

**Welcoming Remarks at Haifa Meeting
President Seoung-Yong Hong**

April 17, 2007

Dear President Aaron Ben-Ze'ev,
My fellow members of GU8 Consortium,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Shalom and Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome and greet you as the Chair of the Council of Presidents of the Consortium in this historically famous, holy and beautiful country.

Let us pause for a while, and look back at how our Global U8 Consortium has been developed thus far and what lies ahead.

As you are well aware, the Consortium was conceived in 2003 and founded in 2004, bringing in seven presidents to sign the Agreement of the Consortium including the then President of Haifa University.

The founding Presidential meeting gave me honor and privilege to be elected as the 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.

From my first 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 Israel. Notable meetings among these are three presidential meetings at Inha, Xiamen and URI; three Education Committee meetings at RMIT, Xiamen and Le Havre; two Joint-Research Committee meetings both at URI and finally two Building Administrative Capacity Committee meetings at Xiamen and the University of Washington.

Following these meetings, today we are convened here at Haifa to address and discuss major issues of joint-researches, administrative capacity-building and cooperation in library matters of the Consortium.

The repercussions of the previous meetings are numerous and significant thanks to your utmost efforts and strong will in its everlasting cooperative spirit of the consortium.

In education area, for instance, 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 such areas as global logistics, marine affairs and global MBAs.

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 just 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 based on ten million dollars government support last year was ascribed to the joint-efforts of our Education Committee of the consortium to a great extent. 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 2005 resulted in the development of three joint-researches amounting to be over one million dollars with the partnership of URI, Inha, Le Havre and the University of Washington. Compared with the logistics area, other areas are deemed to be yet either small-scaled or dormant.

In administration area, administrative staffs and librarians were exchanged as agreed by the respective committee 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 strong compared with other committees. It is my understanding that this committee will overview its performance and reset its navigation chart for their future destiny.

Distinguished participants!

We have dreamed together and worked together to make our vision of global university alliance come true. We know, however, that there are still challenges that we have to respond to for the consortium to full-fledged function in the years to come.

The consortium is completing its first phase of three years and 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.

The agendas of this meeting have been developed to address these issues and you have two full-days work.

I trust that our new leaders and the participants of this meeting will work hard and suggest proactive ideas and strategies to upgrade the Consortium activities to one level higher.

I understand that the consequence of this meeting will be to adopt the Haifa Resolution

Finally, on behalf of the consortium and the participants, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our gracious host, President Ben-Ze'ev and his faculty and staff for their endeavors and sacrifices to prepare this meeting in the most successful manner.

Thank you for your attention.