

President's Remarks

**GU8 Consortium 5th Council of Presidents
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Good morning, Bon jours, Ni hao and Annyeong-hasimmi-ka!

Honorable Presidents of the Global U8 Consortium
Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen!

I am very happy to meet you all here in RMIT University. Time flies like an arrow since we met together at the 4th COP meeting last year in Le Havre, France.

First of all, I would like to give a special thanks to the Vice-Chancellor Dr. Margaret Gardner and the staff of RMIT University, for allowing us to meet here for the 5th COP and for the splendid preparation and wonderful hospitality for the meeting this year.

I am grateful to President Carothers of the University of Rhode Island, who has been serving as the Chair of the COP since last year, and congratulate him for successfully carrying out the Consortium business with excellent leadership and visionary power.

I acknowledge that through the sacrificing efforts of the Secretary-General, Prof. Judy Beckman and Ms. Melissa McCarthy of URI we were able to obtain excellent results from numerous meetings and workshops. I also appreciate they set up a wonderful GU8 Consortium website. And, my thanks also goes to the Chairs of the Joint Research

Committee and Education Committee for their continuing efforts in collaboration and mutual-development of various projects and activities. I am very excited to hear their reports later today.

Recalling the inception of our consortium in April 2004, we hope that our consortium will be one of the leading strategic alliances in higher education throughout the world, providing the highest quality of education, ground-breaking joint research activities, and building administrative capacity. Based on the spirits and principles of the Incheon Declaration, we have continued to collaborate and grow to become the Global U8 Consortium with an increase in membership from the 7 founding universities to an additional three new members. During the last 4 years we have met and became acquainted with each other through 26 official meetings and other numerous individual gatherings, worked together to identify the strengths and potentials of the Consortium, and built greater infrastructure and systems to further proceed with joint projects and exchange programs. I am so proud that we've achieved such levels of successful and unprecedented growth and development that nobody could have predicted at the time of our foundation four years ago.

Distinguished colleagues!

Allow me to brief on Inha University's activities and progress.

Inha University, since I took the presidential chair, recorded an annual growth rate of 12% in general in terms of budget scale, research fund contracts and productivity, and infrastructure expansion. Also, by being selected one of the top 10 universities in Korea by numerous college evaluation agencies, Inha University has been reputed as one of the best prestigious universities representing Korea.

After years of concentration and focus in strategic fields of logistics and high technologies, the Graduate School of Logistics at Inha University has grown immensely and plays a leading role in promoting internationally the brand power of Inha University as well as the GU8 Consortium.

Development and achievements have also continuously grown in high-tech fields to the current levels where we have 35 national research centers and total research contracts reaching 100 million us dollars last year. It is a 3 fold increase from 34 million dollars since my entry into Inha 6 years ago. We are also maintaining joint research projects on a large scale with global companies such as Korean Air, Boeing, Airbus and General Electric.

Inha University now challenges an important national agenda to open graduate schools in various fields for professional education. In addition to the already established schools of logistics, medicine, high technologies, Inha University marked a turning point when the Graduate School of Law, similar to the American Law School, was finally authorized this September after fierce competition to become one of the final 25 law schools from among 200 Korean universities. The Inha Law School is planning to offer its degree program from March 2009, specializing in intellectual property and logistics.

Inha University's grand master plan of building a second campus in New Songdo City, Incheon, is making progress well and the first part of the campus is going to open as early as 2012. The Songdo Global Knowledge Complex will comprise of Global Campus, Specialization Campus and R&BD Complex which will be equipped with the state-of-the-art educational and research facilities in collaboration with world-renowned universities and global companies.

I believe all these recognitions and accomplishments were

possible through continued efforts to innovate global standards into education, research and administration and to harmonize these standards by working in close collegiality with the GU8 Consortium.

Honorable Presidents, Vice-Chancellors and distinguished colleagues!

I believe you all agree that the Global U8 Consortium is now entering its second stage after all the growth and development made since its inception in 2004. During the first period, we successfully set up our mission and orientation, paved the way of founding organization and working systems, and expanded the membership.

It is regarded that every business has four steps in its planning and implementation, that is "AIDA," namely "Attention, Interest, Desire and Action." I would say we have been successfully through the first two levels of attention and interest. We enhanced mutual understanding, confirmed mutual interest and gained trust of each other during the last four years. It is my opinion that although we have made a wonderful step up to now, we should go the extra mile to intensify our collective desires and expectations and arrive at the final stage of real actions and tangible projects.

I would say that the second round will not be easier. Competition is getting fierce globally, and multilateral relationships will entail many problems and challenges as our membership grows. But this is also a timely opportunity where we can show our strengths and competitiveness which mark us for distinction.

At this critical moment of entering the second stage, the encouraging sign is that two new members, the University of Hull and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, will enrich the Consortium by bringing fresh perspective and adding valuable assets.

I would like to ask all presidents and the Secretariat to set the vision and development plans, both long-term and short-term, in line with the goals of the GU8 Consortium and global trends for research and education. And each Committee ought to present a roadmap to fulfill the goals and realize the vision of the consortium.

When it comes to the research sector, it is essential to pay attention to the emerging global agendas in order to make our research collaboration competitive, sustainable and marketable. Not every university has the resources and research capabilities in all agendas that matter globally, but we can better respond to the needs and demands as a consortium with collective resources and cooperative efforts.

I would like to ask the Joint Research Committee to draw up the research roadmap with this big picture in mind, and uncover valid ways to create values and assets through our research cooperation.

We started exchanging students with GU8 member universities in 2003 with the humble number of 7 coming to URI and Xiamen University. But in 2008 we saw more than 140 students exchanged between Inha and other institutions to attend various education programs such as semester-long study, Global Leadership and MBA, Summer School and language training.

Even with this remarkable result of 20 times increase, I think we are far behind of our original goal of lowering the walls and barriers to exchange at least 10 students with each other annually. It is not easy to encourage student mobility across borders, but it worth the time and endeavor once realized.

If you let me give an example, after years of continued

discussions and efforts, we finally started exchanging students with Meiji University, unfortunately frequent absentee, this year, with 29 Meiji students participating in Inha Summer School and 9 Inha students taking courses at Meiji.

I would like to emphasize that we should enhance this kind of bilateral program towards a GU8 level comprising of students from all member universities. That will be a wonderful and beautiful chance for international students to study together and learn from each other to gain globalized experience and balanced perspective.

All in all, let me turn your attention again back to the Incheon Declaration where we clearly stated our goal as providing globalized educational system incorporating innovative curricular.

I am really pleased to get together with all of you again today. I hope this meeting will bring constructive and valuable results for all the Presidents and Vice-Chancellors have traveled such a great distance and given so much time to attend the summit meeting of our consortium.

In closing, I'd like to quote Mahatma Gandhi's words, "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

Thank you.