Advantages, Cooperation and Innovation

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ABSTRACT

Northwest University is located in the original historical site of Taiping Section of the capital of Tang Dynasty. The university, founded in 1902 as Shaanxi College, is one of the key comprehensive universities in Western China and enjoys substantial support from both the central and local governments. With a total area of 370 acres, it consists of 24 schools and departments, and 16 research institutes as well. There are over 2, 300 faculty and staff members, among which 1, 230 are full-time teachers. The number of its students reaches 22,000, including 5,500 doctoral and graduate students as well as 600 international students.

Northwest University is one of the earliest universities that carried out international collaborations in China. As far back in the end of 1960s, we had already begun to enroll international students. Some of them are from Japan and Vietnam. In 1980s, Northwest university initiated cooperative relationship with several universities in Japan (like Kyoto University and Bukkyo University) and America (like West Michigan State University, Michigan State University, Saint Thomas University). International collaborative research always remains one of the top priorities of the university's development strategies. So far, 90 universities and research institutes from 30 countries have established partnerships with my university.

Between 2001 and 2006, 14 major international projects have been undertaken, 42 international workshops and conferences held, 710 experts invited to the university to deliver lectures and conduct research, and more than 300 mid-career faculty members sent to sister institutions for collaborative research. The prevailing internationalization of higher education and the intense competition of international tech-innovation have provided more opportunities than challenges for the university. It has taken more initiatives and allocated more resources to accomplish international collaborative research more extensively and fruitfully.

Among the 14 international collaborative research projects, I would like to highlight the following five.

1. Joint Research in Early Life Evolution

In the past ten years, the Early Life Evolution Research team headed by Prof. Shu Degan, a world prestigious expert in Geology, has cooperated productively with universities and research institutes from America, England, Germany, Canada, and Japan. Take as an example, the collaboration with Prof. Simon Conway Morris from the University of Cambridge, who is a member of British Royal Academy, it has proven to be very successful. Ten papers yielded from the joint research in the field of Early Evolution of Deuterostomia have been published in *Nature* and *Science*. Their

collaborative research has manifested the direct fossil evidence to support the discovery that Phylum Vetulicolia was the most primitive forms on morphological evolution, set up the most complete Phylogeny of Deuterostomia till now, and constructed for the first time the Phylogeny of Early Cambrian Deuterostomia and Animal tree of Cambrian Explosion. All these achievements have enriched Darwin's Theory of Evolution. These critical findings attract wide attention from all over the world.

2. Cooperative Research in Pharmaceutical and Biological Technique

National Engineering Research Center for Miniaturized Detection System of Northwest University is approved of by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. The center focuses on the miniaturized detection, advanced technology in the pharmaceutical field as well as its development and industrialization. Recently they have been endeavoring to set up a technology platform of "Personalized Medicine and Drug Screening". At present they are making great efforts to study the high drug screening technology of Cytochrome P450.

Cyprogen (USA) is a high-tech company committed to the research and development of the advanced biology products and services. They have been studying the enzyme kinetics design and results analysis for many years. Through the visiting scholar program and frequent data exchanges Cyprogen and National Engineering Research Center can take full advantage of both sides to solve current problems and achieve mutual benefits. In the recent past, they have cloned many SNP genes of CYP450 successfully and completed some drug screening in vitro. Moreover, the results are consistent with the reports of other researchers.

3. Archaeological Research of the Ancient Silk Road

Situated at the starting point of the ancient Silk Road—Chang'an, Northwest University enjoys the geographical advantage to carry out the archaeological study of the Silk Road. Founded in 1956, the Department of Archaeology is one of the oldest in China. Up till the present moment, the Department has established academic exchange relationships with universities and research institutes from over 10 countries from Asia, Europe, America, and Oceania. Hundreds of scholars and experts from the international partners have paid visits to and given speeches at the Department. They are mainly from Japan, UK, France, Germany, USA, and Italy, to name but a few. More than 20 international students have successfully completed their degree or non-degree study in the Department.

Between 2001 and 2006, the joint research projects on the ancient Silk Road with foreign partners include: 1) joint research on Historic Remains of Ancient Buddhism in Shaanxi, China with Tokyo Research Institute of Culture Properties. 2) joint research on the protection program of the Emperors' Mausoleum Stone Carving of Tang Dynasty with Tokyo Research Institute of Culture Properties; 3) archaeological research about the Silk Road with University of Vienna, Austria and Oriental University of Di Napoli, Italy. Through the above-mentioned joint projects, the similarities and differences between the Buddha molding methods in different times and places have been studied, dozens of nomadic sites along the silk road have excavated, and the essence of ancient silk road culture explored.

4. Joint Research Program of Digitalized Virtual Restoration of Damaged Relics

China is a nation abundant in historic relics, especially in its western regions. Most of the valuable relics are pottery, porcelain, bronze, and terra cotta. Unfortunately, a considerable number of them have become either fragments or debris owing to centuries of weathering, erosion, war as well as historical changes. A major concern of the institutions with preservation is the repeated manual repair of the relics. In order to solve the problem of appropriate reconstruction, since 2001 Visualization Technology Institute, supported by China's Ministry of Science and Technology, NSFC, and China's Ministry of Education, has conducted extensive research on digitalized virtual restoration of damaged relics by using graphics, virtual reality, and visualization technique. This research not only accelerates the speed of relic restoration but also reduces the damage to relics during repair process.

Many foreign experts including Prof. A. Cerepi and Dr. Daim from France and Austria have been invited with the cooperation of Chinese research group. Due to the commitment of both sides, they have achieved a major breakthrough in the methods of contour line extraction and free match, realized shape based curve matching through vector space transform, and eventually developed a computer-aided relic restoration system. It provides a foundation of relic restoration, repair and simulation and also breaks a new frontier of cultural relic restoration.

5. Joint Programs of Resources, Environmental and Social Development in Western China

Northwest University has made significant progress in the Qinling golden snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopothecus rpxellana*) study. The Qinling Snub-Nosed Monkey Research Center of Northwest University has been cooperating with Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University and Santiago Zoological Society for more than ten years. The studies were conducted in ecological and behavioral aspects of the species. Basing on field observations, the researchers have confirmed the social structure, foraging behavior and time budget.

As far back as in 1992, the German Korad Adenaur Foundation and the School of Economics and Management of Northwest University jointly set up the Chinese German Management Institute to encourage the economic development in Western China. Starting from the founding day, the experts of the Institute have developed some key research programs such as "Study of SMEs (Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises) Environmental Pollution in Northwestern China", "The Comparative Study on Sino-German SMEs Starts-up" with the financial help of German Korad Adenaur Foundation. Through the continuous study of the enterprises, especially small and medium sized ones, the Institute focuses on solving the utilitarian problems faced by them in the northwest of China. As a result, they published papers and articles and fostered enterprise management experts. Furthermore, they have not only enriched and developed the theories concerning small- and medium-sized enterprises but also promoted the development of the enterprises. After 2004, the European Studies Center and American Ford Foundation have invested several times in the Study on Relative Policies of Sustainable Development in Northwestern China. Besides, the research capacity regarding this topic has been enhanced because of staff

exchanges and academic communications among Northwest University and its international partner institutes.

International Collaborative Research is time-, energy-, and resource-consuming. What factors contribute to a fruitful and sustainable cooperation? From my perspective, there are mainly three.

First of all, mutually beneficial resources and common interests serve as a precondition.

Among all the disciplines of Northwest University, History, Archaeology, Geology, Life Sciences, Economics, and Chemistry enjoy strong academic strengths. The past experience indicates that strong disciplines are more favored by international collaborative research.

I would like to take Archaeology as an instance. Thanks to the accumulation of academic achievements in the long run and profound historical resources, the discipline is excellent in archaeological studies of Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang Dynasties and of the western regions of China. This excellence brings more opportunities for joint research. For example, in April 2004, the Historical Museum of my university collected and preserved the Epitaph for Ino Manari, one of the Diplomats to Tang Dynasty (Kentoushi). It is the earliest epitaph of international students from Japan in Tang Dynasty, and also one of the earliest stone tablets in which the nation's name was inscribed. Therefore, the announcement triggered an upsurge among Chinese and Japanese scholars on the study of the tradition of Chinese-Japanese friendship. Furthermore, Northwest University jointly organized four academic workshops with Japanese counterparts and published a collection of academic research papers.

Secondly, scientific innovation serves as the basic driving force.

Joint research requires helps to tackle major academic issues and enriches scholar's perspectives. For instance, after understanding the origin and evolution of typical animals, Professor Shu Degan is very interested in the historical interactions between physical earth and organisms. Fortunately, Professor Shigenori Maruyama of Tokyo Institute of Technology and Kinya Yasui of Hiroshima University of Japan also shows interest in this topic. Consequently, the Early Life Institute led by Professor Shu and the group of Professor Shigenori Maruyama began the challenging cooperation in terms of "the Evolution of Life and Environments: from Snowball to the Phanerozoic Earth Records in South China".

Thirdly, fostering innovative talents secures its sustainability.

It has been widely accepted at Northwest University that fostering innovative talents to participate in the research projects is of crucial importance for international cooperative research. The cooperation between the Ford Foundation in America and the European Union with Northwest University on economic development in Western China has set a brilliant model. Theory and methodology are regarded as tremendously important in carrying out the cooperative program. Accordingly, both parties have realized that it is necessary to offer training on research methodology to their staff. The European Studies Center has provided a project funding of 388, 700 Euros to support researchers to conduct studies on the policies of sustainable

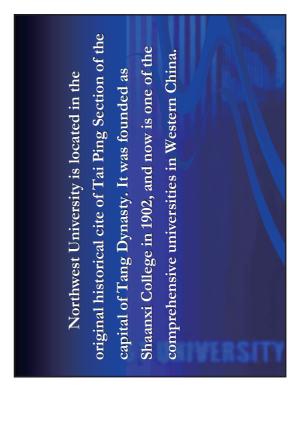
development in Western China. They can take courses in Europe such as Regional Economic Development and Social Policies Studies. The Ford Foundation has also allocated funding to improve the joint research ability of our staff.

Due to the joint research projects, a group of innovative talents with international perspectives have emerged. For instance, Zhang Xingliang and Hua Hong stand out among the gifted young scholars in the study of early life evolution. Zhang Xingliang has published more than 20 papers on Cambrian Explosion in the international geological journal. He was selected for the Outstanding Talents Project in 2005 by the Ministry of Education. Hua Hong has not only made the discovery of the biomineralization and asexual reproduction of Cloudin, the tubular metazoan fossil but also revealed the complete biological transfer from organic tube layers to crypto-microgained. This provides important proving material biomineraliztion of metazoan. Benefiting from international joint research, these innovative talents will in turn promote the joint research and secure its sustainability.

In conclusion, to achieve international cooperative research, we need to identify mutually beneficial resources and common interests, aim at tech-innovation and pay much attention to nurture talent.

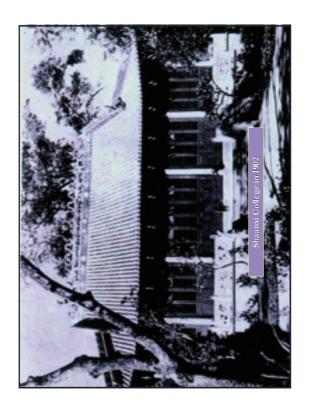
The location of Northwest University, in the former ancient Chang'an city and Guan Zhong plain in Western China, might not enjoy the same advantages associated with the coastal areas. However, being the cradle of the Chinese civilization and the starting point of the Ancient Silk Road, this place is outstanding and prominent in its rich cultural and sci-tech resources, and waiting to be jointly explored.



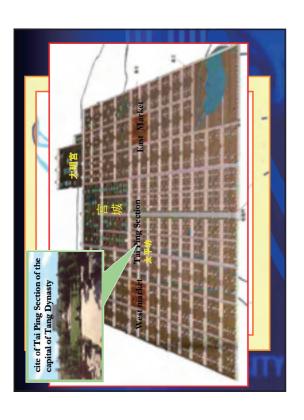




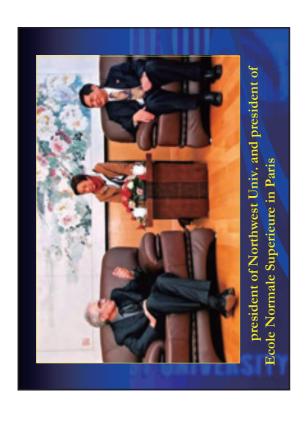




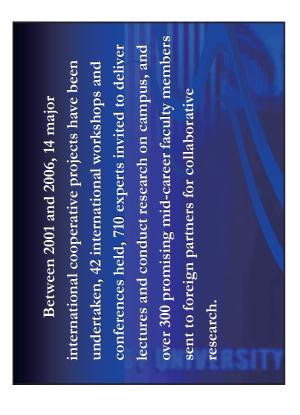




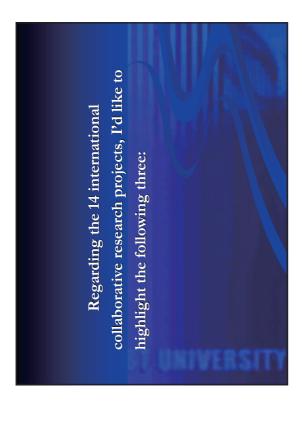
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For example, the collaboration with Prof.

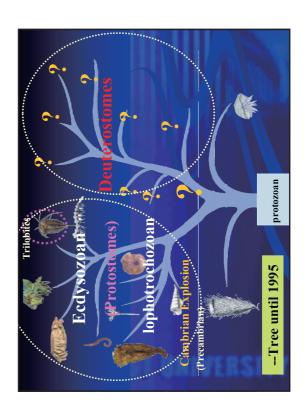
Simon Conway Morris from Cambridge University, also a Member of British Royal Academy, has proven to be very successful.

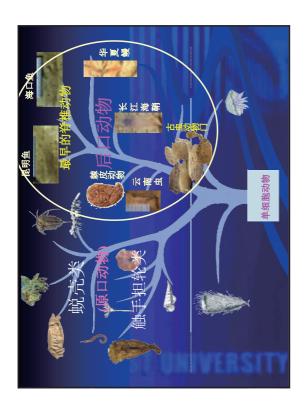


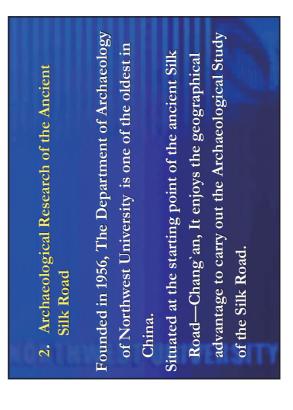


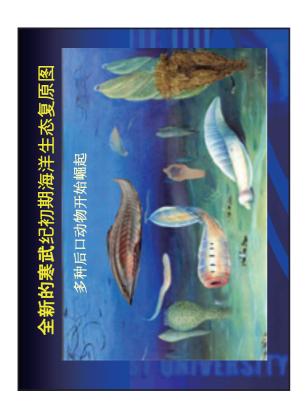






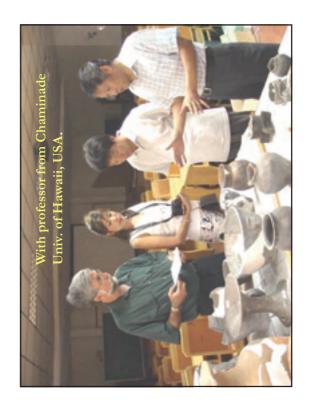


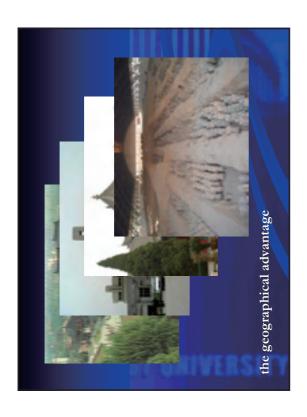






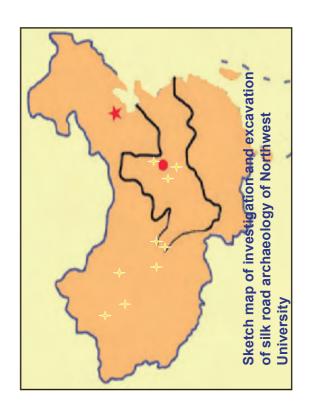


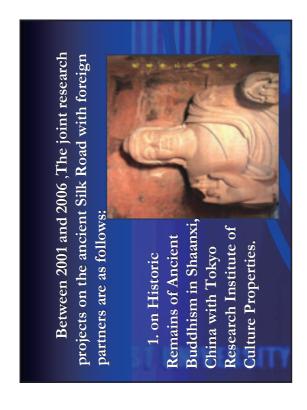


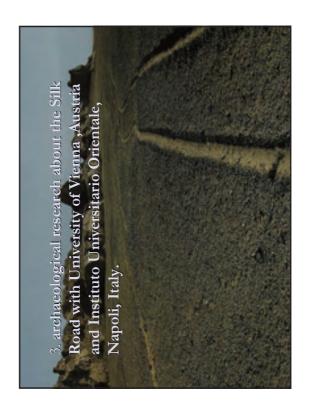


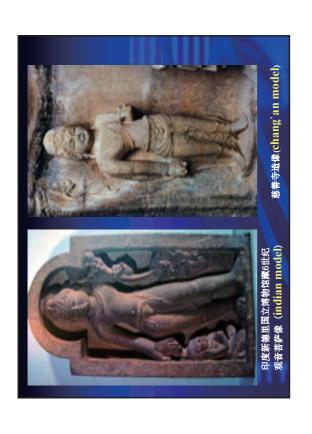






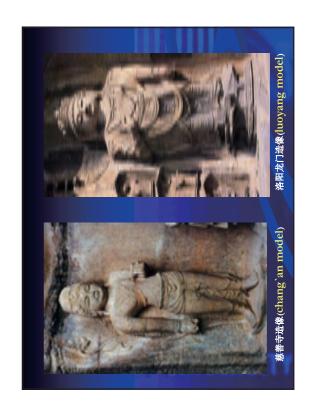






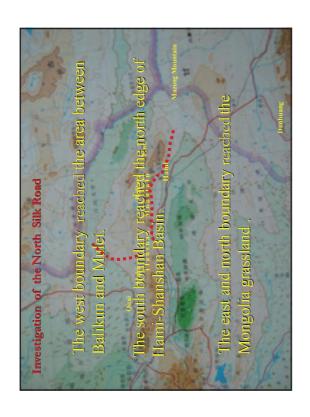














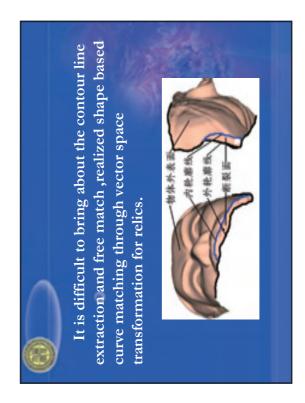
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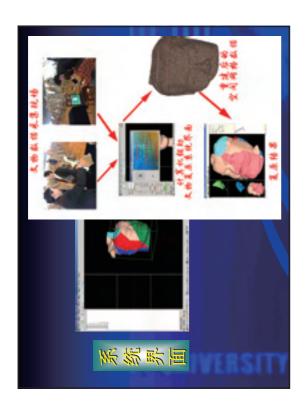
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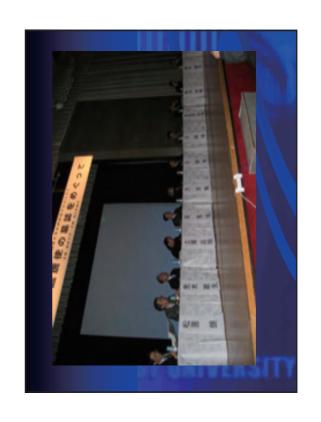
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Northwest University jointly organized 4 academic workshops with Japanese scholars, and published a collection of academic research papers.





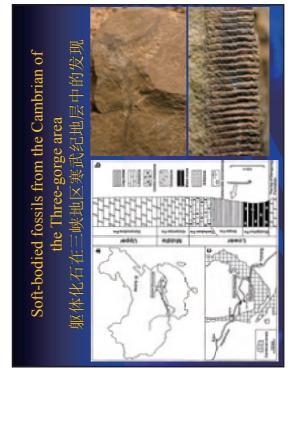




Joint research that helps to tackle major

academic issues and enriches scholars'

perspectives can always endure.



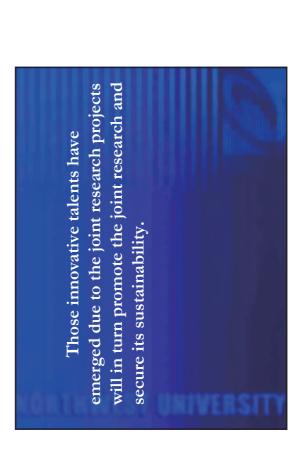




importance to international cooperative research.

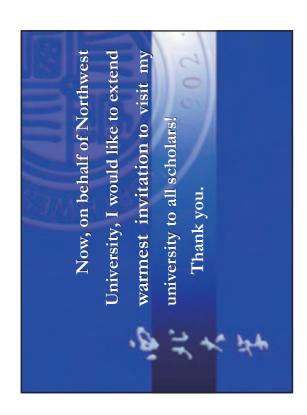
University that fostering innovative talents who participate in the research projects is of crucial

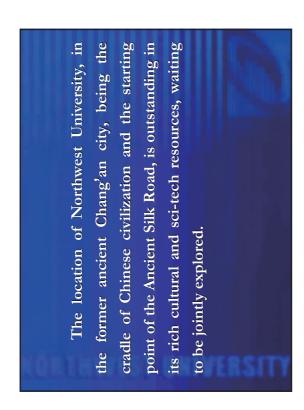
It has been widely accepted at Northwest



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Toward Engineering Educational Leader via Active and Sustainable International Research Collaboration

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THAILAND

ABSTRACT

New challenging ways toward leadership development have been formulated with an objective of sustainable growth of engineering education in not only domestic but also global level. Faculty of Engineering, CHILALONGKORN University has tried to establish challenging attitudes which are required for achievement of development of new generation of engineers with engineer excellence. It is an important issue that the outcome-based management would be undertaken to ensure sustainable development in collaborative research works. Moreover, mutual benefits among each stakeholder involving in the global engineering education will essentially play an important role in our brighter future.

Keywords: Engineering Education, Collaborative research, International Collaboration



Vision, Mission and Core Value of F.Eng.

Present status of F.Eng.

Vision and Mission of CU

Overview

Chulalongkorn University

Roadmap and Strategic Clusters toward

Engineering Educational Leader

Summary



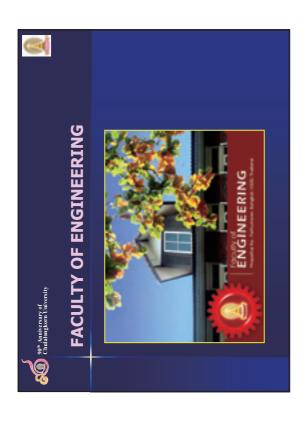






internationally sustainable society



















- Nationally and internationally accepted

academic excellence

Stakeholder Perspective

Strategic Plans

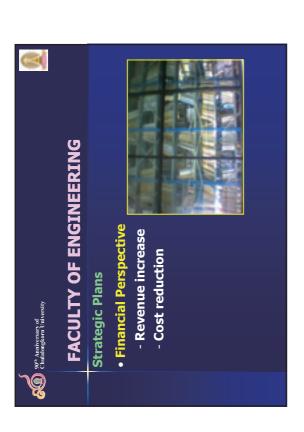
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

level and corresponding to internation - Student ability accepted at national

standard







international collaborations with universities and organizations worldwide, including
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)

- University of Maryland, College Park (USA)

- Weldinf Institute SLV Munich (Germany)

- Oregon State University (USA)

- Warsaw Univ. of Technology (Poland)

Faculty of Engineering is engaged in

International Collaborations

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

90th Anniversary of Chulalongkorn University

Slovak Univ. of Technology (Slovak Republic)

