

Outcomes of Inaugural IARU Presidents' Meeting in Singapore on 13-14 January 2006

Agenda Item (i) Election of Chair 2006 - 2007 Election of Chair-elect 2008 - 2009

Professor Chubb was elected Chair for 2006-07.

Election of the chair-elect for 2008-09 will take place at the 2007 IARU Presidents meeting.

Agenda Item (ii) Key Initiatives in Member Universities

Members were advised that Tokyo would celebrate its 130th anniversary in 2007 and Cambridge its 800th in 2009.

- It was agreed that Tokyo would host activities related to the research theme, which it would be leading (Energy, environment, food and water (including urban/rural issues)) during 2007.
- It was agreed that Cambridge would host the 2009 IARU Presidents meeting (subject to the agreement of IARU Chair for 2008-09).

The meeting agreed that there was danger in focussing too much on research – universities need to prepare undergraduates to be able to do research. It was agreed that this could be taken up as a proposal for action under agenda item (vi).

Discussion of possible models for summer vacation (May-August) programs resulted in the identification of two models:

- a) Students from member universities travel to a host member university and undertake a summer school program with students from the host university – could last for between six and twelve weeks. This could involve anywhere between two and ten member universities; and
- b) A corporation or government agency provides internship opportunities for a cohort of students from all member universities – perhaps two from each for a total of twenty;

It was agreed that each university interested in running summer schools along the lines of a) above would provide a half-one page proposal to the IARU secretariat by end March 2006. These proposals should cover issues such as visas, insurance etc. These would be collated and sent to member universities who would indicate which programs might be of interest, with a view to participation in 2007.

Out of session, Berkeley undertook to approach companies such as Intel and Cisco to gauge interest in possible internship opportunities along the lines of b) above.

Agenda Item (iii) IARU Research Proposals

The IARU group agreed to pursue four separate research themes and identified member universities, which would take each forward.

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| • Movement of people | Oxford and Berkeley |
| • Ageing (longevity) and health | Copenhagen and Peking |
| • Energy, environment, food and water
(Including urban/rural issues) | ETH Zurich, Tokyo and NUS |
| • Security | ANU and Cambridge |

All members expressed support for these three proposals. The meeting noted that there was an opportunity presented by the change in Singapore's Y12 approach to look longitudinally at Singapore Y12 graduates' experiences at member universities. The possibility of taking the PISA measures and adapting them for undergraduate education was also raised.

Each proposal will process along similar lines, first identifying what the IARU should be doing and what it wants to achieve and then sharing approaches and experiences with a view to learning from each other.

Agenda item (vii) Benchmarking

It was agreed that each member university would (based on the agenda paper) identify (in priority order) the five issues concerning which they would be most interested in exchanging information/benchmarking. Response should be provided to the IARU secretariat by end February, which will collate responses and prepare a short paper proposing a mechanism to get things going.

Agenda Item (viii) any other business

There were no items raised.

Agenda item (ix) Date of next meeting

The next IARU Presidents' meeting will be at the Australian National University in Canberra on Wednesday March 28th and Thursday March 29th, 2007.

A one-day workshop on undergraduate education, at which IARU Presidents could participate, will be scheduled for Tuesday March 27th. Other workshops may also be scheduled around these dates.
