

From the desk of the Secretary General



Dear APRU Colleagues,

Warm greetings from the Association of Pacific Rim Universities!

2009 was another successful year for APRU. The Senior Staff Meeting in Melbourne and the Annual Presidents Meeting in Pasadena were both well attended and feedback was positive on the level of intellectual engagement and social interaction at both meetings. In addition, our various research symposiums, student-centric programs, deans meetings and IT initiatives have productively engaged faculty, researchers and students across Asia Pacific towards the advancement of education and research.

This year, APRU looks forward to spark more collaborative opportunities. The consortium will further diversify its intellectual capital by undertaking new initiatives and by reviewing and refreshing existing programs.

APRU:News also unveils a new guise as we continue to encapsulate significant issues and events inside and outside the Pacific Rim which are of importance to the consortium and the rest of the global community.

Let us celebrate our collective achievements in the past year and jointly explore the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Professor Kenneth McGillivray
Secretary General

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Recent Events

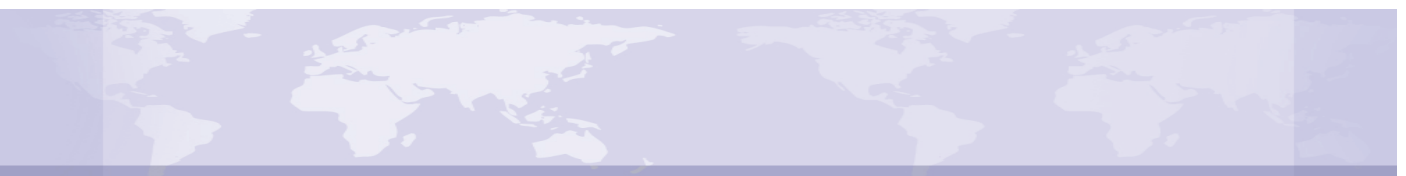
Changing Demographics in the Pacific Rim

Due to a multitude of factors such as declining fertility, increasing longevity, advances in medicine and science, the rapid aging of Asia's population has shifted demographic trends in the region. Together, these factors will have tremendous impact on our social, cultural and economic systems.

Based on the theme, "Challenges and Opportunities of Aging Asia: Toward the New Social System and Culture for Aging Society," Seoul National University (SNU) hosted [a symposium on gerontology](#) from October 19 to 23, 2009.

This joint conference with University of Tokyo (UT) under the auspices of APRU, attracted about 40 researchers and junior gerontologists from 18 economies: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden and the United States.

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The symposium examined the demographic trends of various societies and the challenges brought about by these trends, and discussed ways in which these challenges could be addressed and leveraged upon through various studies and research projects.

President Jang-Moo Lee of SNU and APRU Secretary General Kenneth McGillivray were present to officially open the event.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr Steven H. Zarit, Professor and Head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Pennsylvania State University; Dr Angelique Wei-ming Chan, Professor, Department of Sociology at National University of Singapore (NUS); and Dr Hiroko Akiyama, Professor, Institute of Gerontology at University of Tokyo. The speakers talked about family care and support for the elderly, research and policy implications, and redesigning communities for the aged society.



SNU President Jang-Moo Lee welcomes participants and guests.



Keynote speakers together with some of the symposium attendees.

Participants also conducted site visits to the Seoul Metropolitan Government headquarters and several senior welfare centers.

The highlight of the symposium was a research proposal competition which had participants formed teams to develop research proposals in promoting interdisciplinary and comparative studies in gerontology. The team with the best proposal was awarded a research grant of USD10,000.

APRU launches video conference series

APRU has launched a series of video conference sessions that aims to facilitate remote discussions and knowledge sharing on current IT topics of global interest and new approaches to its application in research, teaching and learning among APRU member universities.

The first of this series was Grid Computing held on October 21, 2009. The inaugural [Video Conference Session](#) focused on various grid technologies, applications and global grid consortium partnerships involving a number of APRU member institutions. Hosted by National University of Singapore (NUS), the virtual conference was joined by over 30 participants across 17 APRU universities from Australia, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States. Six universities reported ongoing initiatives, management and use of grid resources for research computing and infrastructure in their campuses.



Through a virtual bridge, participants share views and best practices in grid computing.

The 2nd Video Conference Session, hosted by University of Indonesia (UI) on November 19, 2009 was participated by 15 APRU universities from Asia, Australasia, North and Central America. Participants looked at the different IT governance models used at their respective institutions that shaped workflow systems and business processes at different levels within their organizations. IT leaders also discussed the challenges in implementing good IT governance which included leadership structure and framework, decision rights, funding sources and strategic priorities.

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APRU launches video conference series *continued...*



Prof Riri Fitri Sari (UI) moderating discussions at the 2nd Video Conference Session.

Director Tommy Hor of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Computer Centre expressed that the video conferences provided a great opportunity to meet with fellow IT leaders and share thoughts on subjects of strategic importance to the respective institutions and research community.

"The level of engagement and variety of topics covered in the video conference series has been outstanding. APRU CIOs are showing by their action that they want to work together to address common challenges and opportunities in our member universities," added Dr Donald Harris, APRU IT Initiatives Standing Committee Chair.

[Three other video conference sessions](#) to-date are scheduled this year on topics in IT security, disaster recovery and cloud computing.

Education Deans discuss strengthening collaborative efforts and improving teaching quality

With 20 participants from 17 APRU universities, the [2nd Education Deans Meeting](#) took place from December 7 to 8, 2009 at University of Auckland. The meeting was hosted by Associate Professor Graeme Aitken, Dean of Education at the University of Auckland.

Attendees from the participating institutions reported on the different research, teaching and curriculum initiatives that were of particular significance at their respective faculties or schools. Senior officials from New Zealand Ministry of Education and senior researchers were also invited to talk about research-policy collaborations and challenges in educational leadership.

The two-day meeting brought several discussions and dialogues on strengthening research-policy connections, enhancing online teaching quality and learning, collaborative studies, joint curriculum, student exchanges and internationalization efforts of academic institutions.

It was agreed that there would be at least 3 additional meetings and that a standing committee would be formed to oversee the planning for future meetings.



APRU Secretary General Kenneth McGillivray presents a plaque to University of Auckland's Dean of Education, Graeme Aitken.



LEFT: Delegates representing 17 APRU schools and faculties of education.



RIGHT: A lively discussion at the 2nd Education Deans Meeting.

Share it with us!

We welcome comments, suggestions and contributions you might have for our e-newsletter. Please email us at apru@apru.org with "APRU E-newsletter" in the subject heading.

Senior Staff to meet in Yokohama

Following on the heels of Keio University's successful hosting of the 12th Annual Presidents Meeting (APM) in 2008, the 7th [Senior Staff Meeting \(SSM\)](#) will take place from March 10 to 12 at Keio University's Hiyoshi campus in Yokohama, Japan.

Centered on the overarching theme of "Riding the Demography Wave: How to Adapt, Survive and Prosper in a Changing Higher Education Environment in the Pacific Rim", delegates from member universities can expect to discuss issues relating to rapid population aging and shifting demographic trends, their impact on the higher education sector, and how universities can adapt to these changes through a series of panel discussions and breakout sessions.

Senior staff will come away with a better understanding of forces which drive demographic changes in both global and regional context, having shared views and experiences on ways to mitigate or adapt to these forces. Senior staff will be better placed to recognize and tap opportunities as they gain insight on how fellow universities operate in light of the changing demographic landscape.

APRU to hold combined IT events in 2010 and 2011

Bids for combined Chief Information Officers (CIO) and Education and Research Technology (ERT) Forums in 2010 and 2011 were awarded to University of Southern California (USC) and National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), respectively.

Leveraging on the CIO Forum's success, a combined event would help launch the ERT on a strong note. In an [open letter to fellow CIOs](#), APRU IT Initiatives Standing Committee Chair, Dr Donald Harris, Vice Provost and Chief Information Officer at University of Oregon, noted that ERT would benefit from the involvement of more CIOs and encouraged the attendance of his colleagues and counterparts at the Forum.



National Autonomous University of Mexico

The ERT Forum replaces one of APRU's IT flagship programs - Distance Learning and the Internet Conference (DLI) as recommended by the IT Initiatives Standing Committee. The concept for the ERT Forum is to focus on new and emerging

technologies in the use and application of IT by academics in APRU institutions in research, teaching and learning, and administration. The ERT initiative hopes to bring together APRU faculty, researchers and experts in IT to understand one other's roles and how collaborative efforts can contribute to creating holistic IT infrastructure at members' respective campuses. ERT topics may include teaching and learning pedagogy, high performance computing, cloud computing, virtualization, green IT, security and governance.



University of Southern California

The CIO Forum (formerly known as the CIO Conference) was inaugurated in 2007 to create a platform to encourage interaction and forge a group identity among APRU ICT leaders through the sharing of best practices, applications and challenges in the use of IT at APRU institutions. CIOs also explore collaborative project opportunities and strategic partnerships utilizing the latest advances in technology.

Both forums form the backbone of APRU's IT initiatives.

Climate Change Research Program: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies (CMAS)

Based on a project proposal submitted by the University of Melbourne in May 2007, AWI has developed a climate change research program titled: "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies" (CMAS) which focuses on integrated water resource management. Led by AWI Climate Change Theme Director, Professor Jim Falk of the University of Melbourne, the project adopts a multi-disciplinary and policy-oriented approach involving climate systems, hydrologic systems, society and governance, water systems technology and user communities in 11 Pacific Rim cities: Bangkok, Beijing, Canberra, Danang, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles, Melbourne, San Diego, Singapore and Tianjin.

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Climate Change Research Program: CMAS *continued...*

A preliminary outcome of the project is an article published by CMAS co-director UC San Diego's Lisa Shaffer, titled "Coastal Cities: Climate Change Impacts and Response Strategies," in Saul Hymans (ed), *The Economic Outlook for 2009: Fifty-sixth Annual Conference on the Economic Outlook*, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (March 2009).

Another CMAS outcome was a workshop titled, "Hydrologic Data Management and Modeling," held in Kuala Lumpur from July 20 to 24, 2009, which was jointly conducted by the University of Malaya and the University of California at San Diego. The workshop was co-organized by AWI, AguaJaring, Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management (Cap-Net), United Nations Development Program Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Water Knowledge Hub for Climate Change Adaptation, and the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM). Comprising 30 participants, the workshop was the first step in integrating data collection and data management efforts, and modeling designs across Southeast Asia. The travel expenses for 12 Southeast Asian participants were funded by UNESCAP, while the rest were funded by Malaysian government agencies and the University of Malaya.



L-R : Prof Azizan (U Malaya) and Prof Zaslavsky (UCSD) conducting the Hydrologic Data Management and Modeling workshop.

Looking ahead: (1) A major CMAS policy-oriented workshop will be hosted by the Rector of the University of Indonesia in Jakarta from March 18 to 19, 2010, (2) CMAS has submitted a proposal to participate in the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) in June 2010, and (3) an AWI Climate Change book tentatively titled, "And Not a Drop to Drink: Water, Pacific Rim Cities, and Climate Change," will be published by World Scientific (Singapore) in December 2010.



Participants interacting and engaging at the workshop session.

Public Health Research Program: Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases

Led by AWI Public Health Theme Director, Professor Meng-Kin Lim of the National University of Singapore, AWI has developed a public health research program on chronic, non-communicable diseases, which is spearheaded by 13 AWI universities in 14 cities around the Pacific Rim: Beijing, Danang, Hangzhou, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Nanjing, San Bernadino, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, and Tokyo.

Since the inaugural public health research program meeting at the National University of Singapore in November 2008, the research program participants have developed Phase 1 of the program which comprises a baseline assessment of chronic diseases in 15 Pacific Rim cities and also Phase 2, which involves four chronic disease research projects, led by Stanford University, University of Sydney, University of Tokyo and Claremont Graduate University, encompassing topics on diabetes, vascular diseases, health workforce development and the challenge of escalating chronic, non-communicable diseases in the Asia Pacific region.

In September 2009, Professor Stephen Leeder of the University of Sydney was awarded a development fund of AUD14,000 by U Sydney to help implement the AWI research project on vascular diseases, which he is leading.

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Discussion on international partnerships during USC students and faculty visit

In an engaging discussion on international partnerships in higher education, APRU Secretary General Kenneth McGillivray and the APRU Secretariat team met with doctoral students and faculty from University of Southern California's (USC) Rossier School of Education during their visit to the Secretariat at NUS' Shaw Foundation Alumni House on January 28, 2010.

Professor McGillivray shared on APRU's recent and ongoing initiatives that best exemplify international cooperation among academic institutions from across the Pacific Rim as well as the benefits and challenges of multilateral collaborations. He also spoke on some of the issues and areas of interest raised at the recent 2nd APRU Education Deans Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Led by Professors Mark Robinson and Michael Diamond of USC's Asia Pacific Rim International Study Experience (APRISE), USC's Ed.D students had a lively exchange with the Secretariat on APRU's strategic direction in cultivating and strengthening alliances within and outside the consortium's membership.



Faculty and doctoral students from USC Rossier School of Education with the APRU Secretariat team.

Public Health Research Program *continued...*



TOP: 2009 AWI Public Health Workshop hosted by Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University with Keynote Speaker Lincoln Chen, President, China Medical Board (center), Michael Klag, Dean, Bloomberg School of Public Health (left) and Richard Drobnick, Managing Director, AWI.

RIGHT: AWI Public Health Research Project Leaders from University of Tokyo, Stanford University, National University of Singapore, Claremont Graduate University and University of Sydney sharing their respective projects on Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases at the Asia Conference on "Emerging Issues in Public Health", held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on December 1, 2009.

In December 2009, the early results of AWI's Public Health research program were featured as a panel discussion in the "Asia Conference on Emerging Issues in Public Health", hosted by the School of Public Health and Primary Care, Chinese University of Hong Kong, where 200 public health experts from around the world discussed key public health issues.

AWI's next policy-oriented Public Health Workshop will be hosted by Prof Xian Gao, Dean of the School of Medicine at Nanjing University from June 16 to 19, 2010 in Nanjing and WHO Regional Director of the Western Pacific Region, Dr Young-Soo Shin will be a keynote speaker.



Media snapshots in 2009

[Continental Drift \(CURRENTS– November/December 2009\)](#)

[Student leaders take their ideas to the world \(UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NEWS – September 1, 2009\)](#)

[Dean and Tierney Talk to APRU Presidents \(USC ROSSIER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION NEWS – June 2009\)](#)

[In Global Recession, Global Ed Still Growing \(INSIDE HIGHER ED – May 29, 2009\)](#)

[Battle for Foreign Students \(THE AUSTRALIAN – March 25, 2009\)](#)

[Kim Carr addresses Pacific Rim senior university staff meeting... \(THE MELBOURNE NEWS ROOM – March 16, 2009\)](#)