



**THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES (APRU) IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Remarks by  
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On Human Capacity Building  
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It is a great pleasure for me, as chairman of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, to participate in this "High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building."

Let me begin by giving you a little information about the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, or APRU, as it is known.

- APRU is a self-governing association of the chief executive officers of 34 leading research universities from around the Pacific Rim.
- This group elects a steering committee and a chairman to provide leadership for the association.
- Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the United States are all represented on the steering committee.
- I was elected to be APRU's founding chairman in 1997, and I was re-elected in 1999.
- The University of Southern California, of which I am president, provides APRU's Secretariat.

APRU was founded in 1997 to help its members become more effective contributors to the development of a prosperous and peaceful Pacific Rim community.

- By increasing mutual understanding among the chief executive officers of its 34 member universities, APRU is stimulating cooperation in teaching and research among its members.
- We believe our universities are in a good position to help shape regional policies concerning education, science and technology, and human resource development among Pacific Rim economies.

As APRU's Chairman, I sincerely appreciate the endorsements of APRU by APEC Leaders in their economic Declaration in Vancouver in 1997 and in Brunei last year, and the endorsement from APEC foreign ministers in Auckland in 1999.

- APRU looks forward to working with APEC to achieve our common goals.
- I am pleased to note that sixteen APRU universities are represented at this meeting today.

In my remarks this afternoon, I should like to explain how APRU might help APEC accomplish its educational goals and help APEC economies become more effective players in the global economy.

We all realize that the prosperity of the APEC economies in this era of globalization depends heavily on

education.

- However, because of projected population growth over the next century, it is unlikely that Pacific Rim economies will be able to build enough traditional universities to meet the demand.
- We also know that in the global economy, workers will need education and training throughout their lives to keep pace with scientific and technological change.
- We must be creative in using information technology for a massive expansion in distance learning to meet this exploding demand for education and for life-long learning.

APRU has much to contribute towards developing a creative, and highly-trained workforce.

- We believe that APRU can help APEC economies develop their human resources to take advantage of the new opportunities presented by globalization.

APRU can help by using advanced information technology to substantially expand distance learning and research in APEC economies.

- This in turn will enable APEC economies to accelerate their educational and economic progress.

Together APRU members are developing teaching and research applications that build on advanced Internet technology in a project called APRUNet.

- New courses, which take advantage of advanced internet technologies, are being developed by APRU members to be delivered to audiences of university students, high school students, small- and medium-sized businesses, and non-governmental organizations throughout the 21 APEC economies.
- These students will be able to access instructional materials at any time, and at any place, at which the Internet is available.
- Any academic or corporate group in APEC economies will be able to use the new IT-based courses being developed by APRU members.
- We believe APRUNet activities could be powerful catalysts for expanding educational, economic and technological cooperation among APEC economies.

APRU has made the utilization of advanced internet technologies a high priority.

- We are promoting the development of cutting-edge distance learning experiments among our member institutions.
- Last week, APRU held its second annual distance learning conference in Kyoto.
- At the conference, leading experts from 42 universities, 33 of them APRU members, spent three days sharing information about best practices and developing new partnerships for IT-based education.
- APRU's first two distance learning conferences have been generously supported by the Lucent Technologies Foundation. All of the information from these two conferences is available at the APRU website <[www.usc.edu/apru](http://www.usc.edu/apru)>.

APRU is attempting to establish an innovative distance learning partnership among eight of our member universities and ten high schools.

- The universities participating in the project are: Australian National University, National University of Singapore, Peking University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, the University of Tokyo, the University of Southern California, and the University of Washington.
- APRU is now seeking corporate and foundation support to implement the project.
- The overall goal of this partnership is to develop research-based distance learning modules for international teams of high school student

Please keep in mind that distance learning is in its infancy.

- Trial and error will be a necessary part of its growth, because we are traveling in uncharted territory.
- It will require experimentation to find out what works best for different countries and cultures.
- We will need to experiment to develop uniform standards for teaching and research that can be used across national boundaries.
- But distance learning will improve rapidly as technology improves and people gain experience in using it.

A project of such tremendous scope requires cooperation.

- As APEC leaders have recognized, in the new economy and with faster global integration, no one segment of the economy can afford to work alone or in isolation.
- By working closely together, business, governments, and educators can all reap extraordinary benefits from this project.
- APRU welcomes partnerships with business to help us develop the technology and applications for our APRUNet activities.
- I hope also that the governments of APEC economies will work with our universities and the business sector in developing this advanced information technology network.

In the new economy , we all recognize that universities are a powerful engine for economic progress, developing both human and material capacity.

- Universities are taking the lead in developing the next generation of high-tech software and hardware.
- Universities are also taking the lead in training the next generation of Scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs.
- Moreover, university partnerships tend to be long-lived and very stable.
- APRU can foster long-term relationships through teaching and research that will withstand political disagreements and economic instabilities.
- APRU is an institution that could provide APEC with a very strong educational foundation for supporting its human resource development and science and technology initiatives.

The Pacific Rim has unmatched material and human resources.

- It also has unmatched potential—the potential to be the leading economic region in the world, the potential to set the agenda for progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- APRU will be pleased to help APEC achieve that full potential.

Thank you.