



NEWS RELEASE

APRU Founding Chairman Elected to Second Term

Steven B. Sample, president of the University of Southern California, has been re-elected to the chairmanship of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities – an alliance of 33 leading research universities in 16 countries bordering the Pacific Ocean.*

July 29, 1998 – “As the Pacific Rim emerges as an economic community, APRU is bound to emerge as an ever-stronger force,” said Dr. Sample, founding chairman of the association. “Whenever a group of institutions with similar roles and missions can join together in a cooperative endeavor, their collective impact will inevitably surpass anything the group’s member institutions could achieve on their own.”

At the association’s annual meeting, held June 23-25 in Seoul, South Korea, Sample was elected to serve a two-year term as chairman through June 2000.

At the meeting, President Sample and his APRU colleagues met with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, an indication, according to the USC educator, of APRU’s increasing influence. In the past year, the association has added 13 new members, including three Chinese universities and four Japanese universities.

The three-day meeting produced agreements to pursue four initiatives:

- To promote ties and cooperation with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group, an international association whose membership heavily overlaps APEC’s. APRU hopes to establish a formal advisory relationship with APEC in such areas as education, science and technology, and looks forward to playing a role at such events at APEC’s next annual meeting, November 14-16 in Kuala Lumpur.
- To pursue Internet ties, both in terms of sharing libraries and other intellectual resources and promoting faster and higher bandwidth connections among APRU’s member institutions around the globe.

- To undertake a fellows program for junior faculty members, one from each APRU university who would gather for an annual four to six-week leadership seminar.
- To explore collaborative research, especially joint planning for major, capital-intensive “Big Science” projects demanding investments on a scale that would be prohibitive for individual countries.

23 university presidents attended the meeting, including APRU members from Australia, Canada, China, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Russia and Thailand, in addition to the United States and host country South Korea. (A complete list of APRU member institutions is appended to this release.) According to the associations’ by-laws, only the chief executive officers of constituent universities can represent their institutions at APRU meetings.

APRU was founded June 3, 1997, at a meeting organized by USC, UCLA, Caltech and UC Berkeley. Held on USC’s University Park Campus in Los Angeles, the first meeting was attended by the presidents of 20 universities from 12 countries. The organization is modeled on the Association of American Universities (AAU).

The APRU’s 33 member institutions are: Australian National University, California Institute of Technology; Chulalongkorn University (Thailand); Far Eastern National University (Russia); Fudan University (China); Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Kyoto University; National Autonomous University of Mexico; National Taiwan University; National University of Singapore; Osaka University; Peking University; Seoul National University; Tsinghua University (China); University of Auckland; University of British Columbia; University of California, Berkeley; UC, Davis; UC, Irvine; UCLA; UC San Diego; UC Santa Barbara; University of Chile; University of Indonesia; University of Malaya, University of Oregon; University of the Philippines; University of Science and Technology of China; University of Southern California; University of Sydney (Australia); University of Tokyo; University of Washington; Waseda University (Japan).

*Since this release, Stanford University has joined APRU, bringing the total membership to 34.