THE VOICE OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17
Today’s challenges are too complex to solve alone...

... acting together there’s almost no limit to what we can accomplish
The past year has brought turbulence in areas of public policy from international relations and climate change to economic cooperation and academic autonomy.

As the only organization of leading research universities that connects societies around and across the Pacific, APRU’s voice of knowledge and innovation has become increasingly important.

No other Asia-Pacific organization is better suited to advocating on behalf of thought leaders and universities to build trust and effect change. Our members represent a significant proportion of the research and innovation capabilities of the APEC economies.

Now that APRU’s International Secretariat is based in China, new opportunities exist for deeper cooperation and greater impact.

This Annual Report demonstrates how our collective voice is being heard in impactful ways. As chair of APRU, I am proud to present this Report demonstrating our progress across targeted areas of international collaboration and partnership.

At the same time, the dynamism and diversity of the Pacific Rim requires us continually to evaluate what we do and how we do it. We will continue to change so that APRU can deliver increasing value to its members and an ever stronger contribution to the societies around the Pacific Rim.

Gene D. Block
Chancellor, UCLA
Chair, APRU
Steering Committee
June 2016 - 2017

Founders

Former APRU Chairs
We believe that universities enhance their contribution to society through accessing the talents of diverse communities. APRU has the opportunity to demonstrate thought leadership, both within and outside the network, to advance equity and diversity across its member universities.

We recognize that our universities operate within different contexts and are at different points in progressing these objectives.

As university presidents we see consensus on policy principles as an opportunity to unify the network and demonstrate the added value of an international alliance.

We therefore endorse the following principles:

1. Diversity at all levels is a key factor in the success of universities.

2. The achievement of diversity requires a commitment to promoting equity and bringing about the associated changes that result in positive and powerful outcomes.

3. APRU universities will work towards making gender equity an integral part of their diversity strategy, organizational structure and culture including their strategic objectives and senior accountabilities.

4. APRU universities will develop a clear, consistent and sustainable policy framework appropriate to their diverse contexts that guides, promotes and reinforces their commitment to gender equity and diversity.

5. APRU universities will commit to collecting and using data to measure progress and inform future strategy and policy.

APRU Presidents
Kuala Lumpur
June 2016
As the voice of knowledge and innovation, we will continue to use our unique geographical reach to bring together the region’s leaders and brightest minds to address the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Pacific Rim.

APRU has now been headquartered in Hong Kong for more than a year, the first international association of leading research universities to be based in China. We have appointed a new team in the International Secretariat to respond to our members’ priority for a strategy that:

• builds international influence;
• contributes to global challenges;
• develops the network’s capacity as a think-tank;
• raises the international visibility of our members; and
• provides opportunities and pathways for the international engagement of faculty and students.

In short, APRU is fulfilling its role as the voice of knowledge and innovation for the APEC economies.

This Annual Report highlights significant achievements of member universities through their engagement with APRU partnerships and programs. It also shares the deliberations of presidents and senior international leaders who govern and shape the work.

The volatile international context, now more than ever before, provides a compelling raison d’être for an association that connects leaders in higher education and research across and around the Pacific. The building of active cooperation and long-term trust between network members and with external partners in government, business and communities is essential as regional tensions become more complex.

Among the many significant activities in this report, I draw your particular attention to the following:

• The Presidential Statement on Gender Equity and Diversity and the continuing work of the Asia-Pacific Women in Leadership program (APWiL);
• The extensive engagement with APEC and UN bodies in areas of critical interest to research universities (e.g. sustainability, the Pacific Ocean, science and technology policy, human resource development, labor mobility, an APEC Education Strategy);
• The opportunities arising from the China Roundtable and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI);
• The positive response by the policy community to the APRU Impact Report 2016 which has provided an evidence base for the research strengths of our members in addressing global issues;
• The launch of the Sustainable Cities and Landscapes program hub;
• The continuing activities of the Multi-hazards, Global Health, and Population Aging program hubs as well as the Digital Economy Initiative, the Research Museums symposium and the Brain and Mind symposium.

I wish to thank so many of our members for hosting network events that enable the sharing of knowledge and experience and build new leadership: the Provosts’ Forum, the Vice Presidents for Research Meeting, APWiL Workshops, the Chief Information Officers’ Meeting, the Undergraduate Leaders’ Program, and the APRU Fundraising Conference.

It has been my privilege to work with a Chair, Chancellor Gene Block, and Steering Committee who are looking ahead to ensure that APRU strengthens its role internationally and its value to its members. I extend my thanks to them and to the senior international leaders who comprise the International Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) and the Senior Staff Meeting. Their insights, critical thinking and support have ensured our successful negotiation of a time of transition.

APRU was founded to advance international cooperation and understanding, creating relationships of enduring trust, working together to solve major issues facing our diverse societies, and forming a new generation of responsible global citizens. APRU is committed to upholding these values.

As the voice of knowledge and innovation, we will continue to use our unique geographical reach to bring together the region’s leaders and brightest minds to address the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Pacific Rim.

Christopher Tremewan
Secretary General
**APRU in China**

With the International Secretariat’s move to Hong Kong, APRU is the first China-based international network of leading research universities. On January 9–10, 2017, the China Roundtable focused on the new opportunities this offers to all APRU members and the new visibility this gives to the network.

APRU’s members from China celebrated the move of the International Secretariat to their country when they met at APRU’s headquarters located in the Institute for Advanced Studies Building at HKUST. Senior representatives from Fudan University, Nanjing University, Peking University, Tsinghua University, University of Science and Technology of China and Zhejiang University attended. APRU’s two members from Hong Kong, HKUST and the University of Hong Kong, also attended.

Members encouraged APRU to work more closely with APEC, to engage with the opportunities of the Belt and Road Initiative and to act as a think tank on the development of higher education in the region.

The Roundtable was chaired by Prof Guangzhi Xia (Tsinghua University), Dr Hongwei Xia (Peking University) and Prof Min Li (Zhejiang University).

Soon after, APRU signed an MOU to strengthen cooperation in science, technology and innovation with the Bangkok-based Innovation Cooperation Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
APRU’s Strategic Development

1997
Inaugural Phase
Objectives:
• Big Science advisor
• Interface with APSC leaders
• Collaboration in research

2000
Collegial Phase
• Established International Secretariat
• Started network events
• Involved VPs and Senior International Officers

2012
Strategic Priorities
New collaborative model: Program Hubs
3 strategic priorities:
• Shaping Higher Education and Research
• Creating Asia-Pacific Global Leaders
• Partnering on Solutions to Asia-Pacific Challenges

2016
Impact and Advocacy
• Impact and Advocacy Asia-Pacific / Global
• In partnership with policy-makers, business, communities

2020
Impeacting Economic and Social Well-being

The vision of APRU’s founding presidents was to contribute to policy-making in science and innovation and bring new knowledge to global challenges.

Along with sharing knowledge and experience on the fast-changing higher education landscape, these objectives still drive APRU’s strategy for international impact and advocacy.

APRU member universities constitute a significant proportion of the research and innovation capabilities of the APEC economies.

Providing the Evidence Base for Engagement

The first APRU Impact Report was launched in 2016:

- to identify where specialist expertise is located in research and education and in broader contributions to the social and economic well-being of Pacific Rim societies; and
- to establish the value of international collaboration amongst universities and with external partners in order to highlight further opportunities for collaboration that will have impact.

During the past year, APRU advanced policy development in the Asia-Pacific by contributing and participating in the following:

- APEC Education Network (Arequipa, May, 2016; Nha Trang, February, 2017)
- Asia Pacific Research Intelligence Conference cohosted by Elsevier and Keio University (Tokyo, June, 2016)
- APEC Education Strategy Workshop (Sydney, August, 2016)
- Science and Technology in Society Forum (Kyoto, October, 2016)
- Regional Action on Climate Change (Kyoto, October, 2016)
- Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (Tokyo, October, 2016)
- APEC Quality Assurance in Online Education Workshop (Bali, November, 2016)
- Chinese Academy of Sciences in the Belt and Road Initiative (Beijing, November, 2016)
- Asian and Pacific Rim Research Integrity Network Meeting (Hong Kong, February, 2017)
- UN Oceans Preparatory Meeting (New York, February, 2017)
- APEC Health Working Group (Nha Trang, February, 2017)
- APEC Project DARE Workshop (Singapore, May 2017)
Singing a New Song for the Pacific

APRU Presidents have prioritized the contribution of research universities to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, APRU has begun to focus on SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Pacific is the world’s largest ocean (covering 46% of the earth’s water surface and 28% of its total surface) and plays an important role in its climate. Many societies are at risk from climate change including sea level rise and extreme climate events.

The Pacific also offers a rich economic resource for fishing, representing approximately 60% of the world’s annual fish catch. Pacific Rim challenges include improving scientific knowledge of marine life, developing international instruments of ocean governance, addressing climate change, and sustainable management and protection of marine biodiversity.

Actions:

- Supporting the implementation of SDG14. Dr Christopher Tremewan, APRU Secretary General, attended the UN Oceans Preparatory Meeting in New York on February 15–16, 2017.
- Developing APRU voluntary commitments for the implementation of SDG14 to raise awareness and address major problems the Pacific Ocean faces; developing an effective framework connecting latest research with policy makers and international partners while encouraging future leaders to take on these challenges.
- Building a network of APRU research programs and centers by setting up an effective platform that will enable APRU to create a multidisciplinary platform to support the implementation of SDG14.
- Presenting at the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Meeting in Nha Trang, Vietnam on February 25–26, 2017, supporting institutional capacity building and APEC project development and implementation aligned with SDG14.
- Evaluating how APRU members could best relate to the Ocean Action Hub, a knowledge sharing web platform developed by UNDP that provides resources and opportunities for interaction around the globe to assist stakeholders to get engaged on ocean action.
- Mapping APRU members’ expertise on Pacific Ocean research through data analytics with the assistance of Elsevier.
Building Safe, Resilient Societies

90% of the world’s earthquakes and 81% of the world’s largest earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire. APRU member institutions excel in natural hazard research and disaster risk reduction (DRR), offering world-class research expertise to Pacific Rim societies.

APRU’s Multi-Hazards (MH) Program builds upon the strengths and collective capacities of members from around the Pacific Ring of Fire, aiming to build safer and more disaster resilient societies through education, research and partnerships.

Since April 2013, on the second anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the program has been led by the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan. The core aim of the Program is to harness the collective capacity of APRU Universities for cutting edge disaster risk reduction (DRR) research and improve DRR by actively contributing to international policy discussions.

Impact and Advocacy

The MH Program has been engaged in UN policymaking processes to improve DRR. It has advocated for the importance of partnerships with researchers and their institutions.

The APRU MH Program has organized technical, thematic and side events at the UN World Conference on DRR (Sendai, March 2015), the Global Platform on DRR; the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference for DRR (Geneva, January 2016); the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (New Delhi, November 2016); the UNISDR Asian Science and Technology Conference on DRR (Bangkok, August 2016); and attended and presented at the Regional Innovation Forum (Bangkok, December 2016) and the UNISDR Asia Science, Technology and Academic Advisory Group meeting (Kuala Lumpur, May 2016).


(See pg. 31 of APRU Impact Report.)
Of the top 100 institutions globally in this topic by scholarly output, APRU produces 23% of the publications, 28% of the citations and 25% of views.

Performance on research metrics for tectonic, meteorological and hydrological hazards relative to the world average shows APRU’s strengths. See pg. 33 of APRU Impact Report.
Working for a Healthy Planet

In 2016 the World Economic Forum included serious global health challenges such as dealing with pandemics, the rise of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), and the prohibitive cost of care, particularly in the developing countries, within the 10 key global challenges the world faces.

The predicted rise of the global population to 9.7 billion in 2050 with two billion aged over 60 will also require a shift of the current focus on treating sick people towards preventing illness and preserving the health of the global population.

The APRU Global Health (GH) Program, led by the University of Southern California’s Institute for Global Health, is leveraging leading edge research among APRU universities to address many of these most pressing global health issues and the impact these have on the wider population through driving cooperation across academia, government and the private sector.


Capacity Building On-Line – Future Global Health Leaders

In 2015/2016 the Global Health Hub developed and offered for the first time two graduate level distance education courses aimed at future global health leaders, drawing on the expertise of leading GH practitioners and latest findings from APRU GH academics.

Global Health Live! extends the theory of global health to the practice of global health. Key focuses of the program were the relationship of health, foreign policy, and global health leadership. Student groups made up of participants from five universities across the Asia-Pacific region participated in the live session simultaneously for 10 weeks. International guest lecturers and global health leaders spoke during each session. Each student group created and submitted as part of the course work a video on a global health leadership topic.


Global Health Ethics has been developed and offered as an 11-week online seminar introducing graduate GH students across the Asia-Pacific to some of the major ethical challenges in conducting global health research and practice.


In 2016, the GH-Hub introduced the 1st Virtual Asia-Pacific Global Health Case Competition to encourage students to exercise critical thinking skills using a ‘real world’ challenge. Student teams had to create a video addressing a pressing global health problem challenge relating to disaster preparedness in the Pacific Rim. The winning team from Our Lady of Fatima University in the Philippines was awarded their prize at the annual 2016 Global Health Conference.


The Sydney Statement on Employee Health and Well-being, developed at a special workshop conducted as part of the 2016 annual Global Health Conference hosted at UNSW Sydney, outlines the key roles universities can play in the advancement of employee health programs. The workshop brought together leading experts across the APRU Global Health network and focused on the role of employers in treating and managing illness and promoting well-being among their employees.


Economies project. The project aims to address the Asia-Pacific lag with respect to women’s health and economic participation, drawing on the expertise from public, private and academic representatives with an emphasis on workplace health and safety programs.


Asia’s elderly population is projected to reach nearly 923 million by the middle of this century. As a result, the region is on track in the next few decades to become one of the oldest in the world. Governments in Asia are generally poorly prepared for this vast change that will have wide social and economic consequences.

Today, the Asia-Pacific has countries with some of the youngest and oldest populations in the world. The region includes economies such as Japan, with the highest proportion of elderly citizens in the world, and the Philippines, where over 50% of the population is under the age of 25. The group also contains economies such as Hong Kong with a ‘bulging middle’, where a low current birth rate is insufficient to replace the middle-aged population. Other Asian economies are also facing a decline in fertility rates and their workforces are growing older. Due to the implementation of its one-child policy over the last three decades China will face a rapid aging of its population in the next 20 to 30 years.

The implications of an aging population will provide increasingly complex problems beyond economic challenges. The definition of ‘old age’ is being redefined and transformed due to the changing intersection of the social, medical and clinical aspects of aging.

As a response to these pressing issues, the Population Aging Research Hub was established in September 2014 in partnership with the Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) at UNSW Sydney.

The Program Steering Group brings together renowned experts on population aging across the Asia-Pacific, providing a network platform for experts to share best practices, to engage with government and enterprise; and to support capacity building through stimulating new and relevant research collaboration amongst the early career researchers’ community.

Impact and Advocacy
APRU’s Population Aging experts were invited to work closely with APEC to support the development of an APEC Labor Mobility Framework. This has included the development of a briefing paper as well as a presentation and an expert panel participation at a two-day APEC workshop by Professor John Piggott (Scientia Professor, Director, CEPAR, UNSW Sydney and APRU Population Aging Research Hub Chair) and Professor Albert Park (Professor of Economics, HKUST and APRU Population Aging Research Steering Group Member) at the APEC Senior Officials’ Meeting in Nha Trang, Viet Nam on February 18, 2017.

The report by APRU experts Rafal Chomik (Senior Research Fellow, CEPAR, UNSW Sydney), John Piggott and Peter McDonald (Professor of Demography, University of Melbourne and Deputy Director, CEPAR), which was commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Employment to APRU, aims to influence a regional framework on labor mobility issues. The report suggests that cooperation in migration policy, education, and technology transfer would allow emerging economies within APEC to increase rates of growth, countering the ‘headwinds’ of population aging.

View the full report: http://bit.ly/2rANRrG.

Further information:
Why are East Asia’s elderly so depressed? This question led off the annual workshop in Sydney, July 21–22, 2016. Professor Albert Park from HKUST, a development and labor economist, gave a keynote comparing the well-being of the elderly in China, Korea and Japan. He showed that rates of depression are much higher among older Chinese than among older Korean or Japanese.

Other highlights included:

- Professor Rod Teyers, University of Western Australia, “Contractions in Chinese fertility and savings: long run domestic and global implication”
- Professor Jing You, Renmin University, “Smoothing or switching the ‘Great Gatsby Curve’? The distributional wealth impact of the Chinese rural pension reform across generations”
- Professor Hamming Fang, University of Pennsylvania, Scientific Director, Australian-China Population Aging Research Hub at CEPR/UNSW Sydney, “The Roles of Housing and Social Security in Intergenerational Transfers: The Case of China”
- Professor Xin Meng, Australian National University, “Long shadows of the Chinese Cultural Revolution: The Intergenerational Transmission of Education”
- 9 PhD students or early career researchers from APRU universities in Australia and Asia, presented their projects
- Professor Zhang Binzi of the Development Research Center of the PRC State Council; Dr. Xiaoxing Hao, Director of the China National Health Development Research Centre and Director of Development of the National Health and Family Planning Commission; Ms Liu Lan, Deputy Director of PKU Institute of Aging Studies; and Ms Nina Peng, CEO of Pinetree Care Group, shared with participants respectively on the current status and perspectives of the elderly care system, studies on healthy aging, education and training innovations in the field of aging in China as well as the effect of restorative care on longevity.

The award for excellent oral and poster presentation went to the following four students: Chaoh Guo from Peking University; Ikukun Famakin from City University of Hong Kong; Le Zhang from Yonsei University, and Mio Choki from University of Tokyo.


Stuart Firestein, the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Columbia University, stressed the importance of failure in science and encouraged his APRU academic audience to embrace high quality ignorance as a means to ask better, more informed questions. He gave the keynote address at the University of Auckland which hosted the latest APRU Research Symposium on Brain and Mind Research in the Asia-Pacific (BMAP), August 23–25, 2016.

Every two years for the last 10 years, the BMAP Symposium has brought together top researchers and clinicians in the field to share discoveries and explore potentially new areas of collaboration in neuroscience, promoting interdisciplinary brain and mind research in the Asia-Pacific.

Over 70 researchers were welcomed to Auckland by Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon and by Distinguished Professor Sir Richard Faull and Associate Professor Maurice Curtis from the Centre for Brain Research.

The Symposium engaged senior professors and research students in keynote presentations, research findings and poster sessions over a wide range of topics. A recommendation that emerged from the Symposium was that APRU may wish to bring about 10 leaders in a field together to focus on a topic for three days. ‘Topics proposed included healthy aging or brain disease prevention. ‘When experts get together informally with only a loose agenda, I think real magic can happen.’

Further information: http://bit.ly/2rg8NnB.
Over half of the world’s population now live in cities, making humans an urban species. In addition, cities now also consume three-quarters of the world’s energy and create three-quarters of the world’s emissions, requiring innovative design and planning solutions with the potential to endure over time in the face of unprecedented population growth and climate change.

Urbanization influences landscapes well beyond the city boundaries through resource extraction, food production, urban-rural income disparities, altered hydrological regimes, air, water and soil pollution, and impaired ecological processes. Understanding and managing these interconnections is a key to solving many critical sustainability issues of the 21st Century such as supplying adequate food, water and energy while preserving vulnerable populations and ecosystems.

The APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes (SCL) Hub hosted by the University of Oregon began in 2016 to address three fundamental questions around the Pacific Rim:

1. What forces shape the relationships between cities and their surrounding landscapes?
2. In what ways do those relationships affect the long-term sustainability of cities, cultures and Earth ecosystems?
3. How can those relationships enhance landscape-level sustainability, resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of continued expansion of cities?

Over the next three to five years the SCL Research Hub will address local city-landscape global challenges by engaging with partners from academia, local stakeholders, urban policy makers and major developers to bring about transformative activities and innovative solutions. The SCL Core group includes Australian National University, National Taiwan University, Tsinghua University, UCLA, University of Hong Kong, UNSW Sydney, University of Oregon and University of Washington.

Key activities will include the Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Annual Conference, the development of interdisciplinary research teams and collaborative projects, training opportunities and a book series of studies across the region. Find out more about the inaugural Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Annual Conference taking place in Portland, Oregon, USA in September 2017 at http://bit.ly/2r7aRL.
Defining our Digital Futures

Mobilizing specialists from universities in the Asia-Pacific on an Internet Economy and Governance agenda was a challenge taken up by the APRU Digital Economy Initiative in 2015.

In 2014, APRU Annual Presidents’ Meeting agreed to an initiative on the Digital Economy. The goal was to bring the academic community in the region into stronger contact with other members of the multi-stakeholder community concerned with the future development of the Internet. Keio University volunteered to develop and coordinate APRU programs under this Initiative. From it grew the Asia Pacific Institute for the Digital Economy (APIDE).

APRU’s strength in the field is reflected by almost one third of all inductees of the Internet Hall of Fame being affiliated to member universities. This is even outnumbered by APRU-affiliated laureates of the IEEE Internet Award where more than half of the laureates have studied or worked at APRU member universities.

Impact and Advocacy

The annual Digital Economy Offsite meeting series aims to strengthen formal and informal ties between universities and businesses in the region that are supportive of a broad-based program of research and advocacy on topical issues related to the Digital Economy. In addition, it aims to bring the academic circle closer to the worlds of industry governance and policy making with national governments, international organizations, and multilateral trade pacts.

The 2016 Business Offsite meeting, held in Tokyo in April, focused on the role of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement was likely to play in promoting growth and innovation in the Digital Economy of the Asia-Pacific region. Over a two-day period, academic experts debated, discussed and reflected with business leaders and government officials from the region about the merits of TPP, identifying areas where a new agreement might contribute to the Digital Economy and highlighting shortfalls and issues where further work will still be needed. Further information: http://apide.org/2016-business-offsite-report/.

The Offsite Discussions provided the basis for a number of published articles by Professor Jim Foster, Executive Director of APIDE, about the TPP contributing to the debate ongoing within the region.


The next Business Offsite Meeting will be hosted by the US-ASIA Technology Management Center, Stanford University in May 2017.

Further information: http://bit.ly/2r7xK3T.

Capacity Building

The APRU initiative on the Digital Economy reflects APRU’s commitment to help shape the regional conversation on the future of the Internet. It also supports universities’ role to conduct research, outreach and capacity building including forming the next generation of Asia-Pacific leadership in the Internet policy field.

The 2nd Internet Economy Summer Seminar jointly hosted by Keio University and APIDE in August 2016 offered the new generation of policy experts insights into current issues and aimed to build a policy consensus in areas of Internet governance such as privacy, security, and competition policy.

The Seminar offered a unique opportunity for government representatives from eight economies in the Asia-Pacific to experience first-hand how leading academic policy experts see the development of the Internet in the Asia-Pacific over the next 10 to 20 years. It aimed to consolidate the personal networks necessary to sustain a dialogue on Internet policy issues in regional institutions.

University museums with their scientific and cultural collections have a long-established place in public education, inspiring curiosity over generations.

With new tools to analyze artifacts and to make their collections available digitally, university museums are finding new ways to assist researchers and the public alike.

University art museums are also connecting their collections with the philosophical and scientific contexts of their origins and contemporary quests for meaning amidst social and environmental challenges.

To advance universities’ research frontiers and contribution to society, the APRU Research University Museums’ Network and Symposium was established in 2012 under the leadership of Professor Terafumi Ohno, Director, Kyoto University Museum, with the purpose of integrating collections with research and education activities.


Teaching beyond the Faculties

Over 60 faculty members, researchers, administrators and students from APRU universities and invited institutions were welcomed to the University of Hong Kong by President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Mathieson, and Dr Florian Knothe, Director, HKU University Museum & Art Gallery to the 3rd University Museums Research Symposium, October 5-7, 2016 in Hong Kong.

The program featured keynote speeches by Dr Heather Gaunt, The University of Melbourne and Peng-Fan Chen, National Taiwan University. Their respective topics were the use of art to foster ethics development in health professional students and NTU’s History Gallery’s changing role in becoming a facilitator of the pedagogical evolution of museology.

Over the two-day event, participants discussed object based learning, the benefits of teaching using museum collections, new curatorial practices, and the museum as a base for the practical training of students.


Linking Libraries around the Pacific Rim

APRU and the Pacific Rim Research Libraries Association (PRRLA) of 32 major libraries (20 of them from APRU members) have agreed to an affiliate relationship. In June 2016, the APRU Steering Committee recognized PRRLA as an affiliate organization. PRRLA’s chair, Ms Lorelei Tanji, University Librarian, UC Irvine, and APRU Secretary General Tremewan sent out a letter to APRU members inviting other APRU libraries to join PRRLA.

At their annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 26-28, 2016, APRU presidents confirmed the network’s priority objectives in international higher education, research and commitment to society.

Under the theme set by the host, The University of Malaya, “Collaborating to Resolve Societies’ Most Pressing Challenges”, presidents focused on the future of the humanities and social sciences while also sharing other major issues confronting the heads of research universities.

The APRU Impact Report was launched by President Tony Chan, HKUST, and by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Awang Bulgiba, University of Malaya. The Report provides the evidence base for APRU’s mission of relating the latest research to comprehensive solutions.

The Report’s purposes were announced as:

• identifying where specialist expertise is located in both research and education and broader contributions to the social and economic well-being of Asia-Pacific societies; and

• establishing the value of international collaborations amongst universities and with external partners in order to highlight further opportunities for cooperation which will have impact.

Dr Brad Fenwick, APRU Senior Adviser, spoke on behalf of Elsevier, APRU’s data analytics partner in producing the Report.

Presidents Lin Jianhua, Peking University, and President Pan-Chyr Yang, National Taiwan University, both of whom are members of the Steering Committee, discussed their aspirations for APRU and ways the organization could enhance the international strategy of their universities.

Two leading economists gave overviews of developments in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr Alan Bollard, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat, Singapore, and former Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, noted structural changes in the international economy, the benefits of globalization and the implications of changes in demography and technology.

Dr Jomo K. S., Institute of Strategic Studies, Malaysia and former UN Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, cited challenges to universities in the region such as the rise of jingoism, the impact of the proprietary movement of knowledge and the difficulties of measuring the impact of higher education in very different settings. He noted the profound differences between southeast Asia and northeast Asia in terms of the effect of foreign direct investment and the emergence of strong local companies.

Leadership of the Association passed to Chancellor Gene Block, UCLA, from President C.L. Max Nikias, USC. Chancellor Block was elected 8th APRU Chair.

Secretary General Christopher Tremewan reported on the strategic move to focus on impact and advocacy, the shift of the International Secretariat from Singapore to Hong Kong and the employment of a new staff team to take the organization into its next stage of growth.
Voices of Women Break Through

Leaders in Gender Equity Meet in Cebu, Philippines

The glass ceiling in academia and the gender pay gap were the subject of a keynote by Professor Cindy Fan, Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement, UCLA. She spoke on "Gender Equity in US Higher Education" at the Asia-Pacific Women in Leadership (APWiL) Workshop, November 22-23, 2016.

To address the problem of a leaky pipeline where few women could rise to senior leadership positions, Professor Fan called for global commitment and the networking of like-minded individuals to effect societal changes.

Other speakers included:
- Dr Amaryllis Torres, Professor Emeritus of UP Diliman and Executive Director of Philippine Social Science Council
- Dr Helen Lockey, Director of Educational and Institutional Intelligence, HKU
- Professor Robyn Overall, Emeritus Professor and Chair of Women in Science, The University of Sydney
- Professor Michael Tan, Chancellor of UP Diliman


Research Leaders Meet in Mexico

Leaders from the public research-funding bodies of Mexico and Korea addressed APRU Vice Presidents for Research and other senior research leaders and administrators when they met to discuss ways that APRU universities can collaborate across the Pacific on major challenges to their societies. Hosted by Monterey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM) on November 9-10, 2016, the meeting focused on:
- Global programs for research talent development;
- Technology-based entrepreneurship;
- International research collaborations;
- Intellectual property policy; and
- Challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region related to the capabilities of APRU members.

A panel of CEOs of major Mexican companies discussed the benefits of promoting cross collaboration between industry and academia.

Funding New Thinking

Meeting in San Francisco on July 11-12, 2016, and hosted by the University of Oregon (UO), the APRU Fundraising Conference heard a keynote address from President Jaeho Yeom on Korea University’s fundraising strategy and reinterpretation of the donor cycle. Explorations of the applicability of US-style fundraising in Asia were presented by Mr. Andreason, UO; Ms. Susan Madon, Director at Minerva Non-Profit Management; and Dr. Brad Fenwick, Senior Vice President Global Strategic Alliances at Elsevier. Dr. Eden Woon, HKUST; Professor Cindy Fan, UCLA; Ms. Jennie Lang, UNSW Sydney; Mr. Raul Esparza Valencia, Monterrey Institute of Technology Higher Education; and Ms. Marina Tan Harper, University of California, Davis, also gave presentations. Further information: http://bit.ly/2sa6XKu.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders

Undergraduate Leaders’ Program

Almost half of world leaders today have international education or work experience, the value of which has been highlighted by those surveyed. Schemes like the APRU Undergraduate Leaders’ Program (ULP), together with more general student exchange and activities, are helping to develop the next generation of leaders by stimulating students’ entrepreneurial, creative and innovative thinking and promoting knowledge transfer and cultural exchange among all student participants. 63 undergraduate students from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States participated in the ULP in Puebla, Mexico, from July 3-13, 2016. The exciting 10-day program, hosted by Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, enabled students from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds to explore innovative solutions to global challenges while gaining new perspectives of co-creation in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural context. Innovative activities and challenges including master classes by community leaders, theme-related lectures, seminars and workshops, fieldwork, history and art classes and cultural excursions were tailor-made for students. At the end of the program, students were challenged to come up with innovative solutions to the real-life problems of the local San Pedro Puebla Cholula community. Further information: http://bit.ly/2qC17JV.
Shaping the APRU Program

Senior Staff Meeting

APRU’s senior international leaders met in Cebu, the Philippines, September 7-9, 2016, for the Senior Staff Meeting to review and plan APRU’s activities.

Chaired by Professor Cindy Fan, UCLA, and Professor Jiro Kokuryo, Keio University, the meeting focused on the priority which emerged from their previous meeting in Auckland a year earlier: understanding internationalization in its current phase and ways to respond organizationally within universities.

Professor Andrew Wee, NUS, spoke on organization and communication within universities while Professor Joanna Regulska, UC Davis, addressed the issue of building strong, transformational university-wide partnerships.

In an address which showed the need for a historical awareness of the development of research universities in East Asia, Professor Rui Yang, University of Hong Kong, drew out the painful transitions faced by institutions which plan to upgrade academic quality and enhance academic autonomy while also being required to balance the interests of their governments.

In laying out APRU’s vision and plan in his report to the meeting, Secretary General Christopher Tremewan acknowledged the role of universities in rapid technological change and stated that universities will increasingly be held accountable for the moral responsibility this entails: commitment to a value system which ensured the benefits of research and education were available to those in most need of them.

The President of the University of the Philippines, President Alfredo Pascual, welcomed the participants.

The subsequent discussion included observations on:

- The tension between practical goals such as improving rankings and the moral mission of contributing to society;
- The need to be cautious about an East Asian Confucian ‘model’ being merely an instrumentalist view of education which too often blurs the boundaries between academia and government; and
- The value of vernacularism in East Asia especially in the humanities and social sciences should not be lost in the move to greater creativity and problem-solving skills.

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The President of the University of the Philippines, President Alfredo Pascual, welcomed the participants.

Dr Patricia Licuanan, Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, gave an overview of her government’s policies on internationalization and reforms of the school system which impact universities. Professor Jose Dalisay, Professor of English and Creative Writing, gave a stimulating overview of the history and socio-political landscape of the country.

Representatives of APRU partner organizations also spoke: Dr Gambhir Bhatta, Asian Development Bank; Alexander Boome, Hinrich Foundation; Dr Elizabeth Lyons, National Science Foundation (USA); and Dr Brad Fenwick, Elsevier.

Priorities emerged from the discussions and these included:

- Sharing of best practices in internationalization;
- Partnerships between members on transformative teaching innovations;
- Connecting research to public policy development;
- Improving the lives of disadvantaged communities; and
- Advancing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

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Delegates at the IPAC 2017 meeting. (Photo: University of Hong Kong)

APRU 2020: The Way Ahead

International Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) Meeting

Picking up the recommendations of the senior international leaders in Cebu, APRU’s International Policy Advisory Committee met at the University of Hong Kong, March 24-25, 2017.

IPAC’s agenda included:

• Reviewing the Strategic Framework for 2017-2020 being developed for submission to the APRU Steering Committee;

• Giving feedback on renewing APRU’s brand identity and positioning to the branding consultants;

• Extending APRU’s cooperation with APEC across a range of projects;

• Addressing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals by engaging with the UN Oceans Program; and

• Preparing for the Annual Presidents’ Meeting, Presidential Retreat and CEO Summit in Sydney hosted by UNSW Sydney.

Professor Gerard Postiglione, HKU, gave a presentation on the changing geopolitical realities in China and the region which stimulated a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of universities’ internationalization strategies.

International Policy Advisory Committee

Co-chairs
Cindy Fan
Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement
University of California, Los Angeles

Jiro Kokuryo
Vice-President for International Collaboration
Keio University

Members
Kriengkrai Boonlert-U-Thai
Assistant to the President for International Affairs
Chulalongkorn University

Vladimír Karilov
Academic Supervisor
Far Eastern Federal University

Sunhyuk Kim
Vice-President for International Affairs
Korea University

Joaquín Guerra
Vice Rector for Educational Innovation and On-line Programs
Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education

Luisa Chang
Vice President for International Affairs
National Taiwan University

Andrew Wee
Vice President (University and Global Relations)
National University of Singapore

John Kao
Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)
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University of Oregon

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Professor, USC Marshall School of Business and Special Liaison to APRU
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Katherine Belov, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Sydney
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Chile
Eduardo Vera, Director, International Relations, University of Chile

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Ann Tang, Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office, Fudan University
Eden Woon, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Pu Lijie, Associate Vice President for International Affairs, Nanjing University
Li Yansong, Vice President, Peking University
APRU International Secretariat

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Dr Melissa Withers
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University of Southern California

Dr Takako Izumi
Program Coordinator (APRU Multi-Hazards Program)
Tohoku University

Dr Yukang Ko
Program Director (APRU Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Hub)
University of Oregon
Partnership Engagements
May 2016 - April 2017

- APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group
  Arequipa, May, 2016; Nha Trang, February, 2017

- APEC Human Resources Development Working Group Meetings
  Arequipa, May, 2016; Nha Trang, February, 2017

- APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation
  Arequipa, May, 2016; Lima, August, 2016; Nha Trang, February, 2017

- APEC Education Network
  Arequipa, May, 2016; Nha Trang, February, 2017

- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia Science and Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
  Bangkok, August, 2016

- APEC Human Resources Development Working Group Meetings
  Arequipa, May, 2016; Nha Trang, February, 2017

- Science and Technology in Society Forum
  Kyoto, October, 2016

- Regional Action on Climate Change
  Kyoto, October, 2016

- Innovation for Cool Earth Forum
  Tokyo, October, 2016

- APEC Quality Assurance in Online Education Workshop
  Bali, November, 2016

- APEC Workshop on the Development of an APEC Labor Mobility Framework
  Nha Trang, February, 2017

- Asian Pacific Research Intelligence Conference cohosted by Elsevier and Keio University
  Tokyo, June, 2016

- APEC Education Strategy Workshop
  Sydney, August, 2016

- Regional Innovation Forum
  Singapore, February, 2017

- United Nations Oceans Preparatory Meeting
  New York, February, 2017

- Association of International Education Administrators Conference
  Washington, February, 2017

- United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Innovation Network
  Kaohsiung, March, 2017

- Chinese Academy of Sciences in the Belt and Road Initiative
  Beijing, November, 2016

- APEC Workshop on the Development of an APEC Labor Mobility Framework
  Nha Trang, February, 2017

- APEC Quality Assurance in Online Education Workshop
  Bali, November, 2016

- Asian and Pacific Rim Research Integrity Network Meeting
  Hong Kong, February, 2017

- Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
  New Delhi, November 2016

- APEC Education Strategy Workshop
  Sydney, August, 2016

- APEC Health Working Group
  Nha Trang, February, 2017
Network Meetings
May 2016 - April 2017

APRU Presidential Retreat and 20th Annual Presidents Meeting
University of Malaya

6th APRU Undergraduate Leaders’ Program
Puebla, July 3-13, 2016
Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education

APRU International Conference
San Francisco, July 11-12, 2016
University of Oregon

4th APRU-IRIDeS Multi-Hazards Summer School
Sendai, July 19-22, 2016
Tohoku University and the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS)

2nd APRU Digital Economy Summer Seminar
Tokyo, August 21-26, 2016
Keio University in partnership with Asia Pacific Institute for the Digital Economy (APIDE)

6th Brain and Mind Research in the Asia-Pacific Symposium
Auckland, August 23-25, 2016
University of Auckland

14th APRU Senior Staff Meeting
Cebu, September 7-9, 2016
University of the Philippines

10th APRU Global Health Workshop
Sydney, September 28-October 1, 2016
UNSW Sydney

3rd APRU University Museums Research Symposium
Hong Kong, October 5-7, 2016
University of Hong Kong

6th Education and Research Technology Forum
Singapore, November 17-18, 2016
National University of Singapore

Asia-Pacific Women in Leadership (APWIL) Workshop
Cebu, November 22-23, 2016
University of the Philippines

Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Core Group Meeting
Portland, November 10-12, 2016
University of Oregon

4th APRU Research Symposium on Aging in the Asia-Pacific
Beijing, November 6-8, 2016
Peking University

APRU International Policy Advisory Group Meeting
Hong Kong, March 24-25, 2017
University of Hong Kong

Publications


Corporate Supporters

APRU works with Elsevier to identify the strengths of the network and of member institutions in order to enhance the research collaboration between members and to relate this strength to addressing Asia-Pacific challenges. As a world-leading provider of information solutions that enhance the performance of science, health and technology professionals, Elsevier is also the data partner and a sponsor of the APRU Impact Report.

APRU collaborated with Landor, an international branding agency, on a rebranding exercise on a pro-bono basis. The exercise refined APRU’s positioning in terms of its vision and mission statement, and core initiatives to reflect a clear and compelling brand. Other outcomes from the exercise included a new corporate identity and basic visual system to reflect the new positioning.

APRU partnered with The New York Times on a case competition titled “The Future of the Pacific Oceans”. For this international competition, students were asked to write an 800-word policy brief on climate change and the future of the Pacific Ocean. The winning entry will be published in The New York Times International Edition.
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