



# AC21 Newsletter

## Contents:

Welcome Message Dr. Larry A. Nielsen, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor North Carolina State University	1
Welcome to North Carolina	2
Global Production in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Third Student World Forum (2009) in Chemnitz, Germany	4
Fifth AC21 International Forum (2010) to be held at Shanghai Jiao Tong University	6
Fifth AC21 Steering Committee Meeting at Nagoya University	6
The AC21 Symposium "Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education"	7
Student Mini Forum in Nagoya	9
Sydney Grants Support International Collaboration	10
AC21 Editorial Board	12
AC21 Activities and Events (Upcoming AC21 events)	12
AC21 General Secretariat Activities	13
From the Editor	14

## Welcome Message

**Dr. Larry A. Nielsen**  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
North Carolina State University

Dear AC21 Colleagues:

We at North Carolina State University look forward with great anticipation to hosting the Fourth AC21 International Forum (2008). The three-day program, focusing on the theme "University Partnerships: Global Collaboration and Innovation for the 21st Century," corresponds directly with NC State's goal for the future: to develop international partnerships with universities, business and industry, and public and private institutions to fuel the innovations needed to ensure a healthy, safe, and prosperous future for our state, the nation, and the world. The Forum will provide an opportunity for AC21 members to hear from each other how partnerships are contributing to the education of their students, the research of their faculty members, and their service to those around them.

We have already received a number of proposals from AC21 member institutions, other international university consortia, and our partner institutions in the state and around the world on the three sub-themes for the conference:

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

I hope you will encourage your colleagues to attend the Forum and participate in the program. Information about the Forum and how to submit proposals is available on our Office on International Affairs website: [www.ncsu.edu/oia](http://www.ncsu.edu/oia).

I also look forward to seeing many of you at the Steering Committee meeting, which will be held on Sunday, July 27, 2008, beginning at 2:00



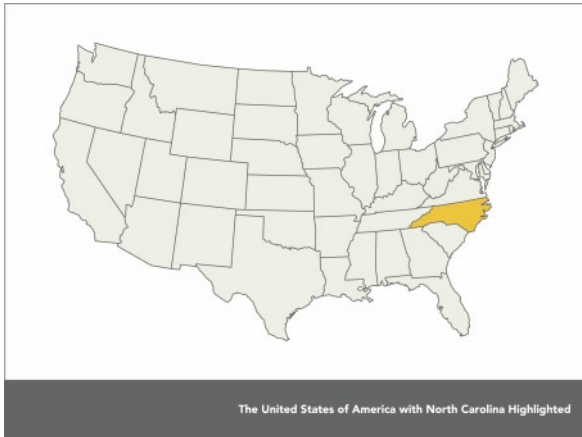
pm on NC State's campus. I had the pleasure of attending the Fifth AC21 Steering Committee Meeting in October 2007 at Nagoya University, where I met many of my counterparts from AC21 institutions and participated in important discussions about the future of our global consortium. The Steering Committee agreed to pursue even more vigorously ways that AC21 can strategically expand its membership and strengthen relationships with our industry partners.

The Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings here in July will offer us an opportunity to continue discussing these important topics. As our Chancellor, James Oblinger, stated in his column in the last AC21 Newsletter, he looks forward to chairing the General Assembly meeting and getting to know colleagues from around the world as they convene to discuss ways to achieve the powerful potential that AC21 offers us.

When you join us for the Forum, we promise to extend NC State's "Southern hospitality" to you and your colleagues. I believe you will find the Forum stimulating and invigorating as we continue working together to achieve the goals of AC21.

# Welcome to North Carolina

**Betsy Brown**  
Coordinator of the Fourth AC21 International Forum  
North Carolina State University



We hope you are planning to attend the Fourth AC21 International Forum (2008) at NC State University, where you will be warmly welcomed on campus and by citizens in the Research Triangle region and the state of North Carolina. We think you might be interested in learning more about North Carolina and the Research Triangle region, which surrounds NC State.

North Carolina, with the 11<sup>th</sup> largest population among US states, is located in the center of the America's Eastern seaboard, roughly half-way between New York City and Miami, Florida. Stretching from the Blue Ridge mountains in the west to the Atlantic coast in the east, the state is a popular location for American and international tourism and home to popular ski resorts, golf courses, and beaches.

Those attending the Forum may want to plan an excursion before or after the Forum to one of the state's many vacation locations. More information on visiting North Carolina can be found on the state's travel and tourism website, [www.visitnc.com](http://www.visitnc.com).

The site has information on historic, recreational, and cultural sites as well as accommodations. If you are touring the state before or after the Forum, you will need to rent a car or make arrangements through a travel or group tour agent. For information on tours and travel agents, see [http://www.visitnc.com/pros\\_travel\\_professionals.asp](http://www.visitnc.com/pros_travel_professionals.asp)

Three regions make up North Carolina: the

mountains, the coast, and the central region, known as the Piedmont.

The Piedmont is home to the state's largest urban areas, including the Research Triangle region, home to Research Triangle Park (RTP). RTP, founded in 1959 in the center of the triangle formed by three great universities, NC State University in Raleigh, Duke University in Durham, and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, was built to bring together educators, researchers, and businesses to collaborate in strengthening the economy of the state and the region. Today, RTP is home to 157 research and development facilities and nearly 50,000 workers. The Triangle region has a diverse and highly educated population, many of whom work in the universities, the state government in the capital city of Raleigh, and the many high-tech industries drawn to the region by the Research Triangle Park.

Historically, North Carolina's economy depended largely on tobacco, textiles, and furniture for jobs and income. These three industries have declined since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century but have been replaced by banking, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, information technology, and manufacturing for such industries as automotives and aeronautics. Many of the companies in North Carolina's "new economy" have overseas facilities or are internationally owned. International companies have been drawn to the Research Triangle region in particular because of the strong research and development opportunities and the presence of an educated workforce.



In the heart of the Research Triangle region, NC State University is a comprehensive university known for its leadership in education, research, and outreach. With more than 31,000 students in ten colleges and nearly 8,000 faculty and staff, NCSU is globally recognized for its strengths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As a land-grant university, NC State is engaged with the people and the communities in the state and is home to the Cooperative Extension Service, which has offices in all 100 of North Carolina's counties, where experts provide assistance in areas such as agricultural, business and industrial development. (For information on NC State's academic, research, extension and engagement programs, see [www.ncsu.edu](http://www.ncsu.edu).)

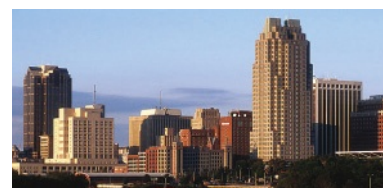
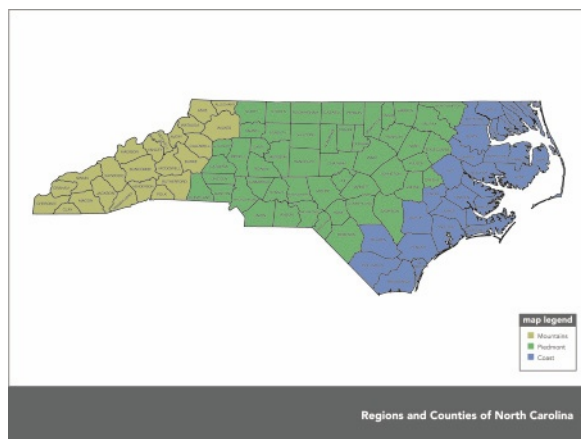
In the 1980s, NC State established its own research and development park, Centennial Campus, which is home to over 60 corporate and government partners. Centennial Campus is home to multi-disciplinary research and development facilities where university, corporate, and government researchers meet and collaborate. In addition, the campus includes a public middle school, residential housing, and recreational facilities, with plans for an executive conference center, hotel, and golf course. Recently, Centennial Campus was named the top Research Science Park of the Year by the Association of University Research Parks. Sessions on the Forum's sub-theme, "Innovation and Technology Transfer," will

be hosted on Centennial Campus. (For more information, see [www.centennial.ncsu.edu](http://www.centennial.ncsu.edu))

Raleigh, where NC State is located, is the state's capital and home to North Carolina's Museum of History, Museum of Natural Sciences, and Museum of Art, where a reception for the Forum participants will be held on July 28. In addition, Raleigh offers numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation, shopping, and cultural activities. (See <http://www.visitraleigh.com>) Because of the quality of life, positive climate for employment and research and development, and access to educational and cultural resources, the Triangle area is often cited as among the best places to live and to do business in the US.

We look forward to introducing you to our state, our region, our city, and our campus. For information on the Forum, please see [www.ncsu.edu/oia](http://www.ncsu.edu/oia).

Note: North Carolina is located in the Southeastern US, so temperatures in the summer can reach into the 80–90 degrees Fahrenheit (27–32 degrees Celsius). Visitors planning outdoor activities should bring cool clothes!



# Global Production in the 21st Century

## Third Student World Forum (2009) in Chemnitz, Germany

Katrin Schulz  
Chemnitz University of Technology



The world's population is undergoing massive growth. This combined with ever decreasing natural resources presents one of the greatest challenges to be faced in the decades to come. Nations who can succeed in creating a production based economy, in any one of the many fields of production, will possess a significant advantage for their own economic and social stability. From a student's perspective, these issues pose important personal questions. What fields of study and what skills will be in demand when they enter the career world?

merous workshops and discussion panels. One of our goals is to assist the alumni of AC21's institutions so that they are ideally equipped for a professional life in the 21st century and have all of the resources necessary to be competitive on an international level.'

### Welcome to CUT

Chemnitz University of Technology is both rich in tradition and innovation and has made a name for itself in the international academic community. This is demonstrated by the close integration of sciences, business administration and humanities. Scientists and students from all disciplines meet at the interfaces between technology, management and human communication.

Over 11,000 students are enrolled, including over 750 international students from over 70 different countries. This globalisation of education is supported by cooperation agreements between Chemnitz University of Technology and over 800 higher education institutions worldwide. Interdisciplinary learning – this is a central feature of higher education at Chemnitz University of Technology. Many degree programmes feature more than one specific subject area.

More international recognition, better international comparability and more practical relevance are just a few of the arguments in favour of the internationally-recognised bachelor's and master's degrees.

This not only shapes the image of the university; it also reflects the nature of Chemnitz as a location of business, science and culture.

To address these topics and the coming international challenges in production, the Third Student World Forum will be held at the Chemnitz University of Technology (CUT) from June 22–27, 2009. Here students will be able to participate in workshops, lectures and panel discussions with representatives from industry and academia, as well as students from around the world to exchange ideas and experience and cultivate solutions to these challenges and to develop a solid network for interchange and cooperation. Excursions to various high-tech and production plants will also be offered to provide on-site experience with renowned industrial leaders who are working on such issues in their own practical work.

Eberhard Alles, CUT's Chancellor, predicts an increasing need for global networking among students: "We learn from the growth and dynamics of companies around the world. By developing degree programs in close cooperation with industrial partners we can provide our students with the knowledge and skills they really need for their future professions. The Student World Forum offers a unique opportunity to globally network, along with nu-



### Welcome in Saxony: discover the “new” Chemnitz

Chemnitz, with a history dating back over 800 years, is proud of its newly-designed city centre, which has received several awards. Renowned architects such as Helmut Jahn have successfully integrated modern shopping centres alongside the Town Hall Passage and the large-scale cultural venue, DASTietz next to office space. Business – previously dominated by small and medium-sized companies – has also developed with equal audacity. Companies such as Volkswagen, Siemens, and IBM have established sites in the area and are profiting from the knowledge and skills of locally recruited staff. Today, Chemnitz is one of the leading industrial locations in eastern Germany. The main focus is on the high tech sector, mechanical engineering and the automotive industry along with its component suppliers.

The city has more to offer: from the modernised opera house, the Chemnitz art collections with their internationally-recognised exhibitions (e.g. Picasso, Bob Dylan), through to over 600 discos, student clubs, bars and cafes, modern shopping malls, theatres, cinemas, numerous museums and much more. The Kassberg in Chemnitz boasts Germany’s largest complete Art Nouveau district. The sur-

rounding areas and the nearby Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge) with their historical points of interest and beautiful scenery provide wonderful opportunities for excursions.

In all key areas, Saxony is top of the list of the new federal states of eastern Germany. The opportunities provided by machine tool engineering, production and automotive technology, information technology, nanotechnology, communication and are the driving force behind the development of high-tech companies in the Free State of Saxony.

### Welcome students to the Third Student World Forum in summer 2009!

The Third Student World Forum shall begin on June 22, and students shall arrive on June 20 or 21. There will be five days of company visits and workshops, conducted concurrently for each of the selected topics. Furthermore, excursions to museums and castles in Saxony will also be planned. Participants will fully prepare for an exhibition on each topic, and a general assembly will be held, including local officials and sponsors.

For additional and updated information on the Third Student World Forum, please visit our website at [www.tu-chemnitz.de](http://www.tu-chemnitz.de).



## Fifth AC21 International Forum (2010) to be held at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

---

At the Fifth Steering Committee Meeting which was held at Nagoya University in October 2007, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Deputy President Professor Ye has proposed that Shanghai Jiao Tong University host the Fifth AC21 International Forum in 2010. The

dates and theme have not been announced yet, but we will learn more about the Shanghai Forum at the Third General Assembly, which takes place at North Carolina State University in July.

## Fifth AC21 Steering Committee Meeting at Nagoya University

---

**Tsutomu NOMIZU**  
Director of AC21 General Secretariat  
Nagoya University



The AC21 Steering Committee (STC) Meeting was held at Nagoya University on October 25–26, 2007. The representatives of six STC member institutions, Chemnitz University of Technology (Germany), North Carolina State University (USA), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China), The University of Sydney (Australia), The University of Warwick (UK) and Nagoya University (Japan), participated in the meeting. Additionally, representatives from AC21 member Jilin University (China) joined in the meeting as observers.

Steering Committee and the Second General Assembly held at University of Warwick in July, 2006. Although there have been changes to AC21 membership during 2006–2007, we have started to discuss potential new AC21 members. We committed to improving the publicity and communications among the AC21 members through the newsletter, leaflet and web pages as well as issuing monthly reports. In addition, it was reported that the General Secretariat visited two-thirds of AC21 member institutions to exchange ideas for future directions of AC21 during the year.

Main topics to be discussed at the STC meeting were as follows:

- 1) Annual report from the AC21 General Secretariat
- 2) Report of the Second Student World Forum (2007) in Paris
- 3) Fourth AC21 International Forum (2008) at North Carolina State University (NCSU)
- 4) An AC21 position paper to review five year activities and to move forward for further development of AC21
- 5) Next site for the AC21 International Forum (2010) and Student World Forum (2009)

The Second Student World Forum (2007) in Paris and the Fourth AC21 International Forum (2008) at NCSU are reported in other articles in this newsletter.

At the STC meeting, the rough draft of the position paper provided by the General Secretariat was discussed. Firstly, the paper reviewed AC21 activity of the past five years, membership fees and the budget structure. It proposed each AC21 member renew its commitment to each activity and event, and proposed revision of the membership fee, and a revised annual budget plan including AC21 project support funds, respectively. Secondly,

In the annual report, we, the AC21 General Secretariat, reported activities since the Fourth



the paper proposed procedures for proposing and confirming new members, in which a new potential member is recommended to attend the AC21 International Forum and participate in the AC21 General Assembly as an observer at the first step, after which the new potential member should submit a letter of commitment to AC21 activity. Finally, the paper recommended investigation to strengthen ties with AC21 partner companies.

After discussion, the main points on which STC will make suggestions to the General Assembly at the Fourth AC21 International Forum (2008) are the following;

- New membership fee regulation will be proposed to the General Assembly.
  - Current regulation: Annual contributions shall be divided into 3 categories based on GDP/per capita.
  - New regulation: Annual contributions shall be divided into 4 categories instead of 3, based on GDP/per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) of the CIA World Factbook.
- Two Working Groups (WG) were set up.

1. Industrial Partners WG: Chemnitz University of Technology, North Carolina State University and Nagoya University
2. Membership WG: Shanghai Jiao Tong University, University of Sydney and University of Warwick

- An Editorial Board.

Each institution nominates one person who acts as the member of the editorial board and contributes to making and writing articles for AC21 Newsletters and web site.

At the end, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Chemnitz University of Technology proposed to hold the Fifth AC21 International Forum in 2010 and Third Student World Forum in 2009, respectively, and these proposals were welcomed by STC member institutions.

We, the General Secretariat, very much appreciated that all of participants in the STC meeting emphasized more commitment to the AC21 activities and that two Working Groups were proposed by STC member institutions.



## The AC21 Symposium “Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education”

**Miki Horie**  
Vice Director, AC21 General Secretariat  
Nagoya University

AC21, established in 2002, is one of the young global networks of higher education, which have been rapidly emerging around the world in the past decade. The process of developing a new group is not simple, especially with members of various cultural and social backgrounds. For the past 5 years, AC21 and its General Secretariat at Nagoya University have been trying to establish a basis to enable us to develop various activities which are valuable and fulfilling the members' needs. On the other hand, I thought it is time to discuss the underlying philosophy on “what is the role

and significance of university consortia?” and “how can we establish a scheme which meets the various needs of our members?”

With these questions in my mind, the AC21 Symposium “Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education” was held on Friday, October 26 at Nagoya University right after the Steering Committee Meeting. The symposium was a big success, not only because of the insightful keynote lecture and speeches but also because of the active discussion with the audience, including Nagoya University President Dr.





Shin-ichi Hirano. The symposium overwhelmingly fulfilled our expectations, one of which is to gain insights for further development of the consortium from the immense knowledge of Dr. Hans de Wit (Windesheim Honours College, the Netherlands). Dr. de Wit is an expert of international higher education with both administrative and academic experiences of handling regional and international university consortia and struck the tone of the symposium perfectly with his keynote speech “Universities in the Global Market and Network: Roles of International Consortia in Quality Improvement.” Moreover, we actively exchanged ideas from our actual experiences as higher education professionals with different challenges, responsibilities, and cultural-social contexts in the roundtable session titled “Responding to the Challenges: International University Rankings, Benchmarking, and Internal Reforms,” the roundtable session started with three distinguished speakers, who are also steering committee members of AC21, namely Professor John Hearn (the University of Sydney, Australia), Professor Larry Nielsen (North Carolina State University, U.S.A.), and Dr. David Law (the University of Warwick, U.K.).

Among many significant points that inspired me during the symposium, I would like to discuss here several that I think are especially relevant to the current status of AC21.

First, I would like to start with a very fundamental question: why consortia? Beyond traditional incentives for partnerships, Dr. Hans de Wit, citing Maurits van Roojin (2000), pointed out that an emerging rationale for joining university consortia is to raise “collective visibility” of individual institutions in a global community/market, or to efficiently publicize themselves as a group to increase reputation of each members. Peer reputation is a key of several world university ranking systems, which are rapidly becoming influential over higher education institutions around the world since their recent appearance. This

inspires us to consider more emphasis on public relations among other AC21 activities. I believe that, based on our accomplishment of the past 5 years, it is time to start publicizing our work more aggressively in the global higher education community.

Dr. de Wit also mentioned another rational for joining consortia, which is for universities, or senior administrators more specifically, to meet and share information relevant to their institutional development in the context of changing global society. In this sense, a university consortium is a perfect scheme for benchmarking exercises on various topics.

Second, the speeches at the roundtable session were impressive, especially to a Japanese audience because of its underlying strong notion of “higher education as industry.” As Nagoya University President Hirano mentioned, at Nagoya University, like other Japanese public funded institutions, tuition fees paid by international students are almost invisible in its total revenue. More emphasis is put on how to spend the budget in an effective and efficient way which is acceptable to the public, as pointed out by Prof. Nielsen. On the other hand, at the University of Warwick, more than 10% of income is from tuition fees paid by international students, and education is becoming one of the top commodities of export in U.K. I believe that these create different assumptions of how the university is operated for what and whom, and it also brings us a fundamental gap in perspectives on the nature of higher education. This point will be more significant in a sense as the global market recently tends to compare all the universities on the same basis.

Finally, I would like to conclude this short essay with introducing some practical tips-“Don’ts” of consortia management introduced by Dr. Hans de Wit, citing Prichard (1996).

*“Don’t develop a network without significant involvement of the people who will be key*



*players in the network.*” A successful consortium requires actual people who spend a certain amount of time to develop and carry out activities. A consortium is not just to take a group photo of presidents.

*“Don’t take a short-term perspective.”* Again, it takes time to accumulate communication, for members to learn each other, build trustful relationships, and to develop various activities which meet members’ expectations. We cannot judge its success or failure in a short time frame.

*“Don’t try to do too many things at once.”* It is better to find and focus on “champions” of specific topics from the members than to try many different things that can be done by any

other organization.

*“Don’t have too many players.”* It is critical to keep a suitable size, which is defined by the mission of consortium. The size should not be too big to communicate well with each other.

I hope that, in the AC21 scheme, we continue discussion on the philosophy of university of consortia and its changing context of global higher education market. A next step in my mind is to launch benchmarking exercises with counterparts at several AC21 institutions on a topic related to internationalization of higher education. Please contact me (horie@ecis.nagoya-u.ac.jp) if you are interested in such a benchmarking project or other forms of joint project on international higher education.

## Student Mini Forum in Nagoya

I have been in China at least once almost every year since 1989, but it is still difficult to get a good feeling for the scale of this country. Statistics are a help. A great example come from Boris Johnson, the former shadow secretary for higher education in the UK. He reported that there are more people now in China studying English than there are native speakers of the language in the world. Now, this begs questions about definitions, but it does give some idea of the global importance of the country (and the seriousness with which they are taking the need to acquire the skills necessary to communicate in English).

At a recent conference hosted by Shanghai Jiao Tong and Nagoya Universities and supported by AC21, the theme was water resources in China, in particular the Nanshui Beidiao project (the south to north water transport project). Here, I learnt some more fun statistics. The to-

tal cost of this gargantuan project is expected to be about 20 billion USD. This is a lot of money, even for Bill Gates. How much? If the project stays on budget it is the size of the entire annual military budget for a mid-level power such as Canada. If it goes over budget by as much as the Three Gorges Dam project, then we are talking about enough money to fund the entire Japanese defense forces for a year; a lot of money.

The purpose of the Nanshui Beidiao project is to transfer water from the water-rich south to the more industrialized and water-poor north; a colossal project of pipes, canals and pumping stations to divert water over a distance of some 1200 km. This proposal originated as a grandiose idea of Chairman Mao – only now with China’s new-found wealth and modern technology, it could become a reality.

**Simon Wallis**  
**Vice Director, AC21 General Secretariat**  
**Nagoya University**





At the conference we were treated to two days of fact and expert opinion on the Nanshui Beidiao project and the state of water resources in China. The rationale for the project seems clear, but environmental issues argue against. There are also problems of relocating hundreds of thousands of people and calls for more efficient use to be made of the available water resources in the north. It was a surprise for me to learn that Japan and the UK have similar amounts of rainfall per person as China and yet these other countries do not suffer chronic water shortages.

In addition to the senior academics from China and Japan, it was also a pleasure to greet students from the AC21 members, Shanghai Jiao Tong, Fudan and Nagoya Universities. These students came to take part in a mini forum organized and arranged by the AC21 secretariat at Nagoya for those AC21 universities that were unable to attend the Student World Forum in Paris last summer, due to visa problems. For the first day of the Nanshui Beidiao conference, the students listened to the presentations and contributed with questions to the speakers. The second day consisted of student discussions led by faculty members

from Nagoya University focusing on the issues raised the previous day.

Life is busy for most academics and finding two days to take part in a forum out of one's speciality is not necessarily an attractive prospect. In addition undergraduate discussions generally have to be borne with good grace. But these students were good. Really good. Articulate, informed, with their own ideas and taking a clear pleasure in examining the issues at stake. It is a pleasure for me that AC21 is contributing in some way to the development of such future talent. The final session of our discussions was left essentially to the students. They elected to have a debate on the pros and cons of the Nanshui Beidiao project and divided into two teams. We didn't score the results, but it was an excellent show. The level of their ability in English was so good that it was never really an issue. I, for one, learnt a great deal from this meeting and, in no small part thanks to the students, will carry this knowledge with me for a long time. If this reflects the results of changing trends in higher education in China and Japan, we can only welcome more of the same.

## Sydney Grants Support International Collaboration

**Nicholas Haskins**  
University of Sydney

In 2007, the University of Sydney awarded \$500,000 in grants to support academic staff and PhD students working on innovative research programs with international partner universities, organisations, industry and governments through the International Program Development Fund (IPDF).

A particular focus of the IPDF in 2007 was the University's three major international networks: Academic Consortium 21 (AC21), the Association of Pacific Rim Universities

(APRU), and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).

Membership of global university networks forms an important part of the University's overall international strategy, providing access to a critical mass of some of the world's leading universities, and with it, quality research partnerships and academic and student exchange.

"This kind of international engagement offers

real benefits to the University of Sydney and is an excellent way of bringing scholars from around the world together to confront some of the major research challenges we face today” said Professor John Hearn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International). “We are proud to be investing in innovative, sustainable research projects that are truly collaborative in nature and global in scope”.

In the most recent round in November 2007, grants worth up to \$10,000 each were distributed among 22 international collaborative research projects spanning the sciences, humanities and social sciences. Some of the grants awarded include:

- Dr Holly High from the Faculty of Arts will work with AC21 partner university: the National University of Laos; as well as APRU partners: the National University of Singapore and ANU, to research the history and society of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- Professor Iain McCalman, Professor Cassandra Pybus and Dr Jonathan Walker of the Faculty of Arts will work with AC21 partner university: the University of Warwick; as well as WUN partners: the University of Southampton and the University of York, to research the role of re-enactment in the teaching and portrayal of history.
- Professor Michael Humphrey and Dr Gyu-jin Hwang from the Faculty of Arts will work with WUN partners to research the sustainability and governability of the world’s cities as they continue to surge in population.  
Partner universities: York, Bergen (Norway).
- Dr Rongkun Zheng of the Australian Key Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis

will join the successful WUN Spintronics Network, to further research the application of nanomaterials in electronics to create the next generation of smaller, faster, more efficient computers and electronics.

- Partner universities: York; Nanjing; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, San Diego; Manchester; Bristol; Sheffield; Illinois; Leeds; Southampton; Penn State; Zhejiang.
- Dr Julia Hush of the Faculty of Health Sciences will spend three months in the Neuroimaging and Pain Lab of an APRU partner university to advance understanding of spinal pain, a complex disease with high social and economic costs.  
Partner university: Stanford.
- Professor Mayfair Yang and Dr David Bray of the Faculty of Arts will join the WUN Contemporary China Centre to research an interdisciplinary range of issues facing contemporary China.  
Partner universities: Leeds; Bristol; Washington; Wisconsin; University of California, San Diego; Sheffield; Illinois; Southampton; Nanjing; Oslo; Zhejiang.

The fund also supported research collaborations with one of the University’s leading bilateral partners, Cambridge University. Two projects were successful in receiving funding including that of Professor Stephen Simpson, from the Faculty of Science, who will use his grant to further a collaborative project with Cambridge on the neurobiological reasons of locust swarming.

The IPDF is run annually and will be offered again in April 2008.

## AC21 Editorial Board

---

In the Steering Committee meeting held in October last year, it was decided to establish AC21 Editorial Board. This editorial board, consisting of members nominated by each of the AC21 member institutions, will discuss the editing of AC21 newsletters. The board members will also contribute brief articles to be included in the “News from Member Institutions” section of the newsletter. The idea is that each member institution shares, at least partly, the editing of AC21 newsletters. For the articles for the “News from Member Institutions,” we are expecting topics such as (1) a member institution’s anniversary celebration, (2) recent recipients of notable prizes, (3) outstanding research, (4) collaborative projects with other AC21 member institutions, (5) visit to AC21 member institutions, and (6) invitation to an international symposium to be held at a member institution. We are planning to set up a mailing list to discuss the newsletter editing too.

As of February 2008, the following board members have been nominated by the member institutions:

Katrin Schulz  
(Chemnitz University of Technology)  
Phacharavadee Paerattakul  
(Kasetsart University)  
Frank Bennett (Nagoya University)  
Melissa Hu (Nanjing University)  
Betsy Brown  
(North Carolina State University)  
Uping Cai (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)  
Nicholas Haskins (University of Sydney)  
Stephen Williams (University of Warwick)

We are still waiting for nominations from other AC21 member institutions.

## AC21 Activities and Events (Upcoming AC21 events)

---

2007	July	Second Student World Forum –Sustainable Cities– Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
	October	Fifth Steering Committee, Nagoya University AC21 International Symposium –Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education– Nagoya University
	November	Symposium: Nagoya University – Shanghai Jiao Tong University International Conference for Research Exchange on Environmental Studies, 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
	June	Third Student World Forum, Chemnitz University of Technology
	[TBA]	Seventh Steering Committee, Nagoya University
2010	[TBA]	Fifth AC21 International Forum, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Eighth Steering Committee, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Fourth General Assembly, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

## AC21 General Secretariat Activities

2007	February 16	51st AC21 Office Conference
	February 27–28	Visit to The University of Sydney
	March 7–9	Attend APAIE
	March 15	52nd AC21 Office Conference
	March 26–28	Visit to North Carolina State University
	April 20	53rd AC21 Office Conference
	April 25–27	Visit to Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
	May 16–23	Visit to 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 18–19	Visit to North Carolina State University
	June 29	55th AC21 Office Conference
	July 2–5	Visit to Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University
	July 4–9	Visit to The University of Freiburg
	July 20	56th AC21 Office Conference
September 10	57th AC21 Office Conference	
September 12–15	Attend EAIE	
September 19–20	Visit to North Carolina State University	
October 5	58th AC21 Office Conference	
November 9	Visit from University of Freiburg	
November 22	59th AC21 Office Conference	
December 14	60th AC21 Office Conference	
2008	January 16	Visit to North Carolina State University
	January 22	Visit to Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University
	January 24	61st AC21 Office Conference
	February 14–15	Visit to University of Freiburg
	February 22	62nd AC21 Office Conference
	March 21	63rd AC21 Office Conference
March 28–26	Attend APAIE	



Academic Consortium 21

## From the Editor

---

**Frank Bennett**  
**Academic Staff**  
**AC21 General Secretariat**

It is a pleasure to offer Volume 5 of the AC21 Newsletter, to which Dr. Larry Nielsen, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of North Carolina State University has generously extended the welcome message of this issue, looking forward to the Fourth AC21 International Forum, to be held in July of this year. As in the previous newsletter, we are privileged to offer contributions from a range of perspectives within the diverse AC21 community. Dr. Nielsen and Betsy Brown provide an introduction to the upcoming International Forum, with hints of how participants can make the very most of their visit to the Old North State.

Katrin Schultz of Chemnitz University of Technology provides a stimulating overview of the environment in store for students who participate in the Third AC21 Student World Forum in 2009. Tsutomu Nomizu of the AC21

General Secretariat reports on the activities and decisions of the AC21 Steering Committee over the past six month period.

Miki Horie and Simon Wallis reprise their performances in the last newsletter, Horie with reflections following the success of the AC21 Symposium “Quality and Evaluation in Higher Education”, and Wallis reporting on a very successful followup to the Student Mini Forum held in Nagoya.

Finally, Nicholas Haskins of the University of Sydney brings news of the very important International Program Development Fund (IPDF) extends to collaborative research projects, and reports on beneficiary projects within the AC21 Consortium. We extend our warmest thanks for this generous support of our joint endeavors.

## 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](mailto:office@ac21.org)  
Website: <http://www.ac21.org>

**Visit our Web-site  
for the latest information!  
[www.ac21.org](http://www.ac21.org)**