

Confirmed Outcomes of the 10th IARU Presidents' Meeting

The University of Tokyo, 2–3 March 2015

Opening

Prof. Ralf Hemmingsen, Chairman of IARU and Rector of the University of Copenhagen, and Prof. Junichi Hamada, President of the University of Tokyo, welcomed all participants to the 10th Presidents' Meeting, in particular Prof. Lino Guzzella, President of ETH Zurich, attending his first IARU Presidents' Meeting. Prof. Junichi Hamada introduced his successor as President of the University of Tokyo of 1 April 2015, Prof. Makoto Gonokami. Prof. Wang Enge, President Emeritus of PKU informed that as of 15 February 2015, Prof. Lin Jianhua had been appointed new President of PKU. President Peter Salovey (Yale) was not able to attend the meeting and sent his apologies.

Session 1: Presidents' Regional Round-up

National University of Singapore

NUS's President Tan Chorh Chuan shared on the expansion of Singapore's university sector, which now comprises 6 universities. The percentage of students entering universities is expected to increase to 40% by 2020, taking the total percentage of degree holders in the population to 60–70%. It is therefore increasingly important to ensure graduate employment. The new universities have established close linkages to industry and their emphasis will be on internships and skills development, which sets them apart from the research universities.

Singapore is also conducting a major review of its national research funding, which is planned on 5-year cycles, with the next cycle starting from end 2016. One key focus of the new funding cycle will be on the integration of research synergies across research providers and increasing Singapore's international competitiveness. Another will be on innovation and entrepreneurship and how Singapore's researchers can increase efficiency in translating research to applications and commercializable activities which are customized to specific industries such as ICT, and the biomedical services.

With relation to national developments, NUS will be focusing on 3 major areas of development in the near future: i) ensuring that NUS graduates are future-ready, ii) enhancing the entrepreneurial ecosystem on campus to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship among faculty and students, and iii) increasing translational impact of research by expansion to fields outside sciences, such as social sciences, law and public policy.

University of Copenhagen

UCPH is still fighting the Danish State over ownership of buildings (rather than leasing from the State through the government building scheme). The State has stalled for a long time, and now UCPH has begun campaigning in the media. The responsible ministry just started a process on building value estimation and evaluating UCPH's governance ability in connection to building ownership – the

outcomes have been promised by September, which means either after the next general election or during the election campaign.

The Government had proposed a cap on student admission numbers, partly due to graduate unemployment in Denmark. Universities still struggle with the government to maintain freedom to decide on admission, not just the numbers, but also the methods.

UCPH has seven of the 13 researchers in Denmark receiving ERC grants in 2014. UCPH is also playing a key role in EIT-Health, a new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in the field of healthy living and active ageing. The Faculty of Health is lead on the project, which also includes other European universities and firms. UCPH is also part of a Climate-KIC; and a food KIC is in the process of being established by the EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology).

The university has managed to secure funding for building a new Museum of Natural History. Charitable foundations will donate DKK 550 million (approximately USD 84 million) towards the facility, while the University and the Danish government will contribute the remaining DKK 400 million.

Yale University

Yale has begun the construction of two new residential colleges. In Singapore, the second class of students and new faculty have joined the Yale-NUS College, which is thriving and all are looking forward to the moving into the new facilities for the fall. Yale's Africa Initiative has also been growing.

On the national political scene, there are low expectations for Congress and the final years of the Obama administration. Sexual violence and harassment has gained a great deal of attention nationally. Addressing these important issues has been complicated by sensational media reports and numerous state and federal executive and legislative interventions.

University of Oxford

The UK is currently in pre-election fever, and for the first time ever Higher Education is a major political issue. The Opposition has announced plans to cut tuition fees to GBP 6,000, leading to uncertainty over future funding for teaching. Immigration is also a major political issue and there is a general move towards tightening of immigration rules. There is also now serious discussion about a withdrawal from the EU after a potential national referendum in 2017 or even 2016. This would have major negative consequences for UK universities who get much funding from the EU.

The latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise took place last year. It is a 2-year exercise and it is estimated that it costs the sector GBP 50 million to complete. It is very thorough as all books and papers produced by every UK professor are read and ranked. This year "impact" was a criterion. The exercise is critical, as research funding is linked to the results. All are now waiting to see how the election will affect future funding for research, but any new government is likely to continue austerity measures and therefore there is likely to be an overall cut in budget.

Recently the government has been looking at a new fee structure for Masters programmes that would consist of income-contingent loans. Until now undergraduate degrees had been the focus of discussion for social mobility, but this shows the new importance placed on Masters and MBAs.

In Oxford the new Blavatnik School of Government is completed, and the university is working on a new Big Data Institute. The selection process for the new Vice-Chancellor has started and the successful candidate will start from the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year.

Peking University

President Emeritus Wang Enge thanked the partners for the productive collaboration within IARU over the past years. Many issues have been addressed which could not have been resolved by a single university. PKU will continue to be an active partner in the alliance.

Prof. Li Chenjian reported on the developments at PKU and in China. The country is going through a critical period of development to be fully integrated into the global world. Higher education is adapting to this demand. The inauguration of PKU's Yenching Academy is just one of the successful examples. The first cohort consists of students from 36 countries from all continents. The goal of PKU is to educate a new generation of leaders who are not only leading experts in their specific fields, but also true visionary leaders with global views.

The Chinese government has given PKU more autonomy. PKU has now developed a comprehensive reform plan, including aspects such as student and faculty recruitment, faculty promotion, academic standards, research infrastructure and an international strategy.

In the area of internationalization, there are set-aside funds for bi-directional student exchange and faculty collaborations. Space has been reallocated for international student housing and for joint research laboratories and centers. On the academic side, full English course tracks for degree-seeking foreign students have been established. In the School of Life Sciences, for example, all core courses are offered in Chinese and English in parallel.

PKU is considering establishing offices and centers at partner universities. Following the example of the Stanford Center at PKU, PKU is establishing an office at Yale. Other collaboration with renowned institutions might follow (e.g. with Berkeley on Big Data).

University of Cambridge

Sir Leszek summarised a number of key developments concerning the European Union, the Horizon 2020 budget, and the political situation in the UK in the run-up to the May 2015 General Election.

ETH Zurich

As of 1 January 2015 ETH Zurich has a new Executive Board. As the Board is considering the future strategy, it is focusing on the institution's defining characteristics, measures of quality decisive for its future success and on how to attract the best teachers and researchers internationally. The new Executive Board is also thinking about subsidiaries abroad, such as the very successful Singapore-ETH Center.

ETH Zurich sees its core strengths in the combination of innovative, original research and excellent education. Education/teaching will be more prominent on the agenda with a strong focus on student-centered learning and teaching, with hands-on experiences in the lab being a defining characteristic. ETH Zurich has launched a "Critical Thinking" initiative to instill students with analytical and management skills and the ability to think critically.

ETH Zurich does not have a medical school but works closely with its next-door neighbors University of Zurich and the University Hospital Zurich in medicine and health-related fields. A generous donation by ETH alumnus Hansjörg Wyss (USD 120 million) to ETH and the University of Zurich has enabled setting up a “Wyss Translational Center Zurich”.

Switzerland is building a National Innovation Park. The idea is to create a national network for research and development, linking various different locations together. ETH Zurich is actively involved as a partner in the development of the project.

University of California, Berkeley

Two national debates are having a significant influence at Berkeley. First, higher education in the United States has always faced a challenge of balancing the Publics and the Privates. The emergence of the for-profit sector in Higher Education has introduced a new dynamic to this balance. Students in the United States take on significant debt to finance their education. This has become a serious political and moral issue. Most of this debt is, however, incurred by students enrolled in the for-profit education sector but the ramifications of the debate on debt influences the financial strategy of universities like Berkeley. This is despite the fact that a majority of Berkeley students graduate with no student debt. Second, sexual violence is an issue that all campuses should have addressed and are now being forced to recognize with increased media coverage and scrutiny of this issue. While Berkeley has taken quick and decisive measures in this area we are taking actions to end all forms of sexual violence on campus.

Berkeley faces some unique challenges because of its financial relationship with the State of California. As state funding becomes a very small part of the campus budget the University is becoming more entrepreneurial in seeking new opportunities. It is forging closer ties with a medical campus – the University of California, San Francisco. Entrepreneurship among the faculty is encouraged through some new programs. UC Berkeley also sees global relationships as critical in its future. The Berkeley Global Campus is being envisioned as an international collaborative campus with select Universities and private companies as partners. While doing all of this UC Berkeley is refocusing its efforts to improve undergraduate education through innovative teaching, collaborative research experience, and new courses.

The University of Tokyo

President Junichi Hamada reported that the financial state of the Japanese government is still not in a favourable condition. Operation funds for the national university corporation are being cut on an annual basis. Remaining internationally competitive in a globalized world continues to be an issue in Japan.

The government works on reforming the university system. The position of the university presidents has been strengthened but the presidents need to use their discretionary money more tactically. Further, the government looks into modifying the university entrance selection criteria.

UTokyo works on constantly improving the research and education quality. The university will introduce a four-term system starting in April 2015, which will allow and encourage students to go abroad. To improve the teaching quality, interactive and active learning methods are being introduced; and improvements to the teaching systems of the graduate schools are being accelerated.

President-elect Makoto Gonokami emphasized the importance of promoting excellent research and fostering the relationship between industry, academia and government. Further on his agenda will be a reform of the post-graduate education system and the improvement of the employment opportunities of young researchers.

Australian National University

The Australian Government is proposing significant policy changes to the funding of higher education. The rapid expansion of the number of students undertaking university study is posing significant budget challenges for the nation at a time of fiscal restraint. As a result, the government has proposed that the fees charged to Australian undergraduate students be deregulated. Australian universities would be able to set the fees they charge such students, so long as the amount charged does not exceed the fee for an international student in the course. Students would continue to have access to the income-contingent loan scheme which has operated in Australia for many years.

Not surprisingly, the proposal has been very controversial. The vast majority of universities support the proposal as they believe it is the only way to develop an adequately funded and sustainable system. However, students and the public generally are concerned about rapid fee increases in such a system.

As the Government does not have a majority in the upper house of parliament (the Senate) it is unlikely the legislation will become law. As a result, there will be a period of policy vacuum whilst alternative proposals are considered.

Session 2: Institutional Joint Working & Research

2.1 Aging, Longevity and Health

The ALH Steering Committee aims at facilitating greater engagement across IARU campuses and promote joint ALH activities and funding opportunities within IARU. It held its first meeting with representatives of 9 partners. Three IARU Conferences were successfully held in June 2014 in Copenhagen, among them a Graduate Student Conference with the participation of 21 students from 6 IARU institutions. The initiative plans to hold biannually ALH Graduate Student Conferences; the next to be hosted by the University of Tokyo in 2016.

The group asked the partners for sufficient dedication to support the members participation.

2.2 Alumni Associations Network / Alumni Forum 2015

Tania Schwartz of the Office of Alumni Relations & Outreach at UCPH reported on the 6th Alumni Associations Summit in October 2014 in Copenhagen. The theme was “Measuring Alumni Engagement”. The alumni associations of the IARU universities are very different, which allows for interesting discussions and sharing of experiences among the alumni directors. The summit was concluded by a networking reception with 90 alumni from 7 partner universities. The next Summit will be held in October 2015 at ANU.

The first IARU World Alumni Forum was successfully held on 1 March 2015. A total of around 200 participants participated in the forum. Some 60 people joined from overseas and almost half of all participants were non-Japanese. All sessions went well, in particular the Presidents' Panel with 8

IARU Presidents was very much appreciated. Dr. Masako Egawa thanked the Presidents for their commitment and participation.

The alumni directors will consider the organization of a next forum in conjunction with the next Presidents' Meeting. The format will need to take into consideration the specific settings at the University of Oxford.

2.3 EdTech Horizons Workshop

The inaugural EdTech Horizons Workshop was successfully held at NUS back-to-back with the Senior Officers' Meeting in November 2014. 7 partner institutions participated. The group suggested to explore the idea of offering joint courses among IARU institutions in the form of *Distributed Open Collaborative Courses* (DOCCs).

Yale will host a 3-day workshop on the topic "How to build a DOCC" on 16–19 July 2015. Presidents authorized the IARU Secretariat to approve a funding request of up to USD 10,000 for the workshop, provided that a proposal is submitted to the IARU Secretariat prior to the workshop.

The lead of the group will remain with NUS.

2.4 Global Transformation in IARU Member Strategies

This initiative will look at how IARU institutions engage with developing countries. A first workshop will take place on 3–5 May at ETH Zurich. A possible outcome could be the development of guidelines for leading research universities' responsibilities in research, education and institutional collaboration with developing countries. The results of the workshop will be presented at the next Senior Officers' Meeting.

2.5 International Students Support Group

IARU universities have different standards in supporting international students. In the inaugural meeting at the end of March in Oxford, the group will explore the best approaches to teaching support and social/cultural support for international students. A possible outcome may be a recommendations paper for the benefit of both IARU universities and other institutions. A number of external speakers such as iGraduate are invited to the meeting. President Tan Chorh Chuan suggested to also address international students' integration and the culture of communication on campus (in particular through Social Media).

2.6 Librarians' Contact Group

The Librarians' Contact Group has developed an *IARU Green Library Toolkit* which was presented to the Senior Officers' Meeting 2014 and has been published on the IARU website. Further, the group is working on a benchmarking analysis of the library services at the IARU universities. The benchmark study with the data from all 10 member universities is expected to be available in the beginning of March 2015.

The group's next meeting is foreseen to take place in June 2015 in Beijing. However, the ETH Library Director, who had the lead, retired in February. A new lead has not yet been identified.

IARU Chair Ralf Hemmingsen asked the Presidents to check at their universities if there is commitment by all Librarians to continue the activities of the group.

2.7 PKU Medical City

Dr. Zhang Chi, Assistant President of Peking University International Hospital, reported on the PKU Medical City project. The inaugural PKU IARU workshop was held at PKU on 3 December 2014. Research topic was Real-Life Medicine/mHealth, and two major projects were discussed in details: Cardiology and Diabetes.

PKU proposed to hold an annual IARU workshop on global medical collaboration, focusing on different topics every year. The next topics to be tackled will be chronic diseases and new technologies. Topics and Projects will be discussed and finalized by IARU member representatives. The next workshop will take place in November 2015 with PKU as the “default host”. No IARU funding will be required for the workshops.

Presidents congratulated PKU to this initiative and the success achieved so far. Presidents approved PKU's proposal of annual IARU workshops on global medical collaboration.

2.8 Research Administrators' Network

In addition to the informal exchange of experience and expertise, the network has developed shared resources, such as a lexicon for a common understanding of different funding terminologies, and a template for Fellowship Programs within Horizon 2020. Both will be made available on the IARU website. Further, the network looks into setting up a metrics system – a mutual accepted standard for presenting and comparing key data among IARU institutions.

Presidents approved the funding request of USD 10,000 annually for meetings in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The network suggested to create an international funding platform to start a discussion with big foundations. Presidents tasked the Network to elaborate a proposal for the Senior Officers' Meeting 2015.

2.9 Value of Research-Intensive Universities

The position paper on the Value of Research-Intensive Universities was published on the IARU website a year ago. To keep the paper up to date, Presidents had agreed to have new case studies added on a regular basis.

The IARU Secretariat reported that links to new research impact studies have been added from ETH, PKU, Cambridge and Oxford. However, given the way the position paper has been written with the case studies weaved into its fabric, it turned out to be difficult to add or replace individual cases.

Presidents suggested to assess the impact of the position paper in two years and then have the paper revised by the work group, if found necessary. The topic will be discussed again in two years.

2.10 Sustainable Campus Initiative

The Sustainable Campus group has been very productive over the last year, contributing significantly to IARU's external visibility. In 2014, the Green Guide for Universities was published at the successful *Making Universities Sustainable Conference* in Copenhagen. 120 international university sustainability professionals and administrative employees attended the conference.

Further, the group prepared a CO₂ Emission Report outlining the development of the individual institutions' greenhouse gas emissions. Senior Officers had criticized that, due to different reporting metrics, the data cannot be used for comparisons. In response, the group proposed to engage an academic working group to develop internationally compatible metrics. Presidents agreed not to task researchers from top-down with such a project.

The Sustainability Fellowship Exchange Program continues to be a great asset of the group. The individual campus sustainability progress reports of 2014 will be ready by May to be published on the IARU website.

The group plans to organize the one-day student workshop *IARU Global University Climate Forum (IARU-GF)* during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) on 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris. Presidents approved the funding of USD 15,000, to be covered by reallocation of the unspent money from the website write-up which was completed by ANU using internal resources.

The Campus Sustainability Officers asked for funding for the next three workshops in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (USD 15,000 per meeting). Presidents agreed to provide the funding for the workshops, but limited the funding to a maximum of USD 10,000 per meeting. Experience has shown that meeting cost of the IARU institutional joint working groups usually do not exceed USD 10,000. More funding can be granted in justified cases (e.g. meeting with a large number of participants).

Presidents approved the request to reallocate USD 3,500 from the budget of the CO₂ Emission Report (formerly "Benchmarking Study") to cover additional promotion cost of the Green Guide. The remaining unspent money of USD 6,500 will fall back to IARU general funds.

Presidents congratulated the group to the accomplishments and encouraged the group to tackle the new suggested topics (Energy Management and Sustainable Laboratory Management). The group serves as a role model for other institutional joint working groups.

2.11 Sustainable Science Congress 2014

Over 700 people from approximately 50 countries participated in the congress. In addition, the congress was followed by an online audience through live streaming. Leading international scientists were among the keynote speakers and session organizers. Side events included the *Making Universities Sustainable Conference*, a PhD course, an international student competition and a student energy game. IARU participants (excluding UCPH participants) amounted to 41 participants.

Ralf Hemmingsen thanked the partners who supported the congress.

2.12 Technology Transfer Network

Prof. Chen Dongmin presented a pilot version of the *IARU Collaborative Technology Transfer Portal* (<http://develop-iaru.patsnap.com>) which had been developed by the external company Patsnap, a spin-off company of NUS. All partners have been invited to upload their selected patents. The success of the platform shall be evaluated in a year's time. Chairman Ralf Hemmingsen thanked PKU for the effort put into the portal.

The next Technology Transfer Workshop on the topic "Translating University Technology to Meet Market Needs" will take place on 27 April 2015 at NUS. IARU Technology Transfer Officers are also invited to attend the following *InnovFest unBound 2015*, focusing on the latest trends in global and Asian innovation.

2.13 Women and Men in Globalizing Universities

Prof. Sawako Shirahase, UTokyo's representative of the Women and Men in Globalizing Universities group, presented the group's plans to update the gender statistics collected in 2013, extending the scope beyond the original PTEM fields by including Medicine, Social Sciences and Humanities. Other planned activities include looking into gender-related grade differences, drafting a memorandum explaining the necessity and advantages of equilibrating gender figures at IARU universities, developing a best-practice guide for reaching gender equality at universities and discussing gender teaching. Presidents were supportive of the group's plans.

Session 3: International Administration in Globalizing Universities

Dr. Masako Egawa, Prof. Toshiko Ellis and Prof. Yujin Yaguchi (UTokyo) gave input presentations on the international administration in globalizing universities. UTokyo has successfully increased the number of its outgoing exchange students. About half of the undergraduates have been on a program abroad. UTokyo aims to offer more double/joint degrees programs and joint lecture courses with international partner universities. Further, UTokyo developed an interactive ICT system that creates a "global classroom" by connecting several universities.

The ensuing discussion raised several issues, including the integration of international students, in particular post-doctorates, support of the spouses of the faculty, the value of language immersion courses, quality assurance and organizational challenges.

The slides and the audio recording of the session are available from the IARU Secretariat.

Session 4: Future Directions of IARU

Anders Hagström presented an overview of IARU's activities in the last 9 years: Presidents' and Senior Officers' meetings, on-going activities within the global education initiatives, institutional joint working groups, and research collaborations, as well as a review of closed initiatives. A presentation on the comparative study of the value of IARU and 8 other alliances followed, with partners sharing their experiences from other alliances.

Presidents agreed that the small size of IARU is key for the strong level of trust among the members. The high degree of candour creates a fruitful environment for tackling difficult and sensitive issues that affect all the universities and learning from each other's experiences. Future topics to be discussed could be policies to counter sexual assault and harassment, continuing education, cyber security etc.

Presidents tasked Senior Officers to prepare a discussion paper on the future directions of IARU for the Presidents' Meeting 2016. Don Filer, Erik Lithander, Jürg Brunnschweiler and Astrid Gufler agreed to be on a task force drafting the paper.

Session 5: Universalism and Regionalism in Globalizing Universities

Prof. Masashi Haneda, Vice President of the University of Tokyo and Professor of History at the Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, introduced the topic "Dialectics of the self and the other".

The slides and the audio recording of the session is available from the IARU Secretariat.

Session 6: Global Education Initiatives

6.1 Global Summer Program (GSP)

Anders Hagström reported on behalf of the GSP Coordinators on the Global Summer Program (GSP) which continues to run very well. GSP 2014 counted a total of 304 students participating in one or more of the 20 courses offered by the 10 partner universities. The general student feedback was again very positive. The diversity of the participants is a key success factor of GSP. On the other hand, course costs continue to be a challenge: five courses had costs of USD 5,000 or more. The IARU-Santander Scholarships are therefore crucial for the program.

In the 2015 GSP, a total of 20 courses will be offered by the ten partner universities.

ANU and Berkeley have elaborated on the “hub proposal”. ANU will organize its 2015 GSP course in a format reflective of the proposed “IARU Student Research Hub” model to gain first experiences. The aim is to launch the first IARU Student Research Hub in 2016 for a maximum of 45 students. In the future, the hub could aggregate several courses.

A new sponsorship agreement with Banco Santander for the GSP seasons 2015, 2016 and 2017 has been signed by NUS on behalf of IARU with subcontracts with each of the 9 other universities. In character, the new agreement is a continuation (and simplification) of the existing agreement, without any major changes.

6.2 Global Internship Program (GIP)

ETH, NUS, PKU and UTokyo offer a total of 19 internship opportunities to IARU students in summer 2015. The internship opportunities belong to the most frequented pages on the IARU website, which shows the strong interest among students. The IARU Secretariat encourages partners to look into possibilities to create (research) internship opportunities for IARU students.

6.3 Global Cross Disciplinary Tournament (GXT)

The last GXT was hosted by ANU in summer 2014. 25 students from 6 partner universities participated. Senior Officers discussed the GXT format at their meeting. They believe that the activity is worthwhile to be continued but reminded that the initiative should remain entirely student-led.

No student team from partner universities offered to host the 5th GXT in 2015. Partners are invited to inform the students about this opportunity.

UCPH has looked into the potential of a PhD version of GXT but cannot commit to something at this point in time. The initiative might therefore pause or be discontinued altogether.

Session 7: New Proposals

7.1 Consortium on Critical Theory

Prof. Zhang Xudong presented the proposal “Consortium on Critical Theory”. The IARU universities are invited to join the International Center for Critical Theory (ICCT) as full partners. ICCT was established 2010 at Peking University with the aim to undertake interdisciplinary research in the fields of literature, culture and social thought. Current members of the centre are PKU, UTokyo, New York

University and East China Normal University. Participation is connected with an investment of USD 50,000 – 150,000 per partner.

Presidents thanked Prof. Zhang Xudong for extending the invitation to IARU partners. Partners will encourage faculty to join the collaboration. Such collaborations would be pursued on a bilateral basis.

7.2 IARU Sports Initiative

Dr. Lu Fuquan presented the proposal for an IARU Sports Initiative, which can be divided in 3 strands:

- 1) Campus Sports: Mapping of the sports offerings at the IARU campuses, possibly elaboration of guidelines on standard sports offerings on university campuses
- 2) Compulsory physical education: Sharing best practices, possibly introduce sports competitions among IARU members
- 3) Sports Science: Academic research collaboration

As the sports programs are structured very differently among the IARU universities (if existing at all), the partners did not commit to initiate a new joint working and research group on sports. Collaborations may be pursued on a bilateral basis.

7.3 Santander's Funding Proposal

In fall 2013, Banco Santander's Chairman Emilio Botín signalled interest to extend the collaboration with IARU (in addition to the IARU-Santander GSP Agreement). Before a common vision on the use of an additional IARU-Santander funding could be developed, Emilio Botín passed away.

Commitment to the higher education sector is still high at Santander. Presidents found it worthwhile to touch base with Santander again. President Tan Chorh Chuan and VC Andrew Hamilton offered to write a letter to Ana Botín, Emilio Botín's successor.

7.4 IARU Joint Online Courses

Building on the success of GSP, the Presidents' Meeting 2014 tasked Senior Officers to look into other forms of IARU-wide students exchanges. As agreed at the Senior Officers' Meeting in November 2014, NUS, Berkeley and UTokyo started to draft a proposal on IARU joint online courses. Andrew Wee, Pradeep Chhibber and Kiichi Fujiwara proposed to implement flexible joint online courses ("DOCC-like"), each involving two or more IARU universities. The EdTech Workshop in July 2015 in Yale could serve as a platform to discuss issues related to these joint online courses, and to bring potential lecturers together. Presidents approved the seed funding request of USD 10,000 for the development of a pilot course on the topic "Fragile and Conflict-ridden States". Partners are invited to identify faculty who may be interested to take part in the "Fragile and Conflict-ridden States" course or other topics for joint modules, and nominate them to take part in the DOCC workshop at Yale that learning and discussion on creating new joint modules can take place at the same time.

Session 8: Update on IARU Membership

There had been several attempts by the IARU Chair, Prof. Ralph Eichler, the IARU Secretariat and individual IARU members to get in contact with University of São Paulo (USP) but there was never a clear reply and commitment to explore the possibility of USP's membership. Presidents agreed to let the invitation to the University of São Paulo fall. As an alternative, the option of inviting the University of Cape Town to join the alliance will be explored.

A delegation from Oxford will visit University of Cape Town at the end of March 2015. Presidents asked Andrew Hamilton to explore the possibility of joining IARU with the University of Cape Town.

Session 9: Business Matters

9.1 Financial Report

Anders Hagström reported that the alliance has accumulated reserves of USD 248,000 from the past years. USD 94,000 had already been committed for initiatives and activities in 2015, of which USD 40,000 are carry-over commitments from previous years. Additional USD 13,500 for 2015 have been approved at this meeting. The yearly budget for initiatives is USD 65,000. The alliance thus continues to reduce its reserves.

9.2 Presidents' Meeting 2016

The next Presidents' Meeting will be on 25–26 April 2016, hosted by the University of Oxford. The official part of the meeting will start with a Welcome Dinner on Sunday, 24 April, and end with lunch on Tuesday, 26 April. Andrew Hamilton proposed to include a session on continuing education. Partners are invited to send further suggestions for topical sessions to the IARU Secretariat. Chairman Ralf Hemmingsen suggested to change the format of the Presidents' Meeting to allow more time for discussions.

UC Berkeley offered to host the Presidents' Meeting in 2017.

9.3 Wrap-up

As of 1 May, the IARU Secretariat will be handed over from ETH Zurich to UCPH. The meeting thanked the current IARU Secretariat, Anders Hagström and Romana Rutz, for their work.

IARU Chair Ralf Hemmingsen bid farewell to Prof. Wang Enge and Prof. Junichi Hamada. He also thanked UTokyo for their generous hospitality, all participants for the constructive discussions and wished everyone safe travel home.