

Council of Presidents Report On the Status of the Global U8 Consortium

Dear Colleagues:

Early this summer I provided you with an update on the work that has been done in the Global U8 Consortium since we last met in Le Havre last June. This report provides yet another update of that work, including activities over the summer.

Earlier I provided you with a brief chronology of the meetings and conferences held this year by Secretary-General Judy Beckman, along with the chairs of the Research Committee--Peter Alfonso, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at URI--and the Education Committee--Eveline Fallshaw, Dean of Academic Development for Business, RMIT University:

November 2007: The Education Committee met in Melbourne at RMIT, hosted by Chair Eveline Fallshaw and her staff. Committee members discussed exchange agreements and the challenges of implementing them, the improvement of the web site and proposed educational programs between and among the Global U8 member institutions. The Declaration from that meeting lists in more detail these and other accomplishments.

November 2007, at Inha University: An MOU for the Global MBA and Leadership Program was signed. The first course available to our students was held this past June, and will include five students each from Xiamen, Inha, Le Havre and Rhode Island universities. The students traveled over eight weeks to each of the four universities to study and experience the global business climate from different perspectives.

December, 2007: President Hong traveled to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to discuss the Global MBA and Leadership Program with Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw. Inha students also visited the United States in association with the signing of a free-trade agreement between South Korea and the United States. They were hosted in Rhode Island by Assistant Professor Doug Hales, and I was pleased to meet with them.

March 2008: The Global U8 Joint Research Committee held a workshop at the University of Hawai'i on best practices in global logistics. At that meeting, a research strategy to enhance continued research collaboration across the contributing institutions was developed. A model of this strategy, the JRC Task Force on Future Supply Chains, will be presented to the JRC annual meeting in Le Havre for approval. Following the meeting, Secretary-General Judy Beckman then traveled to the University of Washington to confer with officials there about their interest in, and to collaborate with faculty to prepare for the upcoming Marine Affairs workshop.

April 2008: A second JRC workshop was held here in Kingston, Rhode Island for three days entitled *Marine Affairs and Ocean Sciences: Understanding the Human Dimensions of Global Change*. Outcomes from the workshop were based on two goals: a short-term goal of producing a case book in marine affairs, ocean sciences, and business topics; and a longer-term goal of a strategically-directed collaborative research program. As in the Hawai'i JRC workshop, considerable emphasis was placed on continuing collaboration and sustaining the proposed research program. A proposal similar to the Task Force document is being developed and was presented to the JRC at the June annual meeting in Le Havre. From the conversation at the sessions I was able to attend, including the farewell dinner, much was accomplished at this meeting and a plan to move forward was established.

Summer 2008: This summer we had a chance to experience the initial sessions of the Global MBA and Leadership Program. URI, Le Havre, Xiamen and Inha universities each sent five graduate students to the program. The students spent two weeks at each of the four universities to study with professors, meet with industry representatives in each location, and work collaboratively in groups. The course ran from June 21 to August 19. I had a chance to meet with the students twice while they were in Rhode Island, and I was very impressed. Each of them expressed their gratitude at being allowed to be a part of this marvelous learning experience.

June 2008: The Joint Research Committee met in Le Havre. Out of that meeting came the proposed GU8 intellectual property policy and the concept of the GU8 Foundation, both topics of great importance at this meeting of the Council of Presidents. The JRC also established a Task Force designed to support and sustain identified JRC supported research programs.

August 2008: The Education Committee met at the University of Hull. I attended this meeting and learned with pleasure about many of the bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiative currently in place and the many more planned. We had a workshop on student assessment initiatives across the globe, and then focused on an action plan to better promote student mobility amongst member institutions, systems to deliver remote access education to member institutions, and other topics. The hospitality of Vice-Chancellor Drewry was extraordinary! The Report of the Education Committee will also be on our agenda for this COP meeting.

Finally, I want to remind the members that when I accepted the chairmanship of the COP I said that my plan was to step down as the president of the University of Rhode Island in June of 2009. That is in fact the case, and at this meeting we will need to select the next chair, whose term would begin on July 1, 2009. It has been a great pleasure to be a part of this Consortium, and I fully intend to work vigorously during this academic year to help achieve its promise.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Carothers, President and Chair,
Global U8 Council of Presidents