



## **Welcoming Remarks**

### **Fourth Annual Meeting Association of Pacific Rim Universities University of British Columbia**

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It is a pleasure for me to join President Piper in welcoming all of you to the fourth annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. I want to thank Martha Piper and the University of British Columbia for hosting this meeting.

We have now come full circle around the Pacific Rim since UCLA, UC Berkeley, Caltech, and USC hosted our first meeting in Los Angeles three years ago, in June 1997.

Since that time, we've traveled to Seoul National University, which hosted our second meeting in 1998, and to the University of Auckland, which hosted our third annual gathering in 1999. And now we return to North America, to the University of British Columbia, which is hosting our fourth conference here in the beautiful city of Vancouver. Next year our APRU meeting will once again move to the western side of the Pacific Rim, to Shanghai where Fudan University will be our host.

I'd like to touch briefly on some of the highlights of the past three years. In addition to our annual CEO meetings, we held the first APRU Fellows Program in 1999, jointly sponsored by UC Berkeley, Kyoto University, and Chulalongkorn University. This year's Fellows Program, scheduled for August, will be hosted by the University of Washington and again by Chulalongkorn University. We also held the first APRU Doctoral Student Conference this past March at USC. This conference explored the interaction between the public and private sectors in the areas of planning, public administration, and development. Next year's APRU Doctoral Student Conference will be hosted by the University of Auckland.

APRU is developing strategic partnerships with the providers of advanced information technology networks, often referred to as Internet 2. These partners include the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID), the Asia Pacific Advanced Network Consortium (APAN), the TransPac Consortium (TransPac), and the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). These partnerships are helping us to develop APRUNet, our program to establish new teaching and research activities that can use the advanced networks provided by Internet 2, APAN, TransPac, CENIC, and others.

To advance our APRUNet activities, we held an important distance learning conference at USC three months ago. At that conference, 60 distance learning leaders from 28 APRU members gathered to exchange information about their distance learning activities and to stimulate new collaborative activities. Next year's distance learning conference will be hosted by Kyoto University.

We are also responding to a challenge made by the Lucent Technologies Foundation to develop experimental distance learning courses in science, information technology, and business for high school partners. In response to our preliminary proposal, the Lucent Technologies Foundation president has agreed to provide us with a \$50,000 planning grant. This grant will be used to develop a detailed proposal for a three-year-long, \$1.5 million distance-learning program with partner high schools in Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and the United States.

Our conference this weekend here at the University of British Columbia continues this important work that we have begun, focusing on an issue that without question is a dominant one in the 21st century global science and technology. I am delighted that the Canadian Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Science and Technology is participating in our meeting this year. This organization plays a key role in setting Canada's science and technology goals and policy.

On behalf of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, I should like to extend a warm welcome to all the members of the Council. We look forward to sharing views on science and technology trends with the Council tomorrow morning. I believe APRU is increasingly well positioned to have an important impact on the direction of global science and technology in the new millennium. We have undertaken projects with vast potential for the development of the Pacific Rim. Three years ago, APRU was just an idea in the minds of the leaders of UCLA, UC Berkeley, Caltech, and USC. But we now have developed clear and compelling goals, and we are beginning to establish an important record of action and achievement all of which show that APRU is an idea whose time has come.

Thank you