

**Promoting Research Collaborations through International Consortia:  
APRU as a Case Study**

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**ABSTRACT**

This presentation will provide the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) as a case study to illustrate the roles of a consortium in stimulating and promoting international research collaborations. Established in 1997 and currently with a membership of 37 leading research universities in the Pacific Rim, APRU was formed to foster education, research and enterprise with the aim of contributing to the economic, scientific and cultural advancement in the Pacific Rim. To date, APRU has successfully established regular research symposiums which provide networking platforms that facilitate knowledge exchange and professional development of experts and researchers in the related fields. Research projects have also been initiated to address critical research topics of common concern. These collaborations have been invaluable in stimulating and promoting active cross-border research among APRU member universities. The challenges facing such international collaborations will be discussed and the accomplishments of these undertakings will also be highlighted.

## APRU History

- Formed in 1997
- Trans-Pacific grouping of 37 leading universities from 16 economies in Pacific Rim



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## APRU Objectives

- Foster education, research and enterprise thereby contributing to the economic, scientific and cultural advancement in the Pacific Rim
- Promote scientific, educational and cultural collaborations among Pacific Rim economies
- Commitment to global academic and research standard



## APRU Membership Trans-Pacific network of 37 leading research universities



## Structure & Organization

### Steering Committee

- Presidents of member universities
- Provides leadership for APRU
- Current Chair is University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown



### APRU Secretariat

- currently located in NUS



## Governance Meetings

### Annual Presidents Meeting (APM)

Presidents address issues relating to APRU's governance and strategy, as well as matters of strategic importance to research universities



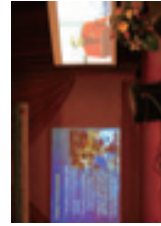
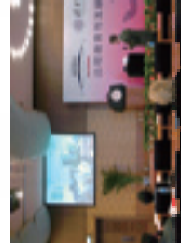
### Senior Staff Meeting (SSM)

Senior staff review development and implementation of APRU activities



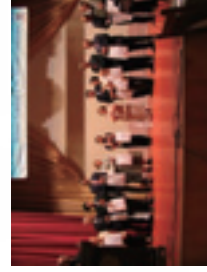
## Research Symposiums (I)

- **Distance Learning and the Internet Conference** (since 2000)
- **Chief Information Officer Conference** (to be inaugurated in 2007)
- **Research Symposium on Earthquakes and Tsunamis** (since 2005)
- **Research Symposium on Brain and Mind** (since 2006)



## Research Symposiums (II)

- **Infectious Diseases Symposium** (2004)
- **Microgravity Research Symposium** (2001)
- **Pacific Rim Research Symposium** (2000)
- **Digital Libraries Research Symposium** (2000)



## Nurturing Young Talents

- Doctoral Students Program (2000)
- Fellows Program (1999)



## Research Projects

- Technology Transfer & Wealth Creation (2001-2002)
- Internationalization of APRU universities (2003-2004)
- PECC-APRU Joint Education Study - The Asia Pacific Education Market (2006-2007)



## APRU World Institute (AWI)

- Research Institute addressing issues of global importance (scientific, social, economic)
- Draw on the talent base of APRU universities and bring together talent around the world
- Current focus: Public Health, Environmental Sustainability, Economic Integration



## APRU World Institute (AWI)

### AWI Workshops in 2007:

1. **Climate Change: Challenges and Strategies for Sustainable Cities**  
(April 4-6, 2007; UC San Diego)
2. **Economic Integration in the Asia Pacific Region**  
(May 15-17, 2007; Kyoto University)
3. **The Role of Universities in Addressing Emerging Public Health Threats in the Asia Pacific Region**  
(May 24-26, 2007; Peking University)



## What are the challenges?

1. Diverse interests and needs
2. Diverse cultures and practices



## THE APRU FORMULA:

1. Common Visions
  2. Focused Group of Members
  3. Sound Governance
  4. Strong Leadership
  5. Established Relations
- = **Sustainability**



More about APRU:

<http://www.apru.org>

