the opportunity to send two of our students to the AC21 Student Forum 2007 in Paris, hosted by our colleagues at École nationale des ponts et chaussées. North Carolina State's representatives, Neal Humphrey and Laura Hepp, were attracted to the Student Forum's theme, Sustainable Cities, and its workshops on energy, transport, and building and housing because of their interests in sustainable energy and urban design. These and other outstanding students represent the multidisciplinary interests of higher education in the 21st century.

Another benefit of AC21 membership is participation in the biannual Forum. I am very pleased that North Carolina State will host the next AC21 Forum in July 2008. The theme we have selected, "University Partnerships: Global Collaboration and Innovation for the 21st Century," reflects our recognition that

global problems require collaborative, multidisciplinary and multifaceted solutions that must reach across boundaries, both within and outside our universities. At North Carolina State, we are particularly focused on partnerships: between faculty and students, between our institution and the communities, businesses, and industries that rely on our research and on the students we prepare, and between our campus and those of our international partners. Through AC21, we have been able to expand our global educational partnerships well beyond what would be possible through bilateral agreements alone.

The 2008 Forum, which is described in more detail in this newsletter by Dr. Betsy Brown, who is leading our planning for the event, will provide AC21 institutions the opportunity to explore the power of partnerships in three areas: International Student and Academic Exchange, Global Higher Education, and Innovation and Technology Transfer. These are timely topics to which we are committed to at North Carolina State. At the Forum, we will share what we are doing in these areas and learn new approaches from you. I look forward to the opportunity to meet all of you and introduce you to the innovative people and programs that characterize North Carolina State University.

Fourth AC21 Forum, North Carolina State University

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, July 27–30, 2008

Dr. Betsy E. Brown
Special Assistant to the Provost
North Carolina State University



North Carolina State University is pleased to host the Fourth AC21 Forum on our campus July 27–30, 2008. The theme of the 2008 Forum will be “University Partnerships: Global Collaboration and Innovation for the 21st Century.” We have selected three related topics for the satellite forums:

- International Student and Academic Exchange
- Challenges for Global Higher Education
- Innovation and Technology Transfer

These three concurrent forums will emphasize the importance of partnerships and collaborations at home and abroad to universities’ effectiveness in the 21st century.

AC21 activities will begin with a meeting of the Steering Committee in the afternoon on Sunday, July 27. The AC21 General Assembly will meet in the morning on Monday, July 28. The open forum will begin in the afternoon of the 28th, with keynote speakers and panel discussions addressing the Forum theme and overviews of the three satellite forums.

On Tuesday, July 29, the three satellite forums will convene at separate venues on the NC State campus, each selected for its relevance to a particular satellite forum topic. “International Student and Academic Exchange” will meet in our student center and will offer participants opportunities to discuss how partnerships and collaborations contribute to international academic and student exchange, including study abroad, student exchange, and collaborative research. The day will include a “Festival of Student Research and Engagement,” which will give participants an opportunity to learn about how AC21 institutions incorporate un-

dergraduate research and service learning into campus and international programs.

“Challenges for Global Higher Education” will meet at NC State’s Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, a unique facility located next to a public middle school which brings together faculty members and school teachers, university and public school students, and educational and industry leaders to find innovative ways to improve pre-university education. This satellite forum will address challenges for higher education around the world, including incorporating technology into education, addressing student achievement in such critical areas as mathematics, science, and technology, and collaborating with community, government, and private sector partners to strengthen support for education at all levels.

The third satellite forum, “Innovation and Technology Transfer,” will meet on NC State’s Centennial Campus, home to a complementary mix of university, industry, and government facilities. Corporate headquarters, research facilities, and a blend of large, small and entrepreneurial businesses are located side-by-side with NC State academic programs, providing faculty and students opportunities for real-world education and collaboration. Centennial Campus is the ideal location to focus on the contributions of AC21 universities to global innovation through education, research, and technology transfer.

On Wednesday, July 30, participants will come together to hear reports on the three satellite forums and keynote speakers and panel discussions addressing how AC21 members can build on Forum discussions to strengthen

collaborations within the consortium and with other educational, industry, and government partners.

We will distribute a “call for proposals” and additional information about the Forum soon.

We look forward to welcoming campus leaders, international relations staff, faculty, and others from AC21 institutions. Please plan to join us for what we believe will be an exciting and valuable experience.

AC21 International Symposium on Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education: AC21’s prospect for further collaboration

Miki Horie
Academic Staff, AC21 General Secretariat
Nagoya University

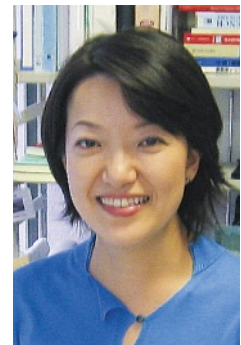
Globalization of the higher education market brings with it both international competition and more widened opportunities for cooperation. Higher education institutions in most parts of the world have been under both internal and external pressures for evaluation and comparison, such as benchmarking and rankings. At the same time, collaborative programs of exchange, such as joint degrees and twinning programs, require a more precise and systematic approach to quality recognition and credential evaluation to secure quality equivalence among institutions of various national backgrounds.

A university consortium such as AC21 is charged with promoting good practices in international collaboration among universities. However, it is not easy to establish a common basis for discussion, because all members do not necessarily share the same assumptions on the essential role and function of higher education. Education is a social activity that is quite culture-bound, and an institution is often a part of a national system. Moreover, we are all in the same global context but with specific issues of various weights of significance depending on our region. The Bologna process in Europe, growing demands for higher education in India and China, governmental initiatives for strategic internationalization in Japan, these trends occur separately, but all are part of the stream of expansion of educa-

tional exchange and mobilization. Therefore, I believe it is especially valuable and exciting to set up an opportunity for us to share our perspectives on these issues with each other and, hopefully, conceive of further activities as a consortium

The 1st AC21 International Symposium on Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education will be held on Friday, Oct. 26, 2007 at Nagoya University, to share various perspectives on these issues among AC21 members, in pursuit of further collaboration opportunities. The main purpose of this symposium is to discuss various issues related to quality assurance and improvement in higher education amidst expanding opportunities for external evaluation and improvement.

The symposium will start with the keynote lecture “Universities in Global Market and Network: Roles of International Consortia in Quality Improvement” by Dr. Hans de Wit, Vice-President for International Affairs of the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Dr. de Wit is one of the most prominent researchers of international higher education and has published numerous academic articles about internationalization of higher education from theoretical perspectives. In the keynote lecture, he will explore an academic perspective on university quality improvement in the context of global market and network, providing



a general picture of international collaboration and challenges around the world.

The keynote lecture will be followed by a roundtable discussion on “Responding to the Challenges: International University Rankings, Benchmarking, and Internal Reforms” attended by all of the AC21 Steering Committee representatives. The roundtable will start with speeches by several members, including Professor John Hearn (University of Sydney, Australia), Professor Larry Nielsen (North Carolina State University, U.S.A.), Dr. David Law (University of Warwick, U.K.) and a speaker from Shanghai Jiaotong University in the People’s Republic of China. Each of

the speakers will bring specific themes to the discussion table, such as internationalization policies, university rankings, and internal reforms for quality improvement. After the speeches, members will engage in free discussion of these themes, with a view to formulating plans for further AC21 activity for quality improvement in international higher education.

This symposium will be publicized throughout Japan to attract a more general audience as well. I hope this symposium brings us stimulating discussion among AC21 members and also between AC21 and other participants from various institutions in Japan.

AC21 Symposium
University Rankings, Benchmarking and Internal Reforms
Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education

Date: October 26, 2007 Time: 2:00pm–5:15pm
Venue: Lecture Hall, 1st Floor, Environmental Studies Hall, Nagoya University

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Hans de Wit** (Dean, Windesheim Honours College, joint college of VU University Amsterdam and Windesheim University of Applied Sciences)
“Universities in the Global Market and Network: Roles of International Consortia in Quality Improvement”

Roundtable Session: “Responding to the Challenges: International University Rankings, Benchmarking, and Internal Reforms”

Speakers:
Prof. John Hearn (Deputy Vice-Chancellor International, The University of Sydney)
“The Global Education Challenge”
Prof. Larry Nielsen (Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor, North Carolina State University)
“Achieving Global Education in a Public University: The Balance between Effectiveness and Efficiency”
Dr. David Law (Director, Warwick International, The University of Warwick)
“The Challenge of Internationalisation: A View from the UK”

ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM 21
AC21 General Secretariat Nagoya University Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8601 Japan
TEL : 81 52 789 5686/5684 FAX : 81 52 789 2045 Email : office@ac21.org

AC21 International Symposium

“Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education”

Time and Date: Friday 26, October 2007 14:0–17:15

Venue: Lecture Hall, 1st Floor, Environmental Studies Hall,
Nagoya University

<Keynote lecture>

Dr. Hans de Wit

(Dean, Windesheim Honours College, joint college of VU University Amsterdam and Windesheim University of Applied Sciences)

“Universities in Global Market and Network: Roles of International Consortia in Quality Improvement”

<Roundtable Session>

“Responding to the Challenges: International University Rankings, Benchmarking, and Internal Reforms”

Speakers:

Prof. John Hearn

(Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), The University of Sydney)
“The Global Education Challenge”

Prof. Larry Nielsen

(Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor, North Carolina State University)
“Achieving Global Education in a Public University:
the Balance between Effectiveness and Efficiency”

Dr. David Law

(Director, Warwick International, The University of Warwick)
“The Challenge of Internationalization: A View from the UK”

Chair: Dr. Shinichi Yamamoto (Vice President, Nagoya University)

Student World Forum in Paris

Simon Wallis
Vice Director, AC21 General Secretariat
Nagoya University

The final night of the Forum was a boat trip along the River Seine with beautiful views of central Paris, champagne and even a magician to keep us company on a magical evening. It was an opportunity to talk and to reflect on the previous week at École National des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC) – a leading graduate university that was established in 1747 more than 250 years ago with the remit of educating engineers to take charge of the bridges and roads of France.

Paris has been the home of countless famous people remembered in many street and place names of the city. The ENPC as a small but elite institute has its share of famous graduates: Gay Lussac from Chemistry, Cauchy from Mathematics and Becquerel, one of the discoverers of radioactivity, to name but three. The Paris underground is a more mundane but nevertheless impressive part of Paris and a great blessing to tourists and visitors; fast, efficient, and a station is rarely far away; but it is also a challenge. We were supplied with passes by ENPC, which helped us travel to the Forum and explore the city. Without them, buying the right tickets can be time-consuming and difficult – certainly not visitor-friendly. Visitors should also beware the metro doors; they close with a vengeance and jumping on a train at the last moment is not for the faint-hearted.

Individual challenge and high achievement were also part of the Forum. We were all impressed by the high-level of research, the innovative instruction and the links with industry at ENPC. The list of university alumni and their achievements is awe-inspiring.

With many of the student participants traveling overseas for the first time, the organization of the event posed novel challenges both for the participants and for the organizers. From airport transport arrangements through accommodation to the presentation venues, participants were placed on the same footing

as full-time students of the ENPC resident in Paris. I was truly impressed by how they coped, and I am sure that this will have been an excellent experience for them.

It is sometimes good to stand back and consider what we hope to achieve from international exchange. It rarely involves a lot of people and has to be seen as coming with leveraged benefits. Despite some difficulties, the students were without exception entranced with Paris and worked hard on their contributions to the Forum. In their final presentations many of them were clearly influenced by the lectures given by Prof Hayashi on transport in urban areas. But they also benefited greatly from the wide ranging knowledge and guidance of David Chupin from ENPC – at least one of them left considering further study at ENPC. They had clearly thought carefully about the issues concerning sustainable cities and being able to combine everyday experiences from around the world enriched their discussions. An important question is whether their time at the Forum will encourage others to follow in their footsteps and whether this event has been a good advertisement for AC21 and its members.

Personally I learnt a lot and came away with a strong impression of ENPC as a special institute with its own way of doing things that will help me take a second look at our own programs in Nagoya. The students were all very positive in their assessment of the Forum and many expressed a hope that they may be able to join a similar experience again. On these criteria, the Forum was clearly a success. There is always room for improvement, and I hope that the lessons we learned from this event will make the next WSF an even greater success. Wherever the Forum is held it will, of course, be difficult to compete with the magical setting of Paris – as a finale to our boat trip the magician drew back his cloth with a flourish to reveal a goldfish happily swimming around in my glass of water!



Second Student World Forum – Essays from the Participants



Sustainable City for Tomorrow: Sustainable City in the Place I live

Eri Takahashi, Nagoya University

The city where I live, whose population is only approximately 49,000, is located in a suburb area of Nagoya city which is the fourth biggest city in Japan. Although the size of the city is relatively small, it has one of the famous rivers along which there are beautiful cherry blossom trees and there remain peaceful landscapes. I would say that the citizens there have warm hearts to protect the nature close to them.

The slogan of the city mentions about the environmental sustainability. It says, “Protect our nature, environment and our earth” which encourages people to be aware of our precious natural environment.



What kind of solutions is my city taking for sustainable environment? I think my city is taking good approaches to achieve it. There are some factors supporting environmental sustainable city. First, the city is keen on recycling and planting as a solution of an ecological aspect. We have a well-planned recycling system. The citizens are required to divide trash into eight categories; burnable trash, unburnable trash, plastics, aluminum cans, steel cans, paper boxes, bottles and plastic bottles. As for bottles, we are obliged to separate them according to their colors. Apparently it is a bit complicated and some people do not intend to do it, however, the city publishes booklets and brochures regularly explaining the details and the importance of the recycling system, so that it makes it easier to understand it. As for planting, a lot of volunteer workers make much effort to plant trees along streets, rivers and so on.

Furthermore, my city is eagerly focusing on environmental education. Students have a lot of opportunities to contact with nature and ani-

mals, so that they feel close to them and end up thinking that they have to protect natural environment. For example, students often go to the river and are involved in activity to increase the number of fish in a river. Also, there are some festivals which make people feel attached to nature throughout year and thus it is possible for people from children to adults to enjoy the natural environment around them. In classes, they learn about environmental sustainable energy, transport and those kinds of things and they sometimes visit places where people are working on environmental preservation, such as the incinerator whose extra energy is used for a swimming pool. I think the environmental education is the core and the first step to encourage people to think about their own environment and to realize sustainability. Therefore, I would say that the city I live has relatively high quality systems for environment.

However, there seems to be a problem about transportation systems in my city. Since my city is rather small, many people rely on their own private cars. The buses and trains are mainly for commuting to further cities, thus there is no choice but to use private cars for inside the city. To solve those problems, I think it is necessary as a first step for us to be aware of issues which are to be improved all the time, and we should work on them in a body.

Although a lot of intelligent ways of solutions are created, it seems to me that not many people in my city are aware of the necessity of considering environmental problems. Even though my city really tries hard to achieve sustainability, the process required is not easy and straight forward without any help of citizens. There are questions if citizens consider this matter serious

or not, if they understand the city's concepts towards environment. They just follow the systems and regulations obediently without any questions and will, which is partly an admirable point. However, I believe that the system loses its core, that is, the motivation of the people who actually act cannot be succeed.

If there is a gap of motivations for the environmental problems between restrictions and

the side of supporters, nothing practical can be realized. Now it is time to look at the most important point, the cooperation of people and the fulfillment of policies. For maintaining the natural beauty of my city and for realizing the city where future generations live safely and happily, I hope every citizen becomes more interested in environmental conditions of the city, of the world and of the earth, and makes effort to save them.

Sustainable City in the Place I Live

Rosa Schulz, Chemnitz University of Technology

A city is a complex system which is ever changing and modifying. For the time we live in, it is very important to protect nature and to help cities develop them in a way that is healthy for the people who live in and for the environment. Sustainable cities can be seen as a progress. Thinking about protection of cities has always to do with long-term planning. You can not change the environment in only a few years. About decades you can see efforts and it is necessary that everyone helps in the long progress of protecting nature. Nature is essentially important for our future and well-being as well as for the health of generations thereafter.

This essay is about activities and laws to protect nature and the healthy development of cities in Germany. It is the task of the policy to give the right conditions to protect nature. So Germany engages in many political activities to care for a healthy future.

In Germany, environment policy has three main pillars: provision, cause and cooperation. The principle of provision obligates about reducing danger for people, nature and environment according to the technological development. The principle of cause includes lifecycle costs of production, consumption and waste disposal. The third principle of cooperation is respon-

sible to phrase aims and measurements for a policy of sustainability. Therefore economy, different social groups and individual persons work together to find solutions. With these three important pillars, protection of nature becomes to a key-point of every economical activity in Germany. Enormously important is to fight for a sustainable development in the European Union. The international comparison between Germany and other countries helps to work on the aims of sustainability. The attention for ecological development in every space of life is the central task for Germany.

Since 2000, there is a project in Germany called "Deutschland Online". This project cares about important figures concerning environment, like greenhouse gases, climate change or air pollution. Everyone can get information about the economical level in Germany. For me personally it is really important that people get these information to know about the development and to take an active part to protect nature.

In Germany, there are many associations, political activities and information programs to care about sustainability. Nevertheless it is very important that everyone takes a part in economical development, people as well as cooperation between the countries.



Sustainable City in Changchun

Ziyin Zhu, Jilin University

Changchun is a medium sized city in northern China. It has a lot of advantages in developing a sustainable city compared to those big cities like Beijing and Shanghai. For example, there is less pollution in the air and less population in the city. So it is not too difficult to develop a sustainable Changchun city with overall planning before new construction, certain regulations in the city build-up and some guidance in people's way of life.

CONSTRUCTION

The biggest problem is the lack of efficient overall planning. It is a common issue all over China, not only in Changchun. We do have planning on urban layout, transportation, environment and so on. The problem is that no one really takes it seriously. It is just a routine document in the cartulary and usually handed in after the construction. Most decisions are made by certain people in the government. New office buildings, fancy theaters, huge stadiums high-tech airports, and modern rail stations do make the city looks good and that makes the local government look good. But do we really need that stuff? Should not we think before we leap? Pity is people tend to have short sight when they are at a certain status and let reconstruction and over construction block the sustainable city process.



Picture 1 A light rail station in Changchun
To build a sustainable Changchun city, we have to stop reconstruction and over construction to save more space and resources for the future. The government should and has to work hard on city planning to develop in harmony. Then we are closer to the sustainable city.



Picture 2 The not-working traffic light
As thousands of cities in China, Changchun is developing very fast. And it is developing quite well. If we can solve those problems such as over construction and put the investment into more meaningful project, Changchun will soon develop into a sustainable city.

am so surprised that it does not have a lavatory for passengers.

PEOPLE

People are the other essence. We are the creator of the city. In the process of building a sustainable Changchun city, we have to change our lifestyle. Changchun is a famous vehicle manufacturing city in China. More and more citizens could afford cars with the decreasing price. The environment is threatened. It is good that the government has regulations about the gas emission control. Manufacturers are trying to produce more eco-friendly cars. But it is not enough. We have to be alert about our way of life: We are more dependent on the comfortable private car than public transportation; we



Here are some examples. Around 2000 Changchun government bought some expensive system to record the data of traffic. It took a lot to put them underground of the busy crossroad. The traffic data was useful. But the system was destroyed one year later in a repave of the urban roads. In 2006 and 2007, some shining light rail stations (see Picture 1) were built in Changchun city. They indeed brighten the city in the night. But do we need thousands of bulbs to do the job that one is competent for? I do not want to comment on the large waiting lobby and the few passengers; probably it is for the future population growth. But with so much space, I

are addicted to the easy and fast drive than a ten-minute walk. If all the citizens make a little sacrifice, the city will be better.

Chinese people are always keen on high technology. Changchun government introduced some traffic light which will change the light color when passersby press the button on it. (See Picture 2) They worked pretty well in

western countries but can not last for a month here. With our population, the traffic light broke down quickly and took more efforts to repair.

It is much better to have a regular one. We really should develop technology according to our circumstances. A sustainable Changchun city needs measures tailored to itself instead of some high-tech implanted from a more developed country.

A Remarkable Experience in SWF

Xiao Duo, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Thanks to SWF, in my undergraduate schooltime I got the chance to spend a week in France and know more about the life and people in Europe. ENPC is a fascinating school with cool building and developed facilities, and the food there is very nice. Though we have been foretold that the consortium will be held in some order, actually we have more freedom in discussing both in class and in group works. We can use the Internet and document in library if we need. Moreover, in our sparetime, we are accommodated in a hotel in the center of Paris, which means we can see whatever we want in Paris without walking more than 10 minutes.

There is no restrict to this essay, so I want to say more about the experiences within the 7 days. There are a lot of things I learnt from Paris and ENPC. My chosen topic is sustainable houses, and I found many good cases in France about this. The Main Hall of ENPC is one of them. It's a glass box, kind of like a Zero-building, relying on sunlight and natural wind. Working in it for a week, we barely saw any energy consuming equipment on, except the computers. The building has several big courtyards which are used as dining-hall, exhibition and public places. They utilize glass roof that let in sunlight. When we had our lunch, the sunlight changed now and then which is so attractive. Shutters under glass roof can control the amount of sunlight, and they have ventilation system so that the interior would not be too hot from the storage of sun heat. The structure of the Main Hall is steel,



which can be recycled. And I believe that steel is more and more popular especially in public buildings for its long span and durability. The second thing is French transportation. Every household owns at least one car, which is a big threat to the environment. However the oil is expensive, so they tend to have small cars to reduce the cost thus produce very little waste. Very often do I see tiny vehicle on the street which one can hardly spot in China. And the metro of course, and bus and trains are all encouraged by the government as efficient public transportation means. The third, I should say is the strict order people obey in labeling garbage. Paper bags, greenery, plastic, and other waste, are carefully sorted and recycled on their specific day of a week. But I have to say, people throw away much more waste than in China, just by seeing how big some dustbins are on the street. And mostly they use plastic bags instead of dustbin, which may be still hard to dispose. Anyway, I appreciate European's systematic way of working.



Although I came to France to discuss sustainable cities, I learnt much more than this. I'm very lucky to spend some extra days after the forum, now I have to say, I love Paris. This is a place where everyone loves music and paintings, and most importantly, they are interested in their lives and other's lives. There are a lot of stories happening everyday. It's even common to chat with a stranger who greets you in the park, for people in Paris are so friendly. I'm not surprised to see so many tramps and baggers on the street, they may be willing to beg to live in such an

expensive but lovely city.

At the end of this essay, I want to present a photo that I took from a car on the road in rural Paris. It's a high chimney as one can see, but the smoke is barely smoke. The factories let out just vapour which is harmless to the atmosphere. In fact it's not the only scene I spotted, it's everywhere. From this I want to glorify Paris' fresh air, blue sky and government's effort to maintain a green city.

The Albert-Ludwig University Freiburg Celebrates its 550th Anniversary



International exchange and AC21

In 2007, the Albert-Ludwig University celebrates its 550th anniversary. On 21 September 1457, the Grand Duke Albrecht VI issued the founding document for the University of Freiburg. The path from being an Austrian regional university to an internationally orientated 21st century comprehensive university was accompanied by many transitions and changes. The history shows evidence of phases characterized by magnificence and tragedy, heroism as well as cowardice and blindness. "The University claims the entirety of its history", says Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Jäger, rector of the University of Freiburg, in the commemorative publication "550 Years Freiburg University 1457–2007; An Historical Overview" by Prof. Dr. Bernd Martin. For the modern University of Freiburg, internationalization and exchange of creative and critical minds from all nations, ethnic groups, cultures, philosophies, and religions is a requirement and also a historical responsibility.

Addressing this responsibility, the University is member in the international network Academic Consortium 21 (AC21). In times of globalization and great demands on uni-

versity education, the network focuses on the exchange of students, researchers, and administrative personnel and the periodic organization of international forums.

It is only through dialogue that the Albert-Ludwig University or any other university can continue on its path to a successful future.

Anniversary events

The celebrations of the 550th anniversary started on January 31st with an **Opening Concert**. Another great event was the **International Environment Days** in April focusing on three themes: "Looking at Earth", "Ecosphere – A business region thinks ahead", and "Freiburg Forum on Environmental Governance 2007". One year of celebrations and special events of and around the Albert-Ludwig University Freiburg reached its very peak when EU Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, delivered the commemorative speech at the **Ceremonial Act on July 7th**. He claimed that "The knowledge-based society is by definition a mobile society, with geographically mobile people, mobile capital, mobile organisations and mobile knowledge. That makes Europe the ideal natural habitat for it." The University

of Freiburg is a strong European university with more than 150 partner universities all over the world. Through its membership in the AC21, it can extend this network to anywhere in the world. It was a great honour for the University of Freiburg to host many international guests and members of AC21 for the Ceremonial Act and the Anniversary Ball, including Prof. Dr. Yongsheng Li, acting President of the Tongji University Shanghai, Prof. Dr. Shin-ichi Hirano, President of Nagoya University, and Prof. Dr. Youmei Feng, Vice-President of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan.

International mobility as demanded in our days is already a matter of fact in Freiburg. This symposium principally discussing the status quo of the universities will be followed by a much larger congress – the so-called “**Congress on the Future**” –, which will be held as a main event within the Anniversary Year in September. The question of defining rather than pushing boundaries is a central issue in coping with the crisis of the traditional university as described since the middle of the last century. Freiburg University will leave the traditional path and experiment with various “frontiers” in numerous workshops with participants from politics, economics, science and society.

Therefore the Ceremonial Act was preceded by an **International Symposium** entitled “Universities at a Crossroads – Science and Education between Ivory Tower and Market Place”. The University of Freiburg welcomed a group of distinguished participants to this symposium. University Presidents such as Nagoya University President Prof. Dr. Shin-ichi Hirano, and leaders from higher education institutions such as the Secretary General of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Dr. Christian Bode, joined in a discussion about the future of Freiburg University and universities in general.

A university lives on its students and the city. Therefore, the University of Freiburg opens its doors, goes out and presents its work to the public. The **Science Fair** taking place in the

centre of the city in the “Universitätszentrum” (the University buildings in the centre of Freiburg) presents music, theatre and cabaret performances, alongside scientific presentations from the individual faculties and institutes, including external research establishments such as the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft. AStA (the General Student Committee) will host a festival of cultures, and the universities from Freiburg’s partner cities will present themselves in the International Pavilion. The participation of Freiburg music groups and bands, the Municipal Theatre and enterprises will expand the Science, Art and Culture Fair and transform the city into a “campus”, where citizens, students and employees can rediscover “their” University in an extraordinary setting.

Closing ceremony

The Anniversary Year will close with a **World Premiere Anniversary Concert by Wolfgang Rihm** on November 4th. Wolfgang Rihm has composed an oratorio work for orchestra and choir especially for the 550th anniversary of Albert-Ludwig University. The world premiere will take place in the Large Hall of the Concert House, as a “crowning conclusion” of the anniversary celebrations. The SWR Baden-Baden and Freiburg Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Sylvain Camberling.

The celebrations are an important landmark event for the University of Freiburg, both as a commemoration of the University’s past, and as a pointer toward our future. The participation of our international partner institutions including AC21 members is a source of strength in facing the challenges of the changing world which we now face.

For more Information on the 550th anniversary of Albert-Ludwig-University Freiburg please have a look on the web pages:

<http://www.uni-freiburg.de/>;

<http://www.jubilaem.uni-freiburg.de/>



Photograph: Thomas Kunz

Nanjing University Celebrates its 105th Anniversary



Founded in 1902, Nanjing University is celebrating its 105th anniversary this year. A series of celebration activities were arranged around the May 20 anniversary of its founding.

On May 20, up to 1000 faculty members and students of Nanjing University participated in the 105th Anniversary Convention. President Chen Jun, Chancellor Hong Yinxing, Ex-President Qu Qinyue, together with academicians and established scholars were at the Convention. Distinguished guests who witnessed this grand event include Mr. Wang Zhan, Vice Chair of the Standing Committee of People's Congress of Jiangsu Province, Academician Sun Shu, Deputy Chair of Nanjing University Board of Trustees and Former Deputy-Director of National Natural Science Foundation, Professor Gerald Guillaumet, President Of University of Orleans, Professor Shin-ichi Hirano, President of Nagoya University, Professor Werner V ath, Vice-President of Free University of Berlin, Professor Richard Williams Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds, Professor Liu Zhenrong, Dean of R & D Office of Central University of Taiwan, Academician Zhi Zhiming from Hong Kong University, and Vice-President Fan Chunwen from Tibet University. At the Convention, President Chen delivered a speech on the university's past accomplishments and future strategic plans. Mr. Wang Zhan, Academician Zhi Zhiming and President Gerald Guillaumet also gave speeches at the Convention.

Another important celebration event, the International Forum of University Presidents, took place on May 21, on the theme of "Nurturing of Internationalized and Innovative Talents". This event attracted over 70 representatives from 15 overseas partner universi-

ties from the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands and elsewhere. At the Forum, President Chen shared his thinking and the University's practices on this topic with the assembled guests. Intensive exchange of ideas on trends in higher education were also conducted.

Nanjing University is one of the only two Chinese members ((the other being Zhejiang University) of the World University Network (WUN) , which is an international academic organization founded in 2000 involving 17 research universities from Asia, America, Europe and Australia, dedicated to promoting academic collaboration among member universities and between university and industry. A WUN delegation headed by Professor Michael James Paul Arthur, President of University of Leeds who is the elected Chair of WUN, visited Nanjing during the May 20 period. At the WUN Roundtable on May 22, Nanjing University reported ongoing collaboration with other WUN members including collaborative research in marine science, public health, material engineering, stem-cells research, chemistry, atmospheric science, higher education studies, modern China studies, Jewish studies and related topics, EU funded summer schools, joint establishing of Confucius Institute and faculty and student exchanges. There was discussion on future cooperation.

During the 105th anniversary period, separate meetings with partner universities for closer future links were also held on campus. A meeting with AC 21 Director Nomizu for future activities including the upcoming Second World Student Forum was arranged on May 19 by the University's Office of International Exchanges and Cooperation.

New Research Collaboration Fund Established by the University of Sydney

The University of Sydney has announced the establishment of a new International Program Development Fund – International Network Research Collaborations (IPDF-INRC). This funding plan encourages research collaborations with member universities of the three international networks in which the University of Sydney

is involved – Academic Consortium 21 (AC21), the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). While the fund is open only to University of Sydney faculty, it provides up to \$10,000 to successful applications for collaborative research, requiring matching support from

the partner institution. For further details, see the relevant Guidelines at http://www.usyd.edu.au/international/about/docs/IPDF-INRC_2008_Guidelines.pdf. (See also the University of Sydney’s news page at http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/84.html?news_categoryid=1&newsstoryid=1919.)

2007 Nagoya University “AC21 Projects”

Nagoya University is seeking proposals for the 2007 Nagoya University “AC21 Projects,” a project fund established to promote academic exchange between Nagoya University and AC21 member institutions, and to help accelerate preparations for the next AC21 Forum, which is scheduled to be held at North Carolina State University in July 2008. The fund provides approximately one million yen (though not more than 1.5 million yen) for each of the six to eight proposals to be selected. While only Nagoya University faculty can submit a proposal, the project to be proposed must involve at least two AC21

member institutions, not including Nagoya University, and it should be a project that could lead to a continual AC21 project in the field of research, education, administration, or international exchange, with support from other financial resources. The following “keywords” are provided as possible project topics: “Industry-University Collaboration,” “Asia,” “Information and Communications Services,” “Higher Education,” “Health and Medicine,” “Evaluation and Bench-marking,” and “University Internationalization.” The deadline for the submission of proposals is October 12, 2007.

AC21 Activities and Events

2007	July	Second Student World Forum –Sustainable Cities– Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
	October	Fifth Steering Committee, Nagoya University
	November	AC21 International Symposium –Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education– Nagoya University (tentative) First Environmental Research Exchange Symposium –Water and Environment, South to North Water Transfer Project–, Nagoya University
2008	July	Fourth AC21 International Forum, North Carolina State University Sixth Steering Committee, North Carolina State University Third General Assembly, North Carolina State University
	[TBA]	Third Student World Forum
	[TBA]	Seventh Steering Committee
2010	[TBA]	Fifth AC21 International Forum Eighth Steering Committee Fourth General Assembly

AC21 General Secretariat Activities



2007	February 16	51st AC21 Office Conference
	February 27–28	Visit The University of Sydney
	March 7–9	Attend APAIE
	March 15	52nd AC21 Office Conference
	March 26–28	Visit North Carolina State University
	April 20	53rd AC21 Office Conference
	April 24	Student World Forum: Call for participants within Nagoya University
	April 25–27	Visit Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
	May 16	Student World Forum: Call for participants within Nagoya University
	May 16–23	Visit The University of Science and Technology of China, Fudan University, Tongji University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Nanjin University, Peking University
	May 25	54th AC21 Office Conference
	June 1	Student World Forum: Participants from Nagoya University determined
	June 18–19	Visit North Carolina State University
	June 29	55th AC21 Office Conference
	July 2–5	Visit Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University
	July 4–9	Visit The University of Freiburg
	July 20	56th AC21 Office Conference

From the Editor

Frank Bennett
Academic Staff
AC21 General Secretariat

Welcome to Volume 4 of the AC21 Newsletter, in which we have the pleasure to greet James Oblinger, Chancellor of North Carolina State University and incoming President of the AC21 consortium. The issue as a whole well reflects both the activities and aspirations of AC21. Chancellor Oblinger and Dr. Betsy Brown look forward, on behalf of North Carolina State University, to the biannual AC21 Forum to be hosted by NCSU in July 2008. From Japan, Miki Horie of Nagoya University writes of the imminent AC21 International Symposium on Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education, to be held on October 26 this year at Nagoya University, the results of which will be of keen interest to all AC21 member institutions.

Following the World Student Forum held in August at the Ecole Nationale des ponts et chaussees, Simon Wallis of Nagoya University reflects on the Forum and its themes

together with student participants Eri Takahashi (Nagoya University), Rosa Schulz (Chemnitz University of Technology), Jiyin Zhu (Jilin University) and Xiao Duo (Huazhong University of Science and Technology).

Finally, two of our member institutions celebrate important anniversaries. The Albert-Ludwig University Freiburg marks the 550th Anniversary of its founding this year, the celebration of which will culminate in a world premier of an oratorio by Wolfgang Rihm on November 4. Nanjing University this year celebrates the 105th Anniversary of its founding on May 20, 1902, with a series of symposia and events aimed at strengthening international ties and cooperation agreements. We warmly compliment both universities on this occasion, and look forward to further deepening of cooperation among all AC21 members.

Contact

AC21 General Secretariat
Nagoya University, Furo-Cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8601, JAPAN
Tel: +81 (52) 789 5684
Fax: +81 (52) 789 4999
Email: office@ac21.org
Website: <http://www.ac21.org>

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