International Alliance of Research Universities

Memorandum of Understanding

Among

Australian National University (ANU)

And

ETH Zurich

And

National University of Singapore (NUS)

And

Peking University (PKU)

And

University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley)

And

University of Cambridge (Cambridge)

And

University of Copenhagen (Copenhagen)

And

University of Oxford (Oxford)

And

The University of Tokyo (UT)

And

Yale University (Yale)
International Alliance of Research Universities

This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the Member Universities' conception of the Alliance.

1. Alliance

The Members agree to form an Alliance that will bring a new dimension to international cooperation by universities wherein Members engage one another in multiple ways in research and educational endeavours. In order to promote the work of the Alliance, each Member will develop mechanisms to inform and support their own staff and students engaged in Alliance activities, as well as to support those visiting from partner institutions. The nature of the Alliance is elucidated in the statement of Principles that underpin the Alliance at Attachment A.

2. Membership

Membership of the Alliance does not preclude Membership of other international networks, but this Alliance will be specifically characterised by a deep level of cooperation among Members that is intended to establish a benchmark for international alliances in the new millennia. Members will participate in the various activities of the Alliance where such participation fits with their particular objectives – it is not expected that any Member will participate in all activities. Membership will be reviewed in 2008. No new member will be added before 1 January 2009.

3. Framework and Issues

Members are to develop a framework which creates and defines the substantive structure of the Alliance and the operational protocols to guide its activities.

Issues which are to be addressed by the Members include, inter-alia: Membership and Governance, Supporting Infrastructure, Research Collaboration, Intellectual Property, Dual and Joint Degree Programs, Student and Faculty Exchanges, Finance and Sponsorship, Public Policy, Summer Leadership Programs and Benchmarking.
4. **Independence of Members**

The independence of Members is acknowledged and respected and neither the Alliance nor any Member shall have the power or right to bind, commit or pledge the credit of the other Members without their consent.
Signed as a Memorandum of Understanding:

For: The Australian National University
Name: Professor Ian Chubb
Signature: [Signature]
Title: Vice-Chancellor
Date: 13/1/06

For: ETH Zurich
Name: Professor Gerhard Schmitt
Signature: [Signature]
Title: Vice-President, Planning and Logistics
Date: January 13, 2006

For: National University of Singapore
Name: Professor Shih Choon Fong
Signature: [Signature]
Title: President
Date: 13 Jan 06

For: Peking University
Name: Professor Xu Zhihong
Signature: [Signature]
Title: President
Date: 13, Jan, 2006
For: University of California (Berkeley)
Name: Professor Robert Birgeneau
Signature: Robert Birgeneau
Title: Chancellor
Date: Jan 13, 2006

For: University of Cambridge
Name: Professor Alison Richard
Signature: Alison Richard
Title: Vice-Chancellor
Date: 13 Jan '06

For: University of Copenhagen
Name: Professor Ralf Peter Hemmingsen
Signature: Ralf Peter Hemmingsen
Title: Rector
Date: 12.1.06

For: University of Oxford
Name: Dr Bill Macmillan
Signature: Bill Macmillan
Title: Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources)
Date: 13/11/06
For: The University of Tokyo
Name: Professor Hiroshi Komiyama
Signature: 
Title: President
Date: 13 Jan. 2006

For: Yale University
Name: Ms Linda Koch Lorimer
Signature: 
Title: Vice-President and Secretary
Date: Jan 13, 2006


**Principles that underpin the Alliance**

(i) The Alliance will be strategic, drawing together a select group of research-intensive universities that share similar values, a global vision and a commitment to educating future world leaders. Central to these values is the importance of academic diversity and international collaboration.

(ii) The Alliance should add value by providing opportunities to students and staff that would not arise otherwise, allowing Members to achieve things they would be unable to achieve on their own.

(iii) The Alliance will offer the opportunity for substantially deeper and more wide-ranging associations than usual international university consortia or groupings.

(iv) The Alliance will bring a new dimension to Members' international activities, including new opportunities for international research, teaching and learning.

(v) The Alliance will not be representative in nature (i.e. it is not meant to include "representatives" from every region of the world).

(vi) The Alliance will (in the medium term) invite participants to utilise the complementary research capability of Members to address issues of central importance; these may include global security, movement of people, ageing and health, and development and environmental sustainability.

(vii) The Alliance will provide a framework within which a range of protocols and templates can be developed to promote collaboration and allow cooperative activities to be undertaken more easily.

(viii) Each Member will determine the extent of its involvement in each of the activities of the Alliance to suit its particular objectives and constraints – it is not expected that any Member will participate in all activities.

(ix) Alliance activities will build on and strengthen existing relationships.

(x) Members will give prominence to the Alliance in order to allow and encourage multilateral and bilateral cooperation between Members.

(xi) Membership of the Alliance will in no way preclude or limit activities with partners outside the Alliance.

(xii) Decisions will be made through collaborative approaches – there will be no formal requirement for unanimity.

(xiii) Structures and processes will be as uncomplicated and non-prescriptive as possible.

(xiv) Those cooperative activities that can be undertaken immediately should be given effect as soon as possible. Difficulties in resolving more complicated issues should not be allowed to delay activity in more straightforward areas.

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