

Association of Pacific Rim Universities
Education Deans Meeting
October 15-17, 2008

The inaugural meeting of Education Deans from the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) was held at the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education in October, 2008. The meeting was hosted by Dean Karen Symms Gallagher of the University of Southern California (USC) Rossier School of Education, and was attended by APRU Secretary General Kenneth McGillivray. Seventeen participants from eleven APRU universities attended: Peking University, Seoul National University, Tohoku University, the University of Auckland, the University of British Columbia, the University of California at Davis, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of California at San Diego, the University of Malaya, the University of Oregon and the University of Southern California.

The meeting began with a personal welcome from USC President Steven B. Sample, one of the founders of APRU. Thereafter, each participant introduced their school by providing an overview of its academic programs and research initiatives, as well as its student and faculty cohorts. This session provided valuable context for the discussions that followed, and began a process of identifying commonalities that characterized the entire meeting.

Most of the meeting focused on active discussion of key areas of common interest, including:

- The ways in which Education schools can address the needs of primary and secondary education through graduate programs, including professional doctoral programs such as the Doctor of Education. Themes in the discussion included ways of focusing degree programs on the discrete needs of various learners pursuing careers in academe and as practitioners.
- Interactions between Education schools and government ministries, departments of education, and quality assurance organizations. This discussion focused on ways of ensuring that research contributes to decision-making on the policy level.
- Building a shared research infrastructure amongst APRU Education schools. Key themes in the discussion included the role each school represented at the meeting plays in teacher education in their societies and ways in which to leverage shared and complementary areas of expertise between the schools.

The gathering also included an address from Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez, Director of Human Development for the World Bank in East Asia and Pacific Region. Dr. Jimenez discussed a wide range of programs on primary, secondary and tertiary education and they ways in which these efforts connect with university-based education and research programs.

Another highlight of the event was a lecture and discussion with Professor William G. Tierney of the USC Rossier School of Education focused on the APRU-sponsored research study he co-authored entitled *The Globalization of Education: The Next Wave*. This work examines a range of current practices and opportunities for collaboration across borders, and occasioned extensive discussions about the opportunities for APRU Education schools to work together on substantive projects of mutual interest.

The principal outcome of the meet was the creation of a steering committee charged with identifying initial areas of collaboration amongst the schools. This group will seek to produce a proposal for review by the APRU Presidents at their June, 2009 meeting. Although the specific area of collaboration remains open, there was general agreement that a topic should be found that would engage the Deans and select faculty from their institutions in a common pursuit of relevance to the APRU universities and the societies they serve.