



FACT SHEET ON THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES

OBJECTIVES

The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) is a consortium of leading universities in the Pacific Rim. Formed in 1997, it aims to foster cooperation in education, research and enterprise thereby contributing to the economic, scientific and cultural advancement of the Pacific Rim.

APRU STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Member institutions are represented in APRU by their presidents who meet annually. The Chair of APRU is elected by the members and serves a two-year renewable term.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides leadership for the association. Members of the Steering Committee are elected. The APRU Chair also serves as Chair of the Steering Committee.

Secretariat

The APRU Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General, coordinates the agenda and programs of APRU. The Secretariat also plays an important role in driving APRU's communications and outreach. The APRU Secretariat is located at the National University of Singapore.

APRU MEMBERSHIP

APRU's membership reflects a geographic balance around the Pacific Rim, representing the region's rich diversity while deepening intellectual and cross-cultural exchanges among members. Members are recognized as leading universities in their respective regions with track records of high quality academic research and education programs.

To be a member of APRU, candidate universities from around the Pacific Rim must satisfy four criteria, namely academic excellence, research intensity, global outlook and innovative dimension.

More information on this can be found in the fact sheet on membership criteria or at the APRU website www.apru.org



APRU ACTIVITIES

Annual Presidents Meeting

The centerpiece of APRU's calendar of events is the Annual Presidents Meeting. This brings together presidents of member universities. At this meeting, presidents discuss issues of strategic importance to research universities. They also address issues relating to APRU's governance and strategy as well as review APRU's initiatives and programs.

Senior Staff Meeting

At this meeting, the senior staff of APRU universities reviews the development and implementation of APRU activities. They also address topics of importance, particularly the globalization of research universities. The senior staff makes their recommendations to the presidents at the Annual Presidents Meeting.

APRU World Institute

The APRU World Institute (AWI) was established to harness scientific research to address issues of global importance, drawing on the talent base of APRU universities. AWI's vision is to be a leader in research and intellectual inquiry that strives to address issues of global significance. Its mission is to bring together talent from around the world to engage in research of scientific, social, and economic issues of global impact. Issues include those relating to the public health, environmental sustainability and economic integration. This institute, affiliated to APRU and hosted by National University of Singapore, transcends disciplinary, geographical and cultural boundaries. It is the first of its kind to emerge from the Asia Pacific.

Chief Information Officers Forum

The Chief Information Officers (CIO) Forum is an initiative to build a network of infocomm technology (ICT) leaders and senior professionals in APRU members to collaborate, develop tools, facilitate resource-sharing and exchange of best practices and standards in ICT infrastructure for education and research goals. CIOs, CTOs and leaders of Information Services at member universities gather annually to work towards common initiatives and challenges recognized as crucial to achieving the goals of APRU and its member universities.

Deans Meetings

The Deans Meetings series attempts to leverage the APRU presidents and senior staff networks to extend networking benefits to the operating (school) levels of APRU member universities. These meetings aim to lay the foundation for substantially enhancing



collaboration amongst APRU students and faculty, and serve as models for future meetings of other designated faculties or administrative groups.

Education and Research Technology Forum

An annual conference series, the Education and Research Technology Forum (ERT) aims to encourage collaborations and projects among APRU members in IT for strategic development, academia and research. These may include benchmarking, high performance computing, wireless/ubiquitous technology and distance learning around the Pacific Rim.

Doctoral Students Conference

An annual seminar, the Doctoral Students Conference aims to improve the international experience of doctoral students by providing network opportunities and a supportive venue for the presentation of their research results to their peers for critical comment before final submission to their examiners. The papers presented at the conference address a wide range of topics grouped under an annual theme. Workshop sessions preparing doctoral students for an academic career are also held at the conference.

Research Symposiums

From time to time, APRU sponsors or organizes research symposiums to provide networking platforms to facilitate the professional development of APRU researchers and exchange of knowledge. Some of the past research symposiums covered topics on Pacific Rim studies, digital libraries, microgravity, infectious diseases and real estate. Current and upcoming symposiums include earthquake hazards around the Pacific Rim, gerontology and brain and mind research in the Asia Pacific.

Undergraduate Summer Program

Arising from a project initiative in 2004 where the issue of student mobility was raised, member universities sought to increase the exchange of students across the Pacific Rim. Explorations in network exchange models have resulted in some summer school programs between APRU member universities being opened up to students from fellow member universities. In addition, an APRU-initiated undergraduate summer program has been held annually since 2006. Undergraduates from APRU Universities are eligible for the program that includes lectures, field trips and introductory lessons in local culture, language, politics and economy.



APRU RESEARCH INITIATIVE

APRU-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) Study entitled “The Globalisation and Tertiary Education in the Asia-Pacific: The Changing Nature of a Dynamic Market”

This is a collaborative effort by APRU and PECC to examine developments in the education sector and the opportunities and challenges they present for regional economic integration and community building in the Asia Pacific. The study aims to report on the evolution of the tertiary education supply chain, and make recommendations for education policy and business strategy initiatives.

For more details of our activities and research initiatives, please visit the APRU website at www.apru.org or contact:

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FACT SHEET ON APRU MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Membership Criteria

To be a member of APRU, candidate universities from around the Pacific Rim must satisfy the following criteria:

Academic Excellence

A member university should be rated as a leading university of the country, or a premier university within its geographical region. It should have attained broad excellence in carrying out the activities of its educational mission. In particular, the university should have developed innovative and quality educational programs at degree and professional levels in a substantial number of fields.

Research Intensity

Beyond the educational thrust, a member university must have a mission of promoting research and scholarship. This could be indicated by the level of research funding attracted and the research recognition received. Another indicator is the presence of high-quality, research-based programs conducted at the graduate level.

Global Outlook

A member university should have a strong international orientation. This could be reflected in its student and faculty profile. The university should participate actively in international activities such as university consortiums, forums or meetings. Another indicator of a university's global outlook is its research and educational collaborations with overseas institutions, including student, faculty and staff exchange programs.

Innovative Dimension

A member university should incorporate an innovative dimension in its education and research as well as provide service to the local and international communities. It should promote the spirit of innovation in its activities and interactions with various stakeholders of innovation, such as industry and research agencies. A possible outcome of its innovation could be research and development leading to commercialization.



Admission Process

Candidates for new membership will be nominated and seconded by Steering Committee members. Members of the Steering Committee who nominate and second a candidate will write letters of recommendation that address the candidate university's qualifications regarding each of APRU's four membership criteria. A formal submission will also accompany the letters of recommendation that highlights the university's qualifications in meeting APRU's four membership criteria as listed above.

The Steering Committee will review these recommendations. Support by a two-thirds vote will be required by the Steering Committee before a candidate is suggested to APRU's entire membership for consideration. Approval of a new member will require a three-fourths vote by existing members.

*Membership to APRU is currently closed.

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