

## Speech at the 4<sup>th</sup> COP in Le Havre

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Presidents and colleagues of our Global U8 Consortium,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Bonjour and Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to share some memories and moments with you about the Global U8 Consortium, particularly:

The Vision, objectives, what we have done together and what remains for furtherance. Before proceeding to start my talks, I'd like to confess the previous three years to describe the best honorable time and the summertime of my life. Thank you all for your wonderful friendship and invaluable cooperation.

### **Vision**

Distinguished colleagues!

Today's world is facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities. Technologies have made possible that the global community is becoming more open, accessible, transparent and interrelated.

Education has been traditionally considered to be a passport to success. It seems still true today, however, it requires to adjust to changing environment of globalization and Hi-Technology dominance.

Today our universities face at least six major challenges:

1. the information-glut and the fragmentation of knowledge;
2. the curriculum crisis;
3. the commercialization of R & D;
4. the financial risk;
5. concerns about quality of education;
6. the challenge of e-learning.

To respond to the challenges, seven presidents from decent universities in the world got together three years ago at Inha University.

We dreamed together about a strategic global alliance in the higher education arena similar to in the business sector. The rationale of our Consortium has three aims:

- first, to better respond to academic challenges and needs of the global community through multilateral collaboration;
- second, to generate and disseminate practical knowledge and useful technology with entrepreneurial perspective;
- third, to nurture global citizens well-prepared for information-based societies and global markets.

The alliance provides us with an excellent platform for cross-cultural education, enhancing global research network and upgrading our administrative capacity.

With this vision, the Consortium was officially founded on April twenty ninth in 2004 by the seven

presidents' signing the Agreement of the Consortium.

The founding Presidential meeting gave me honor and privilege to be elected as the First Chair of the Council of Presidents. But at the same time it gave me also enormous responsibility and mission to carry out the consortium business more successfully.

## **Objectives**

As you are well aware, the primary objectives of the consortium are three-fold:

To build an excellent platform for cross-cultural education;

To enhance global researches network; and

To upgrade administrative capacity.

Each objective is elaborated and implemented by respective committee as we will hear about their activities from the Committee Chairs today.

In order for the consortium to exert more specialized and concentrated efforts, we designated four strategic areas of disciplines. They are global logistics, business administration, marine affairs and advanced technologies, particularly Information Technology, Bio-Technology and Nano-Technology.

Distinguished guests!

From my early days in office as the Chair of the COP, I have endeavored to weave the threads of different cultures, regulations and system from our member institutions to the unique and mutually beneficial fabric of the consortium.

Since the inception of the consortium in 2004, we have witnessed many meetings held in North America, Asia, Europe, Australia and now in France. Notable meetings among these are three presidential meetings at Inha, Xiamen and URI; three Education Committee meetings at RMIT, Xiamen and Le Havre; three Joint-Research Committee meetings at URI twice and at Haifa; and finally three Building Administrative Capacity Committee meetings at Xiamen, the University of Washington and Haifa.

In addition, the Consortium held numerous workshops and two international conferences including the one just held prior to this COP. This Fourth COP is the Consortium's 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The repercussion of these meetings in details is inserted as my review report in the COP Book, circulated to you by our URI Secretariat. At this moment, I would like to briefly overview what we have achieved and what remains to be further explored in the future.

## **Achievements**

In education area, we agreed to exchange ten students per university between any member institutions, therefore enabling each university to send seventy students to other member universities and also to receive seventy students from them every year. Credits are transferred between exchanging universities for the students. Furthermore, joint-degrees are being developed in the areas of global logistics, marine affairs and global MBAs.

Le Havre and Inha university started the first dual degree program in logistics area in 2003 even before the inception of the consortium. RMIT and Inha University offer dual degrees in logistics to undergraduate students with three plus one program. Master of global marine affairs program was agreed among URI, Inha and Xiamen university. Global MBA program is also agreed among URI, Le Havre, Inha and Xiamen University with the expressed participating intension of Meiji University.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I should admit that Inha University's launching Graduate School of Logistics was ascribed largely to the joint-efforts of our Education Committee. The flagship program of the school, so called 'Master of Global Logistics Management' program is truly the output of concerted and consistent efforts of the

Education Committee from the very beginning.

In joint-research area, a series of workshops and conferences were held for the purpose of developing joint-research ideas and developing them into actual projects. Some workshops led to developing these ideas into fruition like joint-researches in logistics area. Some others are attempting to follow this path.

The logistics workshop in Hawaii, 2005 resulted in the development of two on-going joint-researches and one just funded new joint-research. The on-going projects have involved URI, Inha, and Le Havre and the new one will involve most of our member universities. This Hawaii workshop alone has led to developing the projects amounting to be over one million dollars.

Compared with the logistics area, however, other areas are deemed to be yet either small-scaled or dormant.

In administration area, administrative staffs and librarians were exchanged through short term on-the-job training, courtesy visits and language training program. But it may be fair to say that this committee's outcomes are relatively less visible and effective compared with other committees.

The expansion of the consortium by allowing Meiji University as a new member at the second COP in 2005 was thrilling, making us agreeing that we would expand into GU11 Consortium in the future. Therefore, I visited Cairo University in Egypt and met the President last April to invite as a new member. Although President Abdel-Rahman promised to come to this COP and join the consortium, he excused his absence at this COP the last minute due to unexpected overlapping schedule. He hoped that they could join us at next COP.

Looking back at what we have done together for the past three years, we should be proud of ourselves. These achievements were possible due to your profound dedication, relentless efforts and strong leadership.

Generally, the Consortium paved the foundation and infrastructure for our member universities' international collaboration. It built up the image of our institutions as globalized one. We are experiencing synergy effect in developing education program and conducting researches by sharing our experiences and pooling resources together

Specifically, the Consortium enhanced the chances for our students exposed to more international setting by exchange program;  
for our faculty to widen and deepen their research scope and quality by cooperative researches;  
and for our administrative staff to build their capacity and competitiveness by benchmark program.

We often observed that GU8 activities started with partnership first, then developed into collegiality and ended with friendship!

### **Challenges and limitations**

Fellow colleagues!

In spite of the remarkable progress, we are still facing some challenges and limitations for further development of GU8 activities in the future.

First and foremost, we need more enthusiasm and energy for our consortium. The interest and monitoring by a president would directly be influential to our destiny.

Second, we need to pay attention to inactive participation at GU8 activities by some members. I learned a lesson that we should allow a new member university based on explicit presidential commitment at a COP meeting and Presidents should show up at COPs once in a while rather than the alternates all the time. We should develop a more formal procedure at this COP in this direction.

Third, we should expedite bilateral agreements among member universities to further galvanize

student exchange. Although the Consortium concluded the exchange of seventy students per year multilaterally, we also agreed that the actual student exchange shall be implemented based on bilateral agreements between universities. We should take actions.

Fourth, we should have a clear picture on how we can fund cooperative researches within the framework of long-term research roadmap. To this end, I suggested from the 1<sup>st</sup> JRC meeting that we should donate one hundred fifty thousand dollars per each as seed-money. If this is not possible, we should find other funding strategies for sustainable development of our researches.

Finally, we need to develop more PR strategy of GU8 activities. It is a pity that some universities do not have any information on, or link service with, our GU8 members yet on their homepage website. This will bring about more active interaction among member universities.

### **Hope for future work**

Today we are convened here in France under the new leadership of President Carothers.

The consortium completed its first phase of three years and is ushered into new window of opportunity this year with new leaderships of the new Chair of COP, new Secretary-General and newly elected chairs of all three committees.

I am very grateful to be able to turn over the reins of leadership into the mighty hands of our new chair of COP to meet the challenges of the consortium's future.

My dear friend, Bob!

As URI's motto is '**hope**', I **hope** that you will take us to a new terrain of the following **hopes** for our Consortium:

Please make sure that our eventual goal of joint-education program is to develop dual-degree or joint-degree programs.

To this end, we should deregulate our education system and develop globally recognized accreditation system at our own.

I know that you are a champion of managing universities. You can be a champion once again in transforming our territories into global knowledge village with entrepreneurship.

Let us shape the hope of your term in laying cornerstones to make our Consortium members become Global Top 10 Universities in ten years in the four specialized areas.

I have no doubt that your wisdom and strong leadership will make our consortium resonate with joyful sound of reaping the benefits by more actively participating at GU8 activities among our students, faculties and staffs.

There is a saying that change has its enemies. But my friends, we can make change our friend.

I'd like to mention, "None of us is as good as all of us".

Finally, it has been my great honor and privilege to work with you all as the chair. I will not forget your everlasting strong supports and true friendships from the first days of the consortium.

Thank you very much indeed and merci beaucoup!