

**Association of Pacific Rim Universities**  
Proposal for the Senior Staff Meeting  
March 8-10, 2006 at Peking University  
By Dr. Don Harris, University of Oregon

The goal of APRU is to “foster education, research and enterprise thereby contributing to the economic, scientific and cultural advancement in the Pacific Rim”. From the formation of the organization the role of information technology (IT) was identified as a critical component in achieving this vision. Strategic partnerships with organizations involved in the development and deployment of advanced networking technology and applications have been formed through APRUNet, and a conference on “Distance Learning and the Internet” has been held each of the past six years.

What perhaps has been missing from our efforts thus far is an initiative that would have as its goal the building of the human network of IT professionals at APRU member institutions. If we are to achieve the education and research goals of the organization, IT professionals will need to not only be involved at their local campuses, but also engaged in partnerships among the IT community in the Pacific Rim. This proposal is to include an agenda item at the APRU Senior Staff meeting in March that explore how we might achieve this objective.

The role of the APRU Senior Staff Meeting in exploring options in this area is vital. Information technology professionals need to be in alignment with the strategic directions of their institutional president’s and senior staff. Providing a mechanism for review and comment, as well as critical input, by senior staff on how to move forward with this initiative will allow us to proceed with a plan that serves APRU as well as its member institutions. If the outcome of the discussion at the Senior Staff Meeting is to send a recommendation to the President’s Meeting in June, then there will be time to gather any additional information needed for that report.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or comments on this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me at [cio@uoregon.edu](mailto:cio@uoregon.edu).