



AC21 Newsletter

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3rd Student World Forum — Huge Success for Chemnitz University of Technology and the AC21

Rosa Schulz
Susanne Günther
Chemnitz University of Technology

From June 22 to 27, 2009, the 3rd Student World Forum took place at Chemnitz University of Technology (CUT). In all, 53 students from 18 member institutions worldwide as well as AC21 representatives travelled to Chemnitz to join an exciting and inspiring week consisting of workshops, social activities and excursions. The participants were chosen during an application process from the member universities and the CUT. Every member university was allowed to delegate 3 students to Chemnitz.

The organization of the Student World Forum allowed the participants a very comfortable and memorable stay in Chemnitz. Accommodated in double-bed rooms at Pentahotel Chemnitz, the participants were picked up every morning by a shuttle to join all workshops, excursions as well as sightseeing programs. CUT organized an outstanding event and made it possible by assuming all the expenses themselves with the help of their sponsors. This means the students were able to stay at the 3rd Student World Forum free of charge.

The academic program — workshops and excursions

The main part of the 3rd Student World Forum included workshops, discussions and excursions around the topic “Meeting the global challenges: Production in the 21st century”.

In October 2008, CUT started to plan the



Student World Forum by setting up a working group to organize a great event for students from all over the world. The organizational team of the Student World Forum tried to create an interesting, diversified and educative program. At the end, a program was developed consisting of ten workshops and one excursion to the Mosel Volkswagen plant.

On Monday, June 22, 2009, the first day of the Student World Forum, the students were warmly welcomed by the president and chancellor of Chemnitz University of Technology as well as one representative of the Saxonian Ministry of Science and Education. Afterwards the students were introduced to the organization of their stay in Chemnitz.

The first workshop took place on Tuesday, June 23, and focused on the importance of the European Union. The participants had the opportunity to discuss the EU’s power and weaknesses and the Union’s future as a global player. After these workshops, the participants got to know Prof. Dimitrov – a very famous lecturer from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. He gave his impressions about

the importance of production engineering in South Africa's academic environment.

In the evening, the highlight of this first workshop day started – the excursion to the Mosel Volkswagen plant. The students experienced state-of-the-art car production and joined a guided tour through the production halls to see the birth of an automobile.

On Wednesday, June 24, the students learned about the challenges of smart systems integration. Prof. Thomas Geßner talked about the integration of nano materials and new approaches in terms of reliability, testability, design and security. As a follow-up to the visit of the Mosel Volkswagen plant on Tuesday, Dr. Löschmann, the CEO of Volkswagen Sachsen, discussed challenges in Automobile Production.

On Thursday, June 25, after one relaxing day at the Ore Mountains, the participants visited the driver assistance laboratory. In a short lecture, the students learned the basic concepts of usability research. Afterwards they had the opportunity to apply these concepts and create their own solutions for usability problems in group work. Shortly after this, there was a visit to the sports laboratory of Chemnitz University. In this workshop, various methodological approaches in locomotion analyses were presented.

In the afternoon, a very special guest was introduced – Prof. Jun Ni talked about bridging the gap between micro and macro manufacturing technologies. At the end of an inspiring workshop day, Prof. Kroll from Chemnitz University talked about challenges in lightweight structures.

Friday, June 26 was the day of the final two workshops. In the morning, the participants joined a workshop about trends in the production of modern plastic parts. Afterwards, it was time for the academic highlight of the 3rd Student World Forum – the final discussion with Mr. Korsak Chairasmiak, CEO of CP

All Public, the largest chain of retail shops in South-East Asia. CP All Public operates convenience stores under the 7-Eleven trademark and Mr. Korsak discussed the role of the human element in modern production.

Along with the highly academic activities of the Student World Forum, the participants also learned something about German traditions.

Social Events Program

The Social Events Program was designed to give the students and guests as much insight into German, especially Saxon, culture as possible. The planning committee brainstormed a lot of ideas and tried to create a schedule full of interesting information, sightseeing as well as fun. Having a group planning the events in this way can be recommended. Many ideas were collected and at the end Chemnitz University of Technology (CUT) was able to cover a wide range of activities.

First event was a campus tour that took place on Monday, June 22. Guiding the students through campus gave CUT the opportunity to a) present itself as a university, b) present its modern facilities, c) introduce all the facilities that featured in the academic program throughout the week and, d) support the students in finding their way around. The campus tour was guided by students of CUT, which was an enjoyable experience as well since they could present “their” daily routine at university.

The campus tour was followed by a tour through Chemnitz. Getting to know the rich history of the city as well as all the sights was intended to fully introduce the participants of the 3rd Student World Forum to the environment they would be part of during the upcoming week. Starting the week with orientation tours has been proven to be a good kick off.

On Tuesday, June 23, the participants were introduced to the German brewery tradition. A tour through an old-established Saxon brewery named “Braustolz” followed by a barbecue was

a suitable end to a long day full of academic presentations and a tour through the Mosel Volkswagen plant.

On Wednesday, June 24, it was time to take the students to the area surrounding Chemnitz. The scheduled trips took them to the city of Seiffen, located in the heart of the Ore Mountains. Upon arrival, the students started with a guided tour at a traditional manufacture of the world famous Saxon woodcraft. Seeing how the whittlers craft wooden figures and toys was a special experience and afterwards everybody got the chance to buy traditional souvenirs. The concept of introducing the participants to traditional art has been a huge success and should be considered for any further programs and events. Afterwards the students had the chance to explore a hunting lodge and summer residence built by Saxon elector August in 1568. Strolling around the castle and looking at ancient architecture was a success as well and the castle proved to be an excellent spot for picture taking.

The event for Thursday, June 25 was in a more formal setting. The chancellor of Chemnitz University of Technology invited all participants as well as officials to a barbecue at Water Castle Klaffenbach. A festive atmosphere demonstrated how important the whole 3rd Student World Forum was to CUT. The well-being of everybody has been of highest importance to the organizers.

On Friday, June 26, the participants took a trip to the capital of Saxony, Dresden. Two guided tours and some leisure time were well used by all the participants in order to do some more shopping or to reconsider all the experiences of the week. Exploring the old city centre of Dresden was a highlight of the trip and demonstrated the beauty of Saxony and the cultural variety one could enjoy while studying in Chemnitz.

On Saturday, June 27, the participants were able to pick from a variety of different guided

visits through museums of Chemnitz. The visits were optional and everybody liked having the opportunity to pick an activity or to organize the day on his or her own.

The official end of the 3rd Student World Forum was accompanied by the social highlight of the week: the University Ball. It took place for the 12th time and is an important part of CUT's social life. For a lot of the participants, it was their first chance to get to know the tradition of ballroom dancing. As it took place in the main lecture building of Chemnitz University, the participants were able to see the interrelations between academic and social life which is of special significance at CUT.

In Closing

In summary, CUT and its organizing team are happy that the week went so smoothly. The university and its staff combined a very high academic program with many social highlights. In closing, here is some advice for future organizers of a Student World Forum:

- Mix academic programs and social events. The division of the day into academic program (morning) and social events (afternoon/evening) has been evaluated positively by the participants.
- Include traditional crafts and skills, and typical sights of your region. That has proven to be a huge success.
- Brainstorm and organize all events as a group. Get students to support the university staff. The mix between staff and students caring for the guests of the 3rd Student World Forum was excellent and a major part of the friendly and beneficial atmosphere.
- Be informed about the participants, about their special needs and skills, and include everything into your program planning.
- Don't underestimate the group size. Fifty and more students are a logistic challenge that only can be handled by exact planning and numerous supporters (staff/student helpers) during all of the events.

AC21 Student World Forum in Chemnitz

Dr. Simon Wallis
Nagoya University

The whole can sometimes be greater than the sum of its parts. The 3rd AC21 Student World Forum held at Chemnitz University of Technology (CUT) was a great example of how this can happen and bring added value to international collaboration beyond that possible through bilateral exchange alone.

Good organization laid the groundwork for success — CUT found sponsors for the event and managed the logistical problems of bringing everyone together from around the globe. Then there was an excellent welcoming hotel for everyone including a first-rate breakfast spread — the ideal way to start the day! The invited speakers all had something important to add to the theme of the Forum *Meeting the global challenges: Production in the 21st century* representing the views of both industry and academia. But the most important ingredient of all was a critical mass of lively and able students from the AC21 members.

A total of 53 selected students from 17 member institutions attended the Forum. During the week in Germany, I had the opportunity to talk to most of them. They were an exotic blend of talented and friendly young people; great ambassadors for their universities and their countries. I was also impressed by the variety of backgrounds — a cultural cornucopia. I counted 15 languages spoken by the AC21 delegates and students and there were probably more.

As in the previous Forum in Paris, I was impressed by the students' readiness to ask questions and the seriousness of their content. After the formal workshops, many of which included laboratory tours and demonstrations, I often saw the speakers surrounded by students eager to ask one more question; they looked more like rock stars than company executives or professors.

When I asked the students the high point of the meeting they nearly all said that meeting and getting to know each other was the most important. The



social occasions certainly brought out more of the students' talents. Some danced for us, one drew sketches, and after some of the excellent Saxony beer, we all became expert singers.

The schedule was tight, but the students missed few opportunities to enjoy themselves. Even the buses were places for interaction. We had finished a barbecue at Chemnitz Castle and were heading back to the hotel in an articulated 'bendy' bus. The singing started soon after we left and only finished when we arrived. Probably distracted by our performance, the driver lost his way and had to perform a U-turn—not an easy task with such a long vehicle. Another time it could have been frustrating, but here it was a great way to fit in a few more ABBA songs.

We also went to the city of Dresden, famous for its baroque architecture. There is a marvelous center, but the scars from bombing at the end of World War II can still be clearly seen. One of the most famous buildings is the Frauenkirche. This was finally restored in 2005 and stands as a potent symbol of reconciliation between former enemies. It is perhaps not by chance that the cross at the top of the dome — the last piece of this restoration — was fashioned by an English smith whose father was one of the pilots involved in the fire bombing that destroyed the church in the War.

This 3rd AC21 Student World Forum certainly taught a lot about Production in the 21st



Lao dance at the University Ball



Singing in the bendy bus

Century. It also succeeded in bringing together a wide range of cultures and nationalities in a brief week of intense and harmonious interaction. We were also left with the image of the city of Dresden as a stark reminder of what the consequences may be when such harmony

is lost and extreme views take control. The Forum was a great learning experience, a great opportunity to make friends and network and above all a lot of fun for all concerned. I congratulate the organizers who made it possible and the students who brought it to life.



**Pasiri Taypongsak
Naruemon Pratanwanich
Isariya Boonkasemsanti
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand**



Naruemon, Isariya, and Pasiri

“The AC21 Student World Forum in Chemnitz was a one in a lifetime experience. There were so many things to learn in one week. Each day was a day full of exploring. Every staff gave us a warm welcome. Every lecturer gave us a core course of academic knowledge. I had a chance to take a tour around the nice and peaceful city of Chemnitz and the cultural city of Dresden. A day at a Volkswagen manufacturing plant was also an awesome memory that will stay with me all my life. A taste of German beer was a blast, the greatest taste of the year. However, nothing can be compared with the international friendships I made with the delegates from all over the world.”

Pasiri Taypongsak

“In only one week at the AC21 Student World Forum at Chemnitz University of Technology, I got many exciting and colorful experiences. Beginning with the warm welcome reception, it was like a cultural class because I absorbed a lot of culture within a few hours. When I attended the lecture classes, I also got knowledge — both technical and non-technical — from the specialists. Due to the variety of students, different countries and different faculties came up with different ideas even on the same topic. This difference helped me to think out of the box. Visiting plants and laboratories with the experts made me understand things I used to wonder about. As an engineering student, seeing the powerful machines, the modern technologies and the curious people in the lab considerably motivated me to start projects in my own lab such as medical instrument (Biomechanics). I also had the opportunity to learn more about history by visiting many actual historical sites. I loved seeing the magnificent architecture and the attractive spiritual statues. I was glad to meet you all and I would like to say thank you to everyone who arranged this wonderful international activity.”

“ Eventually, the party has its end but this party remains in my memory. ”

Naruemon Pratanwanich

“It was such a memorable time for me having a chance to join the student forum. I had never been to Germany before and I was impressed by many things... the people’s discipline, the quality of public facilities and transportation... and above all, the generosity of people in Chemnitz. I cannot say all the experiences there went smoothly. But I feel grateful to the staff, who put so much effort into making everything come out the best it could have been. And they were very helpful to all of us.

I learned a lot during my journey, both my excursion in the city and in the conference, mostly not about technology, but about people. I met outstanding people from around the world. Talking to them gave me new perspectives, and let me know that we all have differences that we have to adjust in order to coordinate and work together. And crossing the cultural differences by respecting one another is the key. There were times I was surprised to find that people from other countries do not think or act like we do. And I am sure that they too are surprised by these differences. After all, no matter how technology improves, it depends on the human race to make the world better. That is why this project should be supported; it lets people see the world from different points of view. This trip gave me opportunities to see different things in other places, understand what others are doing, and think about where our planet is going. All of these can mean a great deal when we think about what we can do for our collective future.

I would love to have more opportunities to sit together and discuss different ideas and feel the cultural differences. We all put a good energy in this program to make it happen. I enjoyed it very much. It was such a great experience that it makes me smile every time I think about it.”

Isariya Boonkasemsanti (Ivy)

Fitri Trapsilawati
Gadjah Mada University

I am studying in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia. At first, when I got the Student World Forum invitation letter from Chemnitz University of Technology, I was very happy and surprised. But, there was one thing that made me afraid: I was worried about my appearance. I am a Muslim girl who wears headgear. "Will everything be ok? Will I be accepted without any misperceptions about me?" That was the big question at that time. Obviously, this was only apprehension. I was accepted very well without any difficulties. I was able to find suitable food for me and to do all the activities. The 3rd Student World Forum was really, really great event. It was the result of hard work from AC 21 and the committee from Chemnitz University of Technology and sponsored by DAAD and the Saxonian Ministry. Thank you for this wonderful event. All of us, as the participants, got new friends, new experiences, new knowledge, and other amazing things.

The theme of the 3rd Student World Forum, Production: Meeting the Global Challenge, was much related with my daily studies. In this event, I got additional knowledge directly from the experts. When I was in my 5th semester, I took a course about Supply Chain Management which included a case study about Seven Eleven, the worldwide retail store. At that time, I just heard the explanation from my lecturer in the class, but in the 3rd Student World Forum, I had a chance to meet the CEO of Seven Eleven

and heard more explanation directly from him. In addition, I was able to take a photo together with him. That was a really priceless experience and I think that even my lecturer has not taken a photo together with the CEO yet.

I joined classes in Production Planning and Inventory Control and also Strategic Management. There was also an Automobile Production class, in which I heard the explanation from the CEO of Volkswagon. The workshop given by a highly competent practitioner brought a very positive effect: balance of knowledge between theory and practice. The other great workshops were given by experts and professors from universities worldwide. When I learned about finite element analysis, human element and engineering design, which are closely related with my major, I felt I got different things that color my knowledge.

I am really thankful to the committee that worked very hard for this wonderful event. The committee provided a perfect program. The programs were equal between academic and social activities. I made many friends from many different cultures, America, Australia, England, Thailand, Germany, Laos, Japan and China. They are very smart and lovable friends. We promise to visit each other someday and we plan to build a student alumnae. We hope we can meet again in 10, 20 or 30 years as leaders of good change. Finally, thank you again to all parties that made this event so great.

Li Shaoguang
Northeastern University, China



Firstly, I should give my thanks to the AC21 and Chemnitz University of Technology for providing me the advantage of attending the student world forum. It was an experience I will never forget.

The organizers showed great cordiality and hospitality. So during the stay at Chemnitz University of Technology, we spent a very happy and meaningful time together. Concerning the subject of the 3rd SWF, that is 'Production: Meeting the global challenges', they prepared 10 workshops. For each workshop, they invited famous people to give us lectures. Among these people, some were famous professors, and others were corporate heads.

And from their lectures I learned a lot, including some useful experiences and advanced knowledge concerning different areas. What struck me most was their rigorous and earnest manner.

Usually, in the afternoon, the organizers planned some tours. The first day we had a tour around the beautiful campus. The following day we visited the Mosel Volkswagen Plant in Sachsen. And I think it is amazing. I saw its modern manufacturing shops and advanced robots. As we know, Germany is a leader in the engineering industry, especially in Auto Manufacture. And my major is mechanical engineering. So it was a very

important experience for a student like me. Before I came to Germany, I knew from book that there are many European-style buildings there. And the organizer prepared a trip for us to Dresden. In Dresden we had a good chance to feast our eyes. We saw so many old but gorgeous castles, which showed its splendid past. And what most excited me was going to visit a brewery in Chemnitz. There we tasted the delicious German beer. I am very pleased about their arrangements.

The most important thing is that during our short stay there, students from different countries came together. Though we have different backgrounds and different values, we have the same purpose, which is 'communicating with each other, and eliminating misunderstandings between each other'. In my opinion, we did it. For example, what impressed me most was talking with a lovely girl from Nagoya University, Japan. She spoke Chinese perfectly. So some times we could communicate in Chinese. Through this, I gained a good understanding of Japan. And she also knew much about China.

Last but not least, I think communication like this should be strengthened and deepened. If we know each other better, then there will be less misunderstanding and less conflict, and less war.

Tomomi Shimmura
Nagoya University

It was very significant for me to participate in the 3rd Student World Forum in Chemnitz, Germany.

We had an opportunity to listen to lectures by guest speakers from various fields. However, I actually had difficulty understanding the content occasionally because it was mostly about industrial and technical matters. So I think it could have been much better if we had had more discussion among students, not just Q&As between the lecturer and students. Exchanging opinions would give us deeper understanding of the subjects and stimulate each other's mindset.

As the Student World Forum was held in Germany, we experienced famous local products like the tour to Volkswagen's plant and Brewery Braustolz. I had a good time chatting with new friends over beer. It was also impressive to visit Saxony's capital city Dresden which was historical and beautiful. I especially enjoyed the traditional manufacturing of the wood craft as seen in nutcrackers.

Unfortunately I did not have enough time to learn much about the highly advanced activities and techniques of Germany, which is known as an environmentally developed country. But I did see some of them with my own eyes, such as trams in the center of the city, an apartment near the hotel which had a solar power generation system that shows how much electricity it makes, wind turbines I saw from the bus, charged bags at the supermarket and so on.

At the University Ball on the last day, Lao students in their traditional dress showed us ethnic dance. I guess they prepared such a

wonderful performance by themselves spontaneously, which was so nice of them. Though we Japanese did not do something like that this time, I thought the Student World Forum could be meaningful not only academically but also culturally, and it would be great if we put more importance on the role of culture.

The happiest thing I had was that I had the chance to know other students from all over the world and I had a very good time with them. When it comes to international exchange, we tend to pay attention to differences like culture or the way we think. But I realized that we have lots of mutual senses and feelings we can relate to. For example, we can laugh together without words. As you see from this forum's title 'Meeting the global challenges', international cooperation is essential in dealing with global issues. It is very important to understand and respect that there are both common points and differences from country to country and from person to person.

Personally, I was very pleased to see students from North Carolina State University where I have studied abroad as an exchange student for a year.

It was a very busy but colorful program overall, full of lectures and sightseeing which meant almost no time to rest. I remember my roommate and I talked every night about how tired we were and about having to get up early tomorrow morning. But this too is one of my lovely memories, and the other side of the coin is that we had many special days. I am really grateful that I had the opportunity for such a fantastic experience, and I want to keep trying harder in applying what I have learned.



APAIE

Dr. Nami Iwaki

Deputy Director, AC21 General Secretariat



AC21 General Secretariat Deputy Director Nami Iwaki and Associate Coordinator Tomomi Furuta participated in the Fourth APAIE (Asia-Pacific Association for International Education) Conference, which was held in Renmin University, Beijing China, from April 15 to 17. Just as they had the previous year, AC21 and Nagoya University took part in the booth stand and enjoyed meeting all the visitors who stopped by. AC21 members who participated were: Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Jilin University, Peking University and the University of Adelaide. All members visited the AC21 booth and discussed the possibilities of AC21. Many excellent

ideas came up during each discussion, such as joint research, topics for the symposium after the Steering Committee Meeting this year (October 29–30), more collaboration among members and so on. As General Secretariat, we will do our best to put these ideas into practice! We want to thank Professor Taplin from the University of Adelaide who sat with the secretariat members at the AC21 booth and helped us promote the International Forum 2010. Also many thanks to Mr. Qingden Pan from Peking University who invited us to the Peking University reception – we very much enjoyed walking around the beautiful campus and meeting many people.

Attending the 2009 NAFSA Conference

Dr. Jiro Takai

Deputy Director, AC21 General Secretariat



The 2009 Annual Conference of the National Association for Foreign Student Advisors (NAFSA) was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center from May 24 through 29. NAFSA, also known as the Association for International Educators, is a huge international association, consisting of more than 10,000 individual members representing 3500 institutions from 150 countries. This year's conference was attended by 7500 people, including many of our friends from AC21.

While the conference is geared toward professional development of international educators, it also fosters information sharing, and networking amongst international educators across the globe. Our friends at Chemnitz University of

Technology took the initiative to organize an event to promote the latter purpose, by holding a breakfast meeting for AC21 institutions, the first of its kind. It was the conviction of Chemnitz that we need more opportunity for exchange between AC21 members, aside from the biennial International Forum and Student Forum.

The AC21 Networking Breakfast was attended by representatives from Chemnitz University of Technology, DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst or German Academic Exchange Service), University of Adelaide, University of Sydney, and Nagoya University, with observers from University of Malaga (Spain), University of Dresden,

Saxonian Ministry of Science, Freiburg University of Mining and Technology, Hochschule Mittweida University of Applied Sciences. While the room was not quite full of attendees, there was wide representation, but then again, the number of participating AC21 member institutions was rather limited.

The meeting started with a greeting from the Chancellor of Chemnitz University of Technology, Eberhard Alles, who then proceeded onto the first presentation, entitled “A strategic approach to networking opportunities for universities.” Eberhard emphasized the importance of inter-university alliances, as well as collaboration between universities and research institutions, and the industrial sector. He gave the example of a global network of universities which affords precisely the kind of international collaborations in bringing forth advancements in research and innovation as our AC21 network. Eberhard also brought forth the example of a European institution that was established with regional collaboration in mind, the European Institute of Technology (EIT). A discussion of the benefits of international networking followed, citing the following expectations: to strengthen internationalization of universities, industry, extramural institutions, organizations etc.; to increase “critical mass” for ambitious projects and growing influence in study and research; to foster new scientific approaches and impulses, exchanging and capitalizing on ideas; to expand opportunities for exchanges of students and staff; to achieve cultural gains through new members joining us from an increasing number of regions and countries; to provide “fresh” ideas for enhancing and promoting existing networks; and to promote a positive “domino effect” concerning new contacts and members of existing networks.

A presentation by Dr. Cornelia Zanger, Vice President of International Affairs of Chemnitz University of Technology followed, pertaining to “International marketing strategies.” Cornelia talked about the example of Chemnitz,

with its efforts toward internationalizing not only its campus, but reaching out overseas for partners in double degree programs, as well as other academic initiatives. She mentioned the role and potential of AC21 in such global partnership programs.

The third speaker was Dr. Sebastian Fohrbeck, the head of DAAD in New York, who spoke about “New developments in exchange programs.” Sebastian focused on the efforts of DAAD to attract international students to Germany. He claimed that international student flow is an index of the quality of education in that country. He pointed out that, just a decade ago, Germany was losing more students to overseas, particularly the United States, than it was able to draw from abroad. However, by reforming academic programs and degrees, fostering excellence in research, and appealing to overseas student markets, for example by offering programs in the English language, and increasing scholarships and internships, it has now become the third largest destination for international students (behind the US and the UK), and the gap between German students studying in the US versus US students studying in Germany has narrowed substantially. While Sebastian’s talk dealt mainly with national level strategies, we were still able to gain much insight on what needs to be done at the institutional level.

Finally, Dr. John Taplin, Pro Vice-Chancellor of International Affairs at the University of Adelaide, presented to us the case of Adelaide with regard to “International networking and exchange programs.” John informed us of the possible forms that international networking can take, including: student exchange, joint teaching programs, research collaboration, benchmarking and quality assurance, study abroad and study tours, language and cultural training, articulation between degree programs, licensing of intellectual property, and sponsorship and capacity building. He particularly emphasized the potentials and issues of international networking between AC21

institutions, cautioning us about management problems, such as having too many agreements to manage, the lack of effective implementation and monitoring of outcomes, the need for fewer more intensive relationships with selected partners, the need for a concrete principle for student exchange, the spontaneity of many research collaborations, the need to optimize on potential from consortia like AC21, and the necessity for regular reciprocated visits to keep the networks alive.

All in all, this Networking Breakfast gave us some very crucial insights about the future of AC21. First, our consortium provides us with unlimited possibilities for academic exchange, not just in the form of student exchanges. Take for example double degree programs, which will surely provide us an opportunity to learn about each other's educational systems and approaches, some of which we might be able to incorporate into our own systems to improve it. Second, it helps us to share the research findings of our own respective institutions (and countries), and collaborate to generate newer and greater findings. Third, by joining the university-industry networks of our AC21

partners, we can, perhaps, expand out from our domestic-only relationships with the industrial sector into an international one. Indeed, AC21 has much to offer its members, but it is a shame we are not adequately utilizing our mutual network. It's there for us to take advantage of, and this Networking Breakfast certainly made us realize that we need more active involvement with each other.

The Networking Breakfast at NAFSA was a brilliant idea, and we should be thankful to our good friends at Chemnitz for not only suggesting it, but for planning and conducting it. Meeting once every two years at the AC21 International Forum is definitely not enough to enjoy our mutual relationships to the fullest, and since most members will have representatives at NAFSA, it is very logical that we make use of this wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas, and perhaps develop our engagements with our partners. On behalf of all AC21 members, thank you very much to Chemnitz University of Technology!

Lastly, might I add that the breakfast was delicious.

Announcement of 2009 AC21 SPF Results

The first round of application for the AC21 Special Project Fund (ACSPF) closed on February 27, 2009. After detailed examination by STC members, the following two projects were adopted.

- Nanjing University, University of Adelaide, University of Sydney
Sino-Australian Three University's Academic Seminar on Food Safety Affected by Global Warming
- Tongji University, University of Warwick, Gadjah Mada University
Laser Coarse-Fine Coupling Tracking Measurement for Robot Errors

The aim of the ACSPF is to promote the development of research and educational exchanges between AC21 members. We expect these two projects can contribute to advancing AC21 activities and enhancing further collaborations. They will receive our support for the year 2009. Please look forward to reports from them in the next AC21 newsletter vol. 9.

AC21 will continue to encourage cooperative projects between members and applications for ACSPF 2010. The AC21 General Secretariat looks forward to receiving your application in the future.

AC21 International Symposium on Double Degree Programs: Prospects and Strategic Perspectives

Dr. Masahiro Chikada
Academic Staff, AC21 General Secretariat
Nagoya University

Double degree is a great academic system that allows students to obtain degrees from both (or multiple) institutions where they have studied. In implementing double degree programs, each institution should consider many factors concerning curriculum, tuition fee, language used, enrollment quota, duration of study and academic standards at partner institutions. Indeed, a double degree program is ultimately a credit transfer system that leads to degrees. On the other hand, there may be some problems if institutions are not well prepared to share grading systems and languages of instruction.

The 2nd AC21 International Symposium on Double Degree Programs will be held on Friday, October 30, 2009 at Nagoya University to share prospects and strategic perspectives on double degree programs among AC21 members. The main purpose of the symposium is to discuss double degree programs in the context of international collaboration in higher education and suggest strategies to maximize the outcomes.

The symposium will start with a keynote lecture by professor Akira Ninomiya, director of Hiroshima Study Center, The Open University of Japan. He has been vice president of Hiroshima University in international affairs and vice secretary general of UMAP. Now pro-

fessor Ninomiya is a chair of the working group on globalization of higher education under the Central Council for Education of the Japanese government. He is undoubtedly one of the most prominent scholars on double degree programs in Japan and other Asian countries. In the keynote lecture, he will explore the essentials of double degree programs and their implications for the world's institutions.

The keynote lecture will be followed by a roundtable discussion on prospects and issues for double degree programs between AC21 members. The first speech is to be given by representatives from the University of Warwick (UK) and Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), and the second speech by representatives from the University of Adelaide and the University of Indonesia. After these speeches, members will engage in free discussion with viewpoints on developing double degree programs in the contexts of international collaboration in higher education.

This symposium will be open to the public. As a chair of the working group on managing the symposium, I hope this special event will bring fruitful discussion between AC21 members and other participants who are interested in double degree programs.

AC21 International Symposium "Double Degree Programs: Prospects and Strategic Perspectives"

Time and Date: October 30, 2009 2:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Noyori Materials Science Laboratory 2F, Nagoya University

Chair: John Taplin (Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Adelaide, Australia)

<Keynote Lecturer>

Professor Akira Ninomiya (Director, Hiroshima Study Center, The Open University of Japan)

<Roundtable Session>

"Prospects and Issues for Double Degree Programs between AC21 Members"

Speakers: Professor John Taplin (Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Adelaide, Australia)

Mr. James Kennedy (Director of International Office, University of Warwick, UK)

Another Perspective

Professor Go Yoshida
AC21 General Secretariat
Nagoya University

This year, I had the good fortune to observe the 3rd Student World Forum hosted by Chemnitz University of Technology in Germany. Having just joined Nagoya University and after a fruitful visit with the University of Strasbourg, our “united nations” contingent that consisted of professors from the UK, France, Hungary, and the US (myself) – yes, all of us working for Nagoya University in Japan – were looking forward to this forum that brought together students from 19 of our member universities from all corners of the world. There were approximately 60 students, and from the get go, it was apparent that Chemnitz had put in a lot of time and effort in the planning of this event.

Below, I would like to share some random thoughts that went through my mind as I observed two days of the forum. As a preface, my thoughts are in no way reflective of how Chemnitz ran the forum. Rather, the following thoughts are general ideas that came to mind and food for thought as we all pitch in to make AC21 better.

Forums

Generally, there are two components to a forum, the content and the logistics. Both are equally important, similar to the two sides of a coin. However, what often happens is one is overlooked at the expense of the other and that is why we have forums that are one – hit wonders with no follow through – it was a great event... now what? Or forums that ran as smooth as oil but essentially turned out to be one big expensive networking event, thanks to those footing the bill.

What can be achieved when people from various corners of the world converge at one venue in person? What are the desired outcomes for the beneficiaries? Let’s take the student forum

as an example: the beneficiaries would first be the participating students, then the sponsors, the hosting university, and finally the consortium members. With this in mind, what are the desired outcomes for these groups? How can we have continuity so that they don’t end up being one-hit wonders? As questions such as these went through my mind, I started jotting down ideas with the core that became the selection of students. Selection of the right people is the key to every organization, university, etc. and forums included. Selection of the right students for the forum is critical: we would naturally expect engineering students to be more engaged in a forum having an engineering theme, and if we selected sophomores (or 1st years if your university has a 3-year undergraduate program), they could be our ambassadors in two years when we’re trying to gear up for the next forum. This would help everyone so that we are not trying to recreate the energy and momentum for the next group of participants on our own. And when we are blessed with students who come from many countries, how about taking advantage of this to have open discussions on some of the difficult issues and challenges pertaining to the theme of the forum? And lest we forget, have them share with us what they learned and experienced during the forum.

Consortiums

Just as there are myriad universities with MOUs that are more symbolic than functional, so too are there academic consortiums that lack purpose or function. What is the purpose of joining an academic consortium? What are we trying to achieve through this consortium that we could not without it? As I thought about this, I was reminded of the alliances in the airline industry, how by being a part of one alliance, mileage can be accumulated and used with all

the airlines within that alliance. As those of us who travel know well, airline alliances have really been functional and beneficial for their customers. In this line of thought, wouldn't it be great for students within the AC21 alliance or consortium to be able to embark on a study abroad – after one of our student forums – and have the credits transferred so that their graduation date is not delayed? With the constant increase in labor mobility, how about coordinating our career development offices so that students who wish to intern or work in another country are able to leverage these services at one of our consortium universities? Our consortium would develop a life of its own if we focused on functionality and the benefits

for our primary constituents, students.

I believe in keeping things simple – after all our lives are complicated enough to begin with. Many years ago, Peter Drucker came up with five important yet simple questions that can pertain to anything we do, and they are:

- 1) What is our mission?
- 2) Who is our customer?
- 3) What does the customer value?
- 4) What are our results?
- 5) What is our plan?

By asking these questions, I hope that we can continue making AC21 an alliance of value for our customers.

Upcoming AC21 Events

2009	October	Seventh Steering Committee, Nagoya University
2010	October	Fifth AC21 International Forum, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Eighth Steering Committee, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Fourth General Assembly, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
2011	[TBA]	Fourth Student World Forum, Chulalongkorn University

AC21 General Secretariat Activities (2009.4 – 2009.9)

2009	April 15–18	Attend APAIE
	April 23	73th AC21 Office Meeting
	May 21	74th AC21 Office Meeting
	May 24–29	Attend NAFSA
	June 17	75th AC21 Office Meeting
	June 22–27	Visit the University of Strasbourg
	July 16	76th AC21 Office Meeting
	July 20–24	Attend IFPU Summer School
	September 10	77th AC21 Office Meeting



Academic Consortium 21

AC21 Members

Chemnitz University of Technology (Germany)
Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
Fudan University (China)
Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)
Huazhong University of Science and Technology (China)
Jilin University (China)
Kasetsart University (Thailand)
Nagoya University (Japan)
Nanjing University (China)
National University of Laos (Laos)
North Carolina State University (U.S.A.)
Northeastern University (China)
Peking University (China)
Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
The University of Adelaide (Australia)
The University of Freiburg (Germany)
The University of Sydney (Australia)
The University of Warwick (U.K.)
Tongji University (China)

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