

**Proposing New Forms of Collaboration:
Establishing Liaison Offices at Counterpart Universities, Multilateral
Exchange Programs, International University-Industry Collaboration, etc.**

Yanwing Leung

Deputy Director of Center for International Academic Exchange, National Taiwan University
1 Sec 4, Roosevelt Rd., 106 Taipei, Taiwan Republic of China

ABSTRACT

Despite the proliferation and popularity of email, the need for direct physical contact remains necessary and sometimes has its advantages. An offshore liaison office or center can facilitate communication and solidify contacts as well as provide temporary accommodation for visitors. In addition, an enduring and salient physical presence can translate into goodwill and have an icon effect. To expedite academic exchange and collaboration, the newly created Taiwan Research University Consortium or the Taiwan University System now has plans to establish contact offices and residential quarters initially in two University of California campuses and is developing ties with other sister consortiums in the Asia Pacific region, where a liaison office may conveniently serve as an administrative outpost.

The following are some key factors to be considered:

- ◆ Liaison offices may serve as recruiting center and point of contact for official or urgent businesses.
- ◆ Such presence should be established based on the principle of reciprocal respect and expedience.
- ◆ Joint liaison offices may be established for a group of institutions from a specific country or region instead of for individual schools.
- ◆ Such offices should operate independent of any political concern or purpose.