

Welcome Speech on the Sixth GU8 Education Committee Meeting

Vice-President WU Daguang

Xiamen University

May 6, 2009

Dear Secretary-General Prof. Judy Beckman,

Dear Education Committee Chair Prof. Uichol Kim,

Vice-Chair Prof. Nathalie Aubourg,

Dear Pro Vice-Chancellor Peter Lutzeier,

Dear Prof. Eveline Fallshaw,

Dear Education Committee members and fellow colleagues,

It is such a delightful opportunity to meet you in Xiamen University in the early summertime, the best time of the year. On Behalf of Xiamen University and President Zhu, I would like to welcome all of you to Xiamen for the Sixth GU8 Education Committee Meeting. (President Zhu is currently on business trip to Taiwan. He asked me to convey his greetings and welcome to you all.)

Xiamen University was founded in 1921 by Tan Kah Kee, the well-known patriotic overseas Chinese leader. It was the first university in China founded by an overseas Chinese. At present it is the only university in any of five special economic zones and is one of China 's higher-level universities designated for the state key construction of the "211 Project" and the "985 Project". Since the first day of its establishment, XMU has been devoting itself to international cooperation and exchanges, with the goal of building a research-oriented university well-known both at home and abroad. GU8 partnership is on the top of XMU's international agenda.

Nowadays, Xiamen University enjoys broad international connections and engages in education globalization by providing as many opportunities as possible for students, faculty, staff and researchers to "go out" and inviting foreign students, teachers and researchers to "come in". Last year, XMU received 1,694 short-term overseas students, including 77 sister university exchange students, and sent out 322 students for exchange. As for faculty and staff exchange, the number of the outbound reached 108 last years, including Fulbright scholars, Freeman fellows, and also 3 candidates waiting to go to Hull. To date, XMU has over 150 sisters universities around the world, bringing it to a new stage of international cooperation.

Aware of the importance of global education outreach, XMU launched international master programs in 2007. All the programs are completely designed to meet international standard and global demands, wishing to share our expertise and strength in particular fields and offer our students, both domestic and international, plenty of chances to work and study together cross-culturally. The international master programs are so well-received worldwide that we

opened another three last year. Up to the year 2008, there are eleven programs, receiving 108 students from 41 countries, studying Chinese Culture, Chinese Civil and Commercial Law, Asia-Pacific International Relations, Chinese Economy, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Marine Affairs, Chemical Engineering, Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Engineering, Applied Finance, Financial Engineering, Business Economics.

Funding is crucial for pushing personnel exchange. For these few years, efforts have been made to finance student flow in and out of XMU. Xiamen University is the only university in Fujian Province authorized to receive foreign students with Chinese Government's CSC Scholarship. Last year, XMU sent out over 60 CSC scholarship invitation to sister universities, and ended with hosting 236 CSC scholarship winners. Together with international master program students, they are all eligible to apply XMU international New Student Scholarship and XMU Anniversary Scholarship. In order to encourage our students to pursue degrees abroad, we obtained 100 scholarship positions from China Scholarship Council (CSC) for students to apply master or Ph.D degrees in foreign universities. Last year, 78 applicants were successfully selected.

GU8 partnership is the most critical part of our international cooperation work. If traditional partnership of universities is bridge that connects two ends, the multilateral framework of GU8 is cloverleaf junction that provides a global platform for student and staff mobility, for joint research and common curriculum. We value the innovative way of multilateral cooperation, which manifests in a series of programs like Global MBA and Leadership Program (GMBA&L), Master of Global Logistics Management, Marine Affairs Programs, GU8 Math Contest, which finished in Xiamen University last week, and Case Studies Series which involves best scholars and researchers from GU8 Universities to explore the issues of our common concern and interest. In addition, more bilateral student exchange programs rise from the initiatives. Those programs shares one common value which we hold: joining up our high education institutes into a global knowledge-based enterprise and training our students to be global citizens.

Once again, we wish to express our appreciation for such a beneficial global platform of GU8 and such a group of hard-working and forward-looking people to work with under it. Today, we get together here, to renew our friendship, to contribute innovative ideas, to share burden and to embrace challenges we are facing. Let's joint hands for the sustainability and vitality of GU8.

Wish you have a good stay in Xiamen.