



FACING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

**RESPONSE AND
RESILIENCE**

**APRU
Annual
Report
2023**

Annual Report
2023

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**WORKING
TOGETHER**

MAINLAND CHINA AND HONG KONG SAR

- 11 Fudan University
- 12 Harbin Institute of Technology
- 13 Nanjing University
- 14 Peking University
- 15 Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- 16 Sun Yat-sen University
- 17 The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 18 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- 19 The University of Hong Kong
- 20 Tongji University
- 21 Tsinghua University
- 22 University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
- 23 University of Science and Technology of China
- 24 Xi'an Jiaotong University
- 25 Zhejiang University

RUSSIA

- 47 Far Eastern Federal University

KOREA

- 37 KAIST
- 38 Korea University
- 39 POSTECH
- 40 Pusan National University
- 41 Seoul National University
- 42 Yonsei University

JAPAN

- 31 Keio University
- 32 Kyushu University
- 33 Nagoya University
- 34 Osaka University
- 35 Tohoku University
- 36 Waseda University

CHINESE TAIPEI

- 26 National Taiwan University
- 27 National Tsing Hua University

PHILIPPINES

- 46 University of the Philippines

THAILAND

- 50 Chulalongkorn University

MALAYSIA

- 48 Universiti Malaya

SINGAPORE

- 48 Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 49 National University of Singapore

INDONESIA

- 30 Universitas Indonesia

AUSTRALIA

- 1 Monash University
- 2 The Australian National University
- 3 The University of Adelaide
- 4 The University of Melbourne
- 5 The University of Queensland
- 6 The University of Sydney
- 7 UNSW Sydney

INDIAN
OCEAN

NORTH
PACIFIC
OCEAN

CANADA

- 8 Simon Fraser University
- 9 The University of British Columbia

USA

- 51 University of California, Davis
- 52 University of California, Los Angeles
- 53 University of California, Riverside
- 54 University of California, San Diego
- 55 University of California, Santa Barbara
- 56 University of California, Santa Cruz
- 57 University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 58 University of Oregon
- 59 University of Southern California
- 60 University of Washington

SOUTH
PACIFIC
OCEAN

NEW ZEALAND

- 45 The University of Auckland



NORTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

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MEXICO

44 Tecnológico de Monterrey

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COLOMBIA

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ECUADOR

29 Universidad San Francisco de Quito

CHILE

10 Universidad de Chile

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SOUTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

APRU Members

(as of 31 March, 2023)

APRU membership is comprised of leading universities from 19 economies of the Pacific Rim known worldwide for their academic and research excellence.

APRU Presidents

(as of 31 March, 2023)

AUSTRALIA

Margaret GARDNER AC
President and Vice-Chancellor
Monash University

Brian P. SCHMIDT AC
Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National
University

Peter HØJ, AC
Vice-Chancellor and President
The University of Adelaide

Duncan MASKELL
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Melbourne

Deborah TERRY AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
The University of Queensland

Mark SCOTT AO
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Sydney

Attila BRUNGS
President and Vice-Chancellor
UNSW Sydney

CANADA

Joy JOHNSON
President and Vice-Chancellor
Simon Fraser University

Deborah BUSZARD
Interim President and
Vice-Chancellor
The University of British
Columbia

CHILE

Rosa DEVÉS
Rector
Universidad de Chile

CHINESE TAIPEI

Wen-Chang CHEN
President
National Taiwan University

W. John KAO
President
National Tsing Hua University

MAINLAND CHINA AND HONG KONG SAR

JIN Li
President
Fudan University

HAN Jiecai
President
Harbin Institute of Technology

TAN Zhemín
President
Nanjing University

GONG Qihuang
President
Peking University

DING Kuiling
President
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

GAO Song
President
Sun Yat-sen University

Rocky S. TUAN
Vice-Chancellor and President
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong

Nancy Y. IP
President
The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology

Xiang ZHANG
President and Vice-Chancellor
The University of Hong Kong

ZHENG Qinghua
President
Tongji University

WANG Xiqin
President
Tsinghua University

LI Shushen
President
University of Chinese
Academy of Sciences

BAO Xinhe
President
University of Science and
Technology of China

WANG Shuguo
President
Xi'an Jiaotong University

DU Jiangfeng
President
Zhejiang University

COLOMBIA

Raquel BERNAL
President
Universidad de los Andes,
Colombia

ECUADOR

Diego QUIROGA
Rector
Universidad San Francisco
de Quito

INDONESIA

Ari KUNCORO
Rector
Universitas Indonesia

JAPAN

Kohei ITOH
President
Keio University

Tatsuro ISHIBASHI
President
Kyushu University

Naoshi SUGIYAMA
President
Nagoya University

Shojiro NISHIO
President
Osaka University

Hideo OHNO
President
Tohoku University

Aiji TANAKA
President
Waseda University

RUSSIA

Boris N. KOROBETS
President
Far Eastern Federal University

THAILAND

Bundhit EUA-ARPORN
President
Chulalongkorn University

SINGAPORE

HO Teck Hua
President
Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore
(from April 2023)

TAN Eng Chye
President
National University of Singapore

KOREA

Kwang Hyung LEE
President
KAIST

Dong-One KIM
President
Korea University

Moo Hwan KIM
President
POSTECH

CHA Jeong-In
President
Pusan National University

Honglim RYU
President
Seoul National University

Seoung Hwan SUH
President
Yonsei University

USA

Gary S. MAY
Chancellor
University of California, Davis

Gene D. BLOCK
Chancellor
University of California,
Los Angeles

Kim A. WILCOX
Chancellor
University of California,
Riverside

Pradeep K. KHOSLA
Chancellor
University of California,
San Diego

Henry T. YANG
Chancellor
University of California,
Santa Barbara

David LASSNER
President
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

John Karl SCHOLZ
President
University of Oregon
(from July 2023)

Carol L. FOLT
President
University of Southern California

Ana Mari CAUCE
President
University of Washington

MALAYSIA

Dato' Mohd. Hamdi Abd.
SHUKOR
Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Malaya

NEW ZEALAND

Dawn FRESHWATER
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Auckland

MEXICO

David GARZA
President
Tecnológico de Monterrey

PHILIPPINES

Angelo A. JIMENEZ
President
University of the Philippines

Cynthia K. LARIVE
Chancellor
University of California,
Santa Cruz

From the Chair



Dear APRU Members:

Each day, I am reminded of our interconnectedness. From natural disasters to trade, from international conflicts to climate change, the successes and struggles of peoples around the world are linked. We are all global citizens, and our decisions and actions have benefits and consequences that extend far beyond our national borders.

While this realization can feel overwhelming, it should also be comforting. There is much more that unites us than divides us. If we recognize this, we can work together to improve the welfare of our global community as well as the health of the planet.

A hallmark of the APRU consortium is its ability to function as a bridge across the Pacific Rim, addressing topics of worldwide urgency from a holistic perspective that combines scientific insights with an ethical imperative. In this spirit, we facilitate high-level dialogue between universities, businesses, and governments. This inclusive engagement is demonstrated by the APEC University Leaders' Forum 2022, "Preventing the Next Pandemic," initiated by the Presidential Working Group and hosted by Chulalongkorn University. Its meeting report sets out an agenda for a global action plan and identifies the cross-sector partnerships needed to implement it. Another example is the APRU Provosts' Forum 2022, hosted by Tsinghua University in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Inspired by the UNESCO report "Futures of Education," it envisions the possibilities for higher education across the Asia-Pacific, combining the latest research on university education with a deep commitment to student learning and development.

I look forward to presenting this report at our Annual Presidents' Meeting. It showcases the vast range of programs that APRU member universities have been leading, focused on enhancing student collaboration, advancing gender equity, and supporting research on sustainable development, among other topics.

I would like to extend my gratitude to President Zhang Xiang for hosting us at The University of Hong Kong for this summit. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Christopher Tremewan for his leadership of APRU over more than 11 years — and to welcome his successor, Thomas Schneider, with our most sincere wishes for success.

It is a time of great change in the world, as we emerge from a pandemic, explore and grapple with new technology and ideas, work to address the rising impacts of climate change, and more. Fifty-five years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote that "our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change." Our member universities, together, can ensure that this moment of transition can also be a moment of opportunity that leads us to create a more healthy and equitable world.

Thank you for your and your institutions' ongoing, passionate, and enthusiastic work on behalf of the large communities we serve across the Asia-Pacific region.

Gene D. Block
Chancellor, UCLA

From the Chief Executive



Dear APRU Colleagues:

The year 2023 marks the beginning of APRU's second quarter-century. When the Association of Pacific Rim Universities was established in 1997, the world population amounted to less than 6 billion people, whereas it stands at 8 billion at present. Over the same period, we saw a steady rise in urbanization — in 1997, 46% of the world population lived in cities, which has shifted to a majority today, with 57% living in urban agglomerations. Since 1997, the Fourth Industrial Revolution has been changing lives at a pace unprecedented in human history — billions of people are connected by mobile devices, computing power and innovative technologies are transforming the very ecosystems in which we live and work, from food production and manufacturing to medicine, education, the workplace and our personal lives. Within the next 25 years, this transformation's opportunities and challenges will become visible and palpable. At the same time, despite the boundless interconnectedness of our digital realm, geopolitical conflicts will continue to shake up the globe over territorial, cultural, religious and economic claims. Unthought of in 1997, the massive footprint humans are leaving on this globe — not least in changing the planet's climate — has made scholars declare a new era of the Earth's history, the Anthropocene.

It is in this rapidly transforming world, marked by enormous opportunities and risks, that APRU will operate within its second quarter-century across the largest ocean on Earth, representing 60 universities and its large constituencies. APRU will continue to serve, more indispensably than ever before, as a platform of dialogue and a power of change across the Pacific. It is more than a super-connector — it is a super-translator, translating between different cultures and mentalities, and translating ideas into action.

It is a pleasure and privilege for me, as APRU's new Chief Executive, to thank the members of the Steering Committee, the presidents, senior international leaders, and many others from our member universities for their unrelenting commitment and invaluable help in the past years. By the same token, I wish to take this opportunity to invite you all to help shape APRU's second quarter-century. Former NYU president John Sexton once reflected on how in addition to their traditional mandates of knowledge creation and dissemination, "great universities can influence globalization positively and, thereby, foster the advancement of humankind in special ways." As a network of great universities, I am certain we can jointly "foster the advancement of humankind in special ways."

On behalf of the entire team of the APRU International Secretariat, I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Thomas Schneider
Chief Executive, APRU

APRU Leaders

Steering Committee 2022–2023

The Steering Committee is APRU's executive body, as elected by the presidents of member universities. It oversees the strategy, policy, programs and finances of the network.



Gene D. BLOCK
Chancellor,
University of California,
Los Angeles;
Chair, APRU



Rocky S. TUAN
Vice-Chancellor and
President,
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong;
Vice-Chair, APRU



Jin Taek CHUNG
President,
Korea University
(until February 2023)



TAN Eng Chye
President,
National University of
Singapore



LIN Zhongqin
President,
Shanghai Jiao Tong
University
(until February 2023)



David GARZA
President,
Tecnológico de
Monterrey



Dawn FRESHWATER
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of
Auckland



Santa J. ONO
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of British
Columbia
(until October 2022)



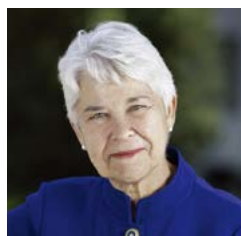
Xiang ZHANG
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Hong
Kong



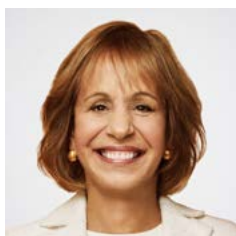
Deborah TERRY
Vice-Chancellor and
President,
The University of
Queensland



Mohd. Hamdi Abd. SHUKOR
Vice-Chancellor,
Universiti Malaya



Carol T. CHRIST
Chancellor,
University of California,
Berkeley
(until February 2023)



Carol L. FOLT
President,
University of Southern
California



Aiji TANAKA
President,
Waseda University



Christopher TREMEWAN
Secretary General, APRU
(until December 2022)



Thomas SCHNEIDER
Chief Executive, APRU
(from January 2023)



Sherman S. CHENG
Chief Financial Officer,
APRU

List of New Presidents

(as of 31 March, 2023)

We express our warmest welcome to the following presidents who have recently joined the APRU community.



Dong-One KIM
President,
Korea University



TAN Zhemín
President,
Nanjing University
(from April 2023)



HO Teck Hua
President,
Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore
(from April 2023)



Wen-Chang CHEN
President,
National Taiwan
University



GONG Qihuang
President,
Peking University



DING Kuiling
President,
Shanghai Jiao Tong
University



Nancy Y. IP
President,
The Hong Kong
University of Science and
Technology



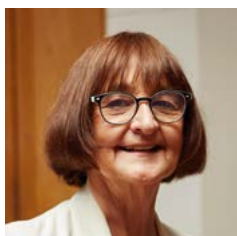
Peter HØJ, AC
Vice-Chancellor and
President,
The University of
Adelaide



Deborah BUSZARD
Interim President and
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of British
Columbia



ZHENG Qinghua
President,
Tongji University



Rosa DEVÉS
Rector,
Universidad de Chile



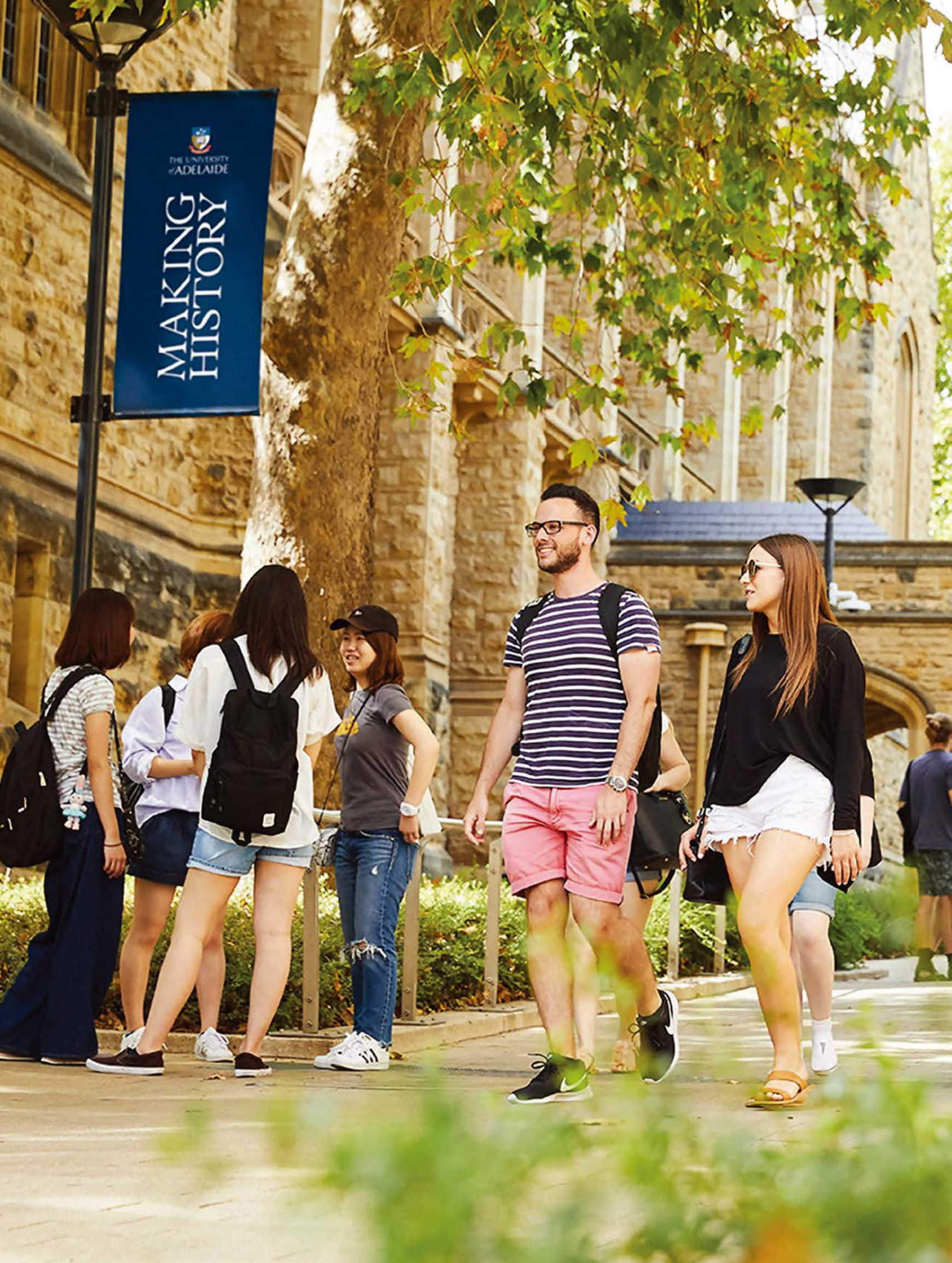
John Karl SCHOLZ
President,
University of Oregon
(from July 2023)



Angelo JIMENEZ
President,
University of the
Philippines



DU Jiangfeng
President,
Zhejiang University



New Member

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

The University of Adelaide is a member of Australia's Group of Eight research-intensive universities, and is consistently rated by the QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education and Shanghai Jiao Tong's Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) amongst the top 1% of universities worldwide. Innovation and world-class teaching and learning are built on a rich history of excellence spanning almost 150 years since the University was established in 1874.

With over 29,000 students from more than 100 countries and over 3,000 staff, half of whom are from overseas, the University's deep global connections are integral to its vision of building a better future for all.

Its staff and teachers are internationally recognised leaders in their respective fields, with expertise that spans a range of disciplines and subject areas including engineering, agriculture, computer science, veterinary science, geology, energy and earth sciences, water resources, dentistry, nursing, clinical medicine and public health.

The University's greatest asset is its 160,000 strong global alumni community; its distinguished staff and alumni include five Nobel Laureates; over 100 Rhodes Scholars, including Australia's first Indigenous recipient; Australia's first female prime minister; and Australia's first female supreme court judge.

The University also partners with leading higher education institutions, research centres, corporations and government agencies across the globe, and works with them to solve the most pressing global challenges and shape future global leaders.

The University has four campuses: three in South Australia at North Terrace, Waite and Roseworthy; and one in Melbourne, Victoria.

Senior International Leaders

The Senior International Leaders of each APRU member university convene annually to review the development and implementation of activities of the APRU network.

(as of 31 March, 2023)

AUSTRALIA

Susan ELLIOT, AM

Provost and
Senior Vice-President
Monash University

Sally WHEELER, OBE

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(International & Corporate)
The Australian National
University

Jessica GALLAGHER

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and
Vice-President (External
Engagement)
The University of Adelaide

Adrian LITTLE

Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(International)
The University of Melbourne

Rongyu LI

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
and Vice-President
(Global Engagement)
The University of Queensland

Kathy BELOV, AO

Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Global & Research
Engagement
The University of Sydney

Fiona DOCHERTY

Vice President,
External Relations
UNSW Sydney

MAINLAND CHINA AND HONG KONG SAR

LU Lian

Director, Office of
Global Partnerships
Fudan University

XIONG Jian

Director, Office of Global Affairs
Harbin Institute of Technology

WANG Zhelin

Vice President
Nanjing University

WANG Bo

Vice President
Peking University

Xuemin XU

Vice President for Education
and International Affairs
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

XIAO Haipeng

Executive Vice President
for International Affairs
Sun Yat-sen University

Alan K.L. CHAN

Provost
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong

Yang WANG

Vice-President for
Institutional Advancement
The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology

Isabella WONG

Chief of Staff
The University of Hong Kong

LOU Yongqi

Vice President (International)
Tongji University

LI Jinliang

Dean, Office of
International Affairs
Tsinghua University

WU Yueliang

Vice President
University of Chinese
Academy of Sciences

Jinlong YANG

Vice President for
International Affairs
University of Science and
Technology of China

XI Guang

Vice President
Xi'an Jiaotong University

LI Min

Director, Office of
Global Engagement
Zhejiang University

CANADA

Shaheen NANJI

Executive Director,
SFU International
Simon Fraser University

Rumee AHMED

Vice-Provost,
International *pro tem*
The University of
British Columbia

CHINESE TAIPEI

Hsiao-Wei YUAN

Vice President for
International Affairs
National Taiwan University

Ta-Jen YEN

Vice-President for
Global Affairs
National Tsing Hua University

CHILE

Alicia SALOMONE

Director of International Affairs
Universidad de Chile

COLOMBIA

Silvia RESTREPO

Vice President for
Research and Creation
Universidad de los Andes,
Colombia

ECUADOR

Alexandra VELASCO

Senior Director of
Internationalization
Universidad San Francisco
de Quito

INDONESIA

Agustin Kusumayati

ACHIAT
University Secretary
Universitas Indonesia

JAPAN**Motohiro TSUCHIYA**

Vice-President for
Global Engagement
Keio University

Kenji IWATA

Executive Vice President,
International Affairs
Kyushu University

Norimi MIZUTANI

Vice President (International
Affairs, Planning, Evaluation, and
Institutional Research)

Manabu TANAKA

Executive Vice-President of
Global Engagement
Osaka University

Toshiya UEKI

Executive Vice-President
Tohoku University

Masahiko GEMMA

Vice President for
International Affairs
Waseda University

RUSSIA**Evgeny E. VLASOV**

Vice President for
International Relations
Far Eastern Federal University

THAILAND**Kaywalee CHATDARONG**

Vice President for
Strategic Planning, Innovation
and Global Engagement
Chulalongkorn University

SINGAPORE**Tim WHITE**

Vice President
(International Engagement)
Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore

Reuben WONG

Associate Vice-President
for Global Relations
National University of Singapore

KOREA**Man Sung YIM**

Associate Vice President,
International Office
KAIST

Sang Kee SONG

Vice President for
International Affairs
Korea University

Jong Kyu KIM

Vice President of Planning
POSTECH

Moonsuk YI

Vice President of
PNU International
Pusan National University

Theresa Seung Ah CHO

Vice President of
International Affairs
Seoul National University

Dong-Hun KIM

Vice President for
International Affairs
Yonsei University

USA**Joanna M. REGULSKA**

Vice Provost and
Dean of Global Affairs
University of California, Davis

C. Cindy FAN

Vice-Provost for International
Studies and Global Engagement
University of California,
Los Angeles

Marko PRINCEVAC

Vice Provost of
International Affairs
University of California,
Riverside

Becky GEORGE

Assistant Vice Provost of
Global Engagement
University of California,
Santa Cruz

April QUINN

Interim Assistant
Provost for Global Engagement
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dennis GALVAN

Dean and Vice Provost
of Global Engagement
University of Oregon

MALAYSIA**Yvonne LIM Ai Lian**

Associate Vice-Chancellor
(Global Engagement)
Universiti Malaya

MEXICO**José Manuel PÁEZ**

Vice-Rector for
International Affairs
Tecnológico de Monterrey

Tamara C. CUNNINGHAM

Assistant Vice Chancellor
of Global Initiatives
University of California,
San Diego

Anthony BAILEY

Vice President for
Strategic and Global Initiatives
University of Southern California

Jeffrey RIEDINGER

Vice Provost for Global Affairs
University of Washington

NEW ZEALAND**Erik LITHANDER**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Strategic Engagement)
The University of Auckland

PHILIPPINES**Leo C.P. CULLIGIAN**

Vice-President for
Academic Affairs
University of the Philippines

Kum-Kum BHAVNANI

Associate Vice Chancellor
for Global Engagement
University of California,
Santa Barbara

APRU Partners

Acer Planet 9



A global esports community platform for gamers and launched by Acer in early 2020, Planet 9 sponsored the APRU Collegiate Esports Regional Tournament in 2022.

adidas



adidas and APRU signed an MOU to explore internships and career opportunities for students from APRU universities. The two organizations are also identifying future research and innovation collaboration opportunities with APRU members on sustainability-related challenges.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



APRU collaborates on APEC initiatives both as a guest member of working groups and as a participant in dialogues addressing topics including oceans, health, and the digital economy.

APEC Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG)



APRU renewed its guest member status with the HRDWG to the end of 2023 and collaborates on key activities including the development of an APEC Framework for Integrated STEM Degree Programmes.

APEC Policy Partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI)



APRU renewed its guest member status with PPSTI to the end of 2024. As a guest member, APRU is involved in capacity building activities in priority areas.

Bard College and the Open Society University Network



APRU partnered with Bard College and the Open Society University Network on the global climate project, Solve Climate and Worldwide Teach-in on Climate and Justice. The project is co-led by Dr. Eban Goodstein, Director of GPS at Bard, and Dr. David Blockstein.

Crowell & Moring



Crowell & Moring International LLC is the global government relations, public policy, and public affairs consultancy firm that advises the world's leading companies and associations on how to engage global policymakers and create impactful partnerships.

C&M was APRU's knowledge partner of the APEC University Leaders' Forum 2022 held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Cyberport



The home of APRU's International University Centre, Cyberport is an innovative digital community with over 1,650 start-ups and technology companies. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology for Hong Kong, Cyberport worked closely with APRU to launch the Esports MetaGame Conference and partner on the Esports Fellowship Program.

Elsevier



APRU and Elsevier partner to enhance research collaboration between members and to relate this strength to addressing challenges in Asia-Pacific. APRU is grateful to Elsevier for its support in the areas of gender equity, sustainability, health, and the digital economy.

Google.org



APRU have received funding from Google.org for four collaborative projects focusing on the impact of AI on society – AI for Everyone: Benefiting from and Building Trust in the Technology; Transformation of Work in Asia-Pacific in the 21st Century; and AI For Social Good including strengthening capabilities and governance frameworks in Asia-Pacific in partnership with UN ESCAP.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



The APRU Multi-Hazards Program works closely with IFRC on a number of key publications and projects, including the 2020 webinar series focusing on a new approach for disaster risk management after COVID-19.

Our Hong Kong Foundation



A non-government, non-profit organization founded in 2014, Our Hong Kong Foundation (OHKF) aims to contribute to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability as well as its sustainable development under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

OHKF was APRU's knowledge partner of the APEC University Leaders' Forum 2022 held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Rebalance Earth



The project Rebalance Earth, set up to explore the link between biodiversity protection, ecosystem services, and carbon sequestration, signed an MOU with APRU. The agreement will offer APRU members the opportunity to collaborate with international experts on reimagining protection of keystone species, and supporting local communities through nature-based climate solutions.

The Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs)



The Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs), from Germany with a global network of more than 30 offices, is involved in the discussion regulatory and governance issues of digitalization especially through its Brussels, Washington and Hong Kong offices and its head office in Berlin. hbs is networked to relevant actors especially in Europe, including civil society and members of parliament, policy-makers and other experts involved in the EU's AI Law initiative.

Times Higher Education (THE)



APRU partners with THE on the development of global summits, including the Impact and Innovation Summit, Asia Summit, and the Leadership and Management Summit. THE is a global platform for reporting on news and issues related to higher education.

United Nations (UN)



As well as aligning its work with the UN SDGs, APRU experts joined the Technical Advisory Group within the International Labour Organization on the Women and the Future of Work in the Asia-Pacific report. The APRU Multi-Hazards Program works on projects in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)



APRU collaborates with UN ESCAP on a number of initiatives and projects including developing statistical guidance towards SDG 14, the implementation and running of the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy and, alongside Google, developing the AI for Social Good projects.

UN-Habitat



Since 2018, APRU has worked with UN-Habitat on the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy. In 2019, the two organizations contributed to the development of The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities report 2019 and UN Habitat-UN ESCAP-APRU-NJU Sustainable Cities Forum hosted by Nanjing University.

Yesports



APRU and Yesports partnered on the APRU Esports Apprenticeship and the APRU MetaGame Conference, engaging youth worldwide on Esports initiatives to empower a generation of students as future leaders of the Esports industry.

Annual Presidents' Meeting 2022

Themed “Reconnecting in a Sustainable World,” the Annual Presidents’ Meeting 2022 was hosted by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore from 6 to 9 July, and presented an invaluable platform for university presidents and esteemed guests representing different regions to share their views on key challenges, including global health crises and geopolitical tensions. It was also the **first annual presidents’ meeting** to be held in person since the start of COVID-19.

More than **100** presidents, university leaders and delegates met face-to-face at this year’s meeting to discuss the importance of cross-disciplinary collaborations to resolve challenges. Its urgency was reinforced by Piyush Gupta, CEO of DBS Bank, over a fireside chat. He highlighted the need for universities and businesses to collectively train the future workforce in the sustainability field and fund research. Other key discussion topics included **sustainable development**, **climate change**, and preparedness for the **next pandemic**.

The meeting concluded with high enthusiasm and a firm commitment by APRU presidents to pool together scholarships, research and innovation to shape a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous world. A Presidents’ Statement was also created to outline the presidents’ committed, collective actions for the coming year.

“As we gather at this pivotal moment, let us pledge to create a roadmap for compelling action-oriented cooperation and make a positive contribution in a transformed world.”

Prof. Subra Suresh

Former President, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore





Shaping a More Sustainable and Prosperous World

Discussing Key Challenges: Various discussion sessions over two days presented valuable opportunities for panelists to share their views on critical challenges, such as global health crises, deepening inequality, heightening social unrest, new geopolitical tensions, as well as sudden changes in public policy.

Learning from the Pandemic: In the sessions themed “Responses to Crisis in a Diverse Region,” APRU universities illustrated how they had overcome key challenges brought by the pandemic. Chancellor Gary May of the University of California, Davis, said: “In the spirit of thinking about actionable responses from the APRU community, we talked about the best practices that can be shared among our universities. More importantly, we discussed how we can share the important data particularly relevant to the pandemic.”

Striving toward Sustainability: In a session themed “Reconnecting: The New Urgency for Collaboration,” panelists shared their unique experiences and visions of how higher education institutions should work together to address imminent regional and global issues and shape a sustainable future.



▲ Over 100 presidents, university leaders and delegates gathered on the campus of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore to participate in the first in-person annual presidents’ meeting since 2019.

APEC University Leaders' Forum 2022

The APEC University Leaders' Forum 2022 was hosted by Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand on 16 November, 2022, under the theme “**Preventing the Next Pandemic – The Global Partnership Agenda for Governments, Business, and Research Universities.**”

As a high-level side meeting of the annual round of the APEC CEO Summit and the APEC Leaders' Meeting, the forum brought together university leaders, policymakers, and entrepreneurs, who shared their visions of increasing global resilience, promoting international cooperation, and developing future-proof strategies to prepare for another pandemic.

“**Today's forum will be a key turning point in forging technical cooperation within the Asia Pacific to discuss approaches to tackle challenges, form joint studies and research on development in all dimensions, including technology and innovation, as the main foundation leading to prosperity of all regional countries in a balanced and sustainable manner.**”

His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha
Prime Minister of Thailand

Working Together to Enhance Global Health Resilience

Cooperation is Vital: His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, addressed the opening ceremony, and noted that collaboration among all sectors was vital for building resilience. He pointed out that one of the critical factors behind Thailand's success in handling COVID-19 was its public health policy, which prioritized exchanging knowledge with other countries and economies.

New Mechanisms Needed: In a special plenary session, Dr. Bernhard Schwartländer, an epidemiologist and Global Health Envoy of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the urgent need to reinvent the traditional, top-down systems to be better prepared for future pandemics. He believed the new mechanisms should facilitate information sharing, promote transparency, and accelerate inventions in preparing for, and tackling, a pandemic.

Three Plenary Sessions: The forum comprised three plenary sessions which focused on the strategic areas identified by the APRU Presidential Working Group, namely biomedical research partnerships, social-cultural strategies, and combatting the infodemic. The sessions sought ways to enhance future public health by addressing these issues.

A Better Future: The meeting concluded with a deep commitment to building a more robust, resourceful, and responsive world in the future.



▲ Thailand's Prime Minister His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha addressed the opening ceremony and delivered the keynote address on the significance of this year's APEC University Leaders' Forum.

Senior International Leaders' Meeting 2022

After two years of virtual meetings due to the pandemic, the APRU Senior International Leaders' Meeting 2022 was hosted on-site and through a hybrid session by the University of California, Riverside, under the theme "Reconnecting to Shape Our Common Future."

Amidst a new sense of urgency brought by recent global crises, the meeting gathered leaders from APRU member universities, and served as an important platform to develop collective strategies on higher education, which is facing a very different world from when the university leaders last met.

At A Glance

90

delegates

41

institutions

15

economies



▲ Higher education leaders gathered on University of California, Riverside campus for the Senior International Leaders' Meeting 2022, the first in-person annual meeting held since 2019.

Enhance Trust and Cooperation for a Better Common Future

Keynote speech: Highlights from the three-day in-person meeting include the keynote speech by Prof. Susan Hackwood, Professor Emerita and Director of the Science to Policy Program at the University of California, Riverside. A series of discussions was also held by other renowned delegates.

Shaping International Landscape: During the panel discussion "Shaping the Landscape of International Higher Education," panellists representing different regions shared their perspectives on how the landscape of international higher education had shifted. Prof. Jeffrey Riedinger, Vice Provost for Global Affairs of the University of Washington, chaired the panel and remarked, "At a time of multiple geo-political tensions, we are mindful that cross-institutional, cross-continental collaborations are essential to effectively addressing the world's most pressing challenges and most promising opportunities."

New Understanding of the Future: At the hybrid session "Global Learning and Student International Activities in the New Normal," delegates from around the world shared their thoughts on the lessons learnt during the pandemic, new understanding of the future in higher education, and ways to develop trust for the benefit of students and societies.

“The pandemic has reinforced the importance of universities deepening their connection with each other and of pursuing a collective approach to addressing global challenges facing higher education.”

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox
University of California, Riverside

APRU in the Media

In the past year, despite the pandemic's disruption, APRU continued to extend its reach and awareness of its activities with media coverage at the regional and international level, enhancing the profile of the organization and its members.

At A Glance

2K⁺

pieces of
media coverage

1.9B⁺

unique visitors per month
(measured at the outlet level)

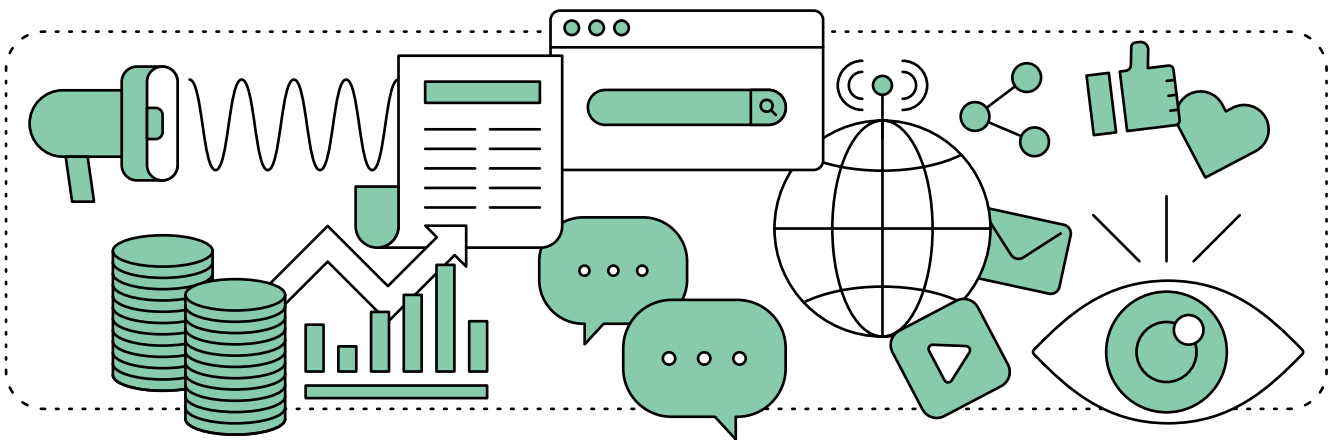
USD\$

2M⁺

PR value

110K⁺

social media impressions



Featured In





2

ACTIONS AND IMPACT

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

At APRU, we are playing our part in empowering our future leaders and building a more sustainable world. Joining forces with students, researchers, experts, academics, universities and our international partners, we align our programs with the objectives of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which aim to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable society for all by 2030.

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

While the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical challenges have created uncertainty over our SDG progress, APRU remains committed to supporting the advancement of all 17 UN SDGs. Through our year-round program, we continued to make significant progress in multiple goals, specifically with the following activities:

Reducing Inequalities and Promoting Good Health and Well-Being

3 4 10

- **Asia-Pacific Women in Leadership Mentoring Program** provides international and intercultural opportunities for the empowerment and professional growth of aspiring women leaders within APRU.
- **APRU Global Health Program** addresses pressing challenges in today's globalized environment, bridging health divides and facilitating collaborations.
- **APRU Population Aging Program** prepares experts for the shrinking workforces and the increasing demand for public spending and social security due to an aging population.
- **APRU SDG4GC** is an intercultural transdisciplinary and interactive program that fosters global citizenship among students from APRU members
- **Global Health Online Courses** ensure that students and young researchers receive proper training in the conduct of ethical medical and healthcare research.
- **Indigenous Knowledges Program** explores new ways for universities to practice, collaborate and promote comparative research, and teaching and learning activities in the area of indigenous knowledges.

Delivering Quality Education

4 10

- **APRU Virtual Student Exchange Program** provides an immersive virtual student exchange experience through technologies and virtual platforms.
- **Global Sustainability Course — Waste and the City** a seminar course introducing graduate students to sustainability concepts and application from leading experts while gaining insights from industry leaders how sustainability is addressed within main industries.
- **Provosts' Forum** expands the leadership networks beyond presidents and senior staff, and addresses important academic management issues.
- **Student Global Climate Change Simulation** is a role-playing event, in which students formed multi-country teams as delegates to the UN Climate Change Negotiations.

Building Sustainable Cities and Communities

3 6 7 11 13 15 17

- **APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program** brings together multidisciplinary experts to solve critical urban sustainability issues facing Pacific Rim societies.
- **APRU Sustainable Waste Management Program** invites waste management experts to share knowledge, insights and cutting-edge research findings on the topic.

Fostering Partnerships for the Goals

4 17

- **AI for Social Good Project** supports AI policy collaborations between academic experts and government agencies in the region.
- **Asia Pacific Mayors Academy** supported by APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes experts in partnership with UN ESCAP, UN Habitat, UCLG ASPA, IGES and UNU IAS, brings together city officials and policymakers to guide cities towards achieving the UN SDGs.
- **Undergraduate Leaders' Program** empowers young leaders to meet emerging challenges in an increasingly globalized world.

Supporting Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

4 9 17

- **APRU Esports Fellowship Program and Metaverse Conference.** APRU partners closely with Cyberport Hong Kong, which serves as the home of APRU's International University Centre. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology for Hong Kong, Cyberport is an innovative digital community with over 1,650 start-ups and technology companies.
- **Carbon Neutral Society** highlights a range of research initiatives undertaken by APRU universities with the common goal of preserving the global environment and achieving a sustainable society.

Enhancing Climate Action and Awareness

7 8 9 11 12 13 14 17

- **APRU Biodiversity Program** provides the starting point to enhance cooperation and synergies among APRU members in the field of biodiversity.
- **APRU Multi-Hazards Program** strengthens regional collaborations against all hazards and advocates an interdisciplinary approach for future regional leaders.



2.1

Advancing Education for the New Era

Amplifying Benefits of Virtual Research Platforms

COVID-19 has brought profound changes to everyone's life, from how we travel to how we work – often disruptive, but sometimes beneficial. In 2022, APRU programs continued to leverage the power of online and hybrid activities to facilitate knowledge transfer and teamwork beyond borders. Virtual conferences and webinar series were held to jointly address key challenges, such as global health, population aging, and waste management.

“We need to advocate for policies that encourage productive aging, leverage on the ability of the elderly to continue contributing to society.”

Prof. Ka Lin
Zhejiang University



12th APRU Population Aging Virtual Conference 2022

Zhejiang University and National University of Singapore jointly held the 12th APRU Population Aging Virtual Conference 2022 in November. Themed “Ageing at a Time of Crisis: Understanding Needs, Navigating New Challenges,” the two-day virtual conference saw more than 120 international experts and scholars exchange thoughts on global aging issues. It underlined the importance of collaboration across research, policy, and practice domains to achieve optimal outcomes for older persons.

APRU Global Health Working Group Webinar Series

This 6-session webinar series was held from June to October, during which APRU experts conducted discussions and analyzed case studies on the future of social sciences in key areas, including global health and mental health in the context of COVID-19, cancer prevention and control, humanitarian emergencies, and more. The series facilitated research collaborations and education around key topics of interest to APRU students.

APRU Sustainable Waste Management Forum

With an aim of addressing plastic pollution exacerbated by COVID-19, this hybrid forum invited scholars from the APRU network and European institutes to share new ESG perspectives in plastic pollution-governance, business models and tourism. Experts and practitioners from international organizations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), also shared valuable insights at the forum.

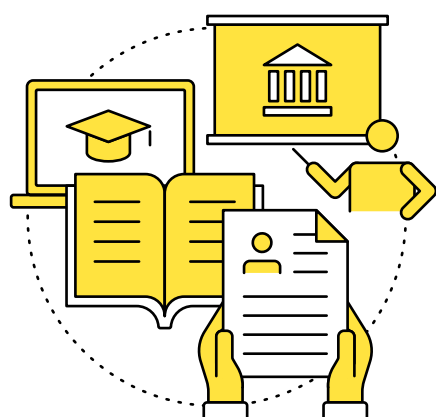
Broadening the Application of Virtual Education

The APRU Virtual Student Exchange (VSE) Program allows students to take academic courses and participate in co-curricular programs virtually from a place of their choice, opening higher education to more possibilities. The program immerses students in a virtual exchange experience through digital technologies and platforms. As a result, students can more easily come across new ideas, cultures, experts, academics, and students from around the world.

Host University

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

At A Glance



2729

Applicants

42

Participating universities

361

Courses offered

Earth Day Challenge

On 22 April, Earth Day 2022, the APRU VSE program challenged students across the Pacific Rim to employ their artistic creativity – through writing, art, photography, videography and more – to respond to the Earth Day theme, “Invest in Our Planet.” The program also pledged to plant 30 trees for every entry it received, which resulted in 720 trees planted in communities most vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation in the Asia-Pacific.

VSE Case Studies featured in UNESCO Publication

The UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean featured an important case study from the APRU VSE program in a report published last year, which analyzed the benefits and roadblocks of virtual education. The report comprised a series of case studies and assessed how virtual learning can boost student mobility and how the measure can play a role in making higher education more global post-pandemic.

APRU VSE Program Made Headlines

South China Morning Post featured the APRU VSE program twice last year, including an opinion piece by Prof. Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, who wrote that virtual technology had made the experience of studying overseas “more accessible to less privileged students.” The leading newspaper in Hong Kong also highlighted the APRU VSE program as it evaluated the impact COVID-19 restrictions had cast on university exchange programs.

Carving Esports' Role in Higher Education

With its popularity worldwide, esports is fast becoming a part of higher education, providing a new way for educators and institutions to engage students in and out of classrooms. APRU's esports program enables its member universities to connect, coordinate and collaborate. It also aims to develop a comprehensive esports platform to help universities grow their respective programs in research, career development and more. In the past year, APRU orchestrated three major initiatives: APRU Games and Esports Research Working Group, Metagame Conference 2022, and the Second Cohort of the Esports Fellowship Program.

APRU Games and Esports Research

Working Group: Established in 2022, the Working Group consists of 27 members across 15 APRU member universities. Led by Nanyang Technological University and Zhejiang University, it aims to advance the study of the esports ecosystem and collaboration across the APRU network. In 2022 the working group hosted the first seminar with the topic "Viewer perspectives on cheating in Esports: Ethics, explanations, and excuses".

Founding Members

- Far Eastern Federal University
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Keio University
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- National University of Singapore
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- The University of British Columbia
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California
- University of Washington
- Yonsei University

“The advent of the metaverse and blockchain technologies, the higher education landscape as we know it will be rewritten completely. It will bring new opportunities and challenges for scholars, students, creators, and universities, unlocking the next level of interaction and engagement in universities.”

Prof. Yang Wang

APRU Senior International Leader and Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, HKUST

Metagame Conference 2022:

The Conference took place on 27 August, 2022 featuring high-level policy discussions, expert insights-sharing, next-generation learning, and student art contest and tournament. More than 2,000 participants from over 30 economies attended the event, which was hosted by APRU and Cyberport in partnership with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

Second Cohort of the APRU Esports Fellowship Program:

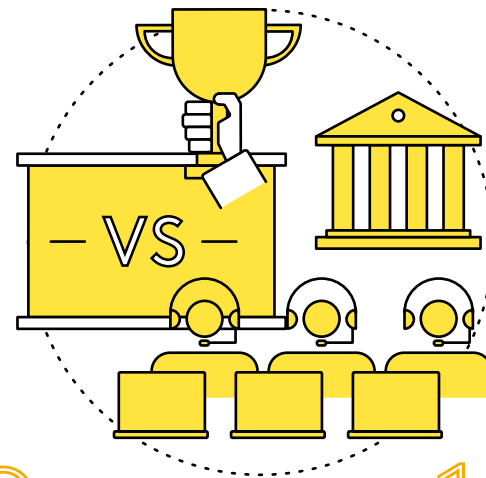
It brought together 62 fellowship students and 12 advisors from 10 APRU member universities. Led by Tecnológico de Monterrey in partnership with APRU and Cyberport, the program supports student leaders who are seeking to become the future leaders of the industry and facilitates the growth of a healthy and vibrant esports community.

At A Glance**Tournament**\$10k⁺

In prizes (USD)

8

Universities



50

Contestants from
Asia, North America
and Latin America

10

Teams



▲ Left: 1st Place of Latin America, eSports Uchile, Universidad de Chile

▲ Top Right: 1st Place of Asia, Puffy Gang, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

▲ Bottom Right: 1st of North America, UHEsports, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Nurturing Global Citizenship through the Virtual Student Exchange Program

The APRU Sustainable Development Goals Education for Global Citizenship (SDG4GC) is an intercultural, transdisciplinary, and interactive program that fosters global citizenship among students from APRU member universities. It is led by Chulalongkorn University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong, with an aim to provide students with knowledge about issues of global importance. Designed to engage students in studying and sharing the practices of the 17 United Nations sustainable development goals (UN SDGs), it also introduces students to diverse cultural and social contexts.

Immersive Learning on Critical Topics

Themed “Shaping the Future of Health and Wellbeing,” the program engaged students in interactive lectures and workshops on design thinking and cross-cultural communication. Students also received mentorship from experts from the program’s core partners and worked in teams to develop solutions to address a health challenge. The program covered a wide range of topics, including mental health, health equity, health care system, ethics, healthy aging, and global health.

Pitching the Best Innovation

A student pitching competition featuring solutions to the “Future of Health and Wellbeing” was held in March 2023, which saw the winning team earning a week-long visit to Bangkok, with training at Chulalongkorn University’s Innovation Hub, field trips to companies and start-ups, and a rare opportunity to join an important UN event in Bangkok.

“This platform will also provide opportunities for participants from all sectors to share their experience in their preparation for handling new challenges, especially during this period of uncertainty, in which mutual collaboration is needed more than ever.”

Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn
President, Chulalongkorn University



“I congratulate all participating students on being selected for the inaugural class of APRU SDG4GC, which was met with overwhelming enthusiasm from students and universities across the APRU network. This program guides students to create solutions to some of the world’s biggest challenges through collaboration, which is critical in a world faced with an increasingly polarized geopolitical environment.”

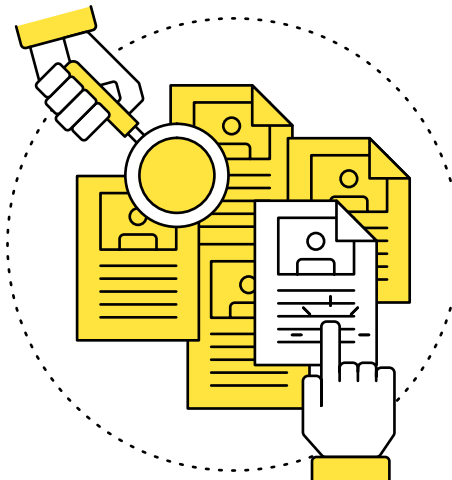
Prof. Rocky Tuan

Vice-Chancellor and President,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

At A Glance

224

Applicants



61

Students
were
selected

60

APRU member
universities
represented

Host Universities

- Chulalongkorn University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Core-partner Universities

- Kyushu University
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Simon Fraser University
- Universiti Malaya

In partnership with the United Nations



2.2

Fostering Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing

Boosting Climate Change Knowledge through Simulation Exercise

In 2022, APRU successfully held a Student Global Climate Change Simulation, an interactive exercise aimed at helping students better understand climate change targets, governance framework and the actions needed to curb global warming. Supported by academics and partner-experts, 170 students from 18 universities played the role of delegates to the UN Climate Change Negotiations to learn about challenges and pathways to keeping global temperature rise “well below” 2 degrees in line with the Paris Agreement.

“The value of this type of experience for students is magnificent, as it allows students to appreciate the values of a wide range of intellectual disciplines and a high degree of intercultural sensitivity, tolerance and a global perspective.”

Prof. Vivian Lee

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, who served as facilitator

Three Rounds of Simulated Negotiations

Students were assigned to international teams for three rounds of negotiations with support from APRU faculty and climate experts. The teams heard perspectives from experts on topics ranging from deforestation to clean energy. With the role and region they were assigned during the activity, students negotiated the human and environmental effects of climate change and the economic impact on countries' climate actions.

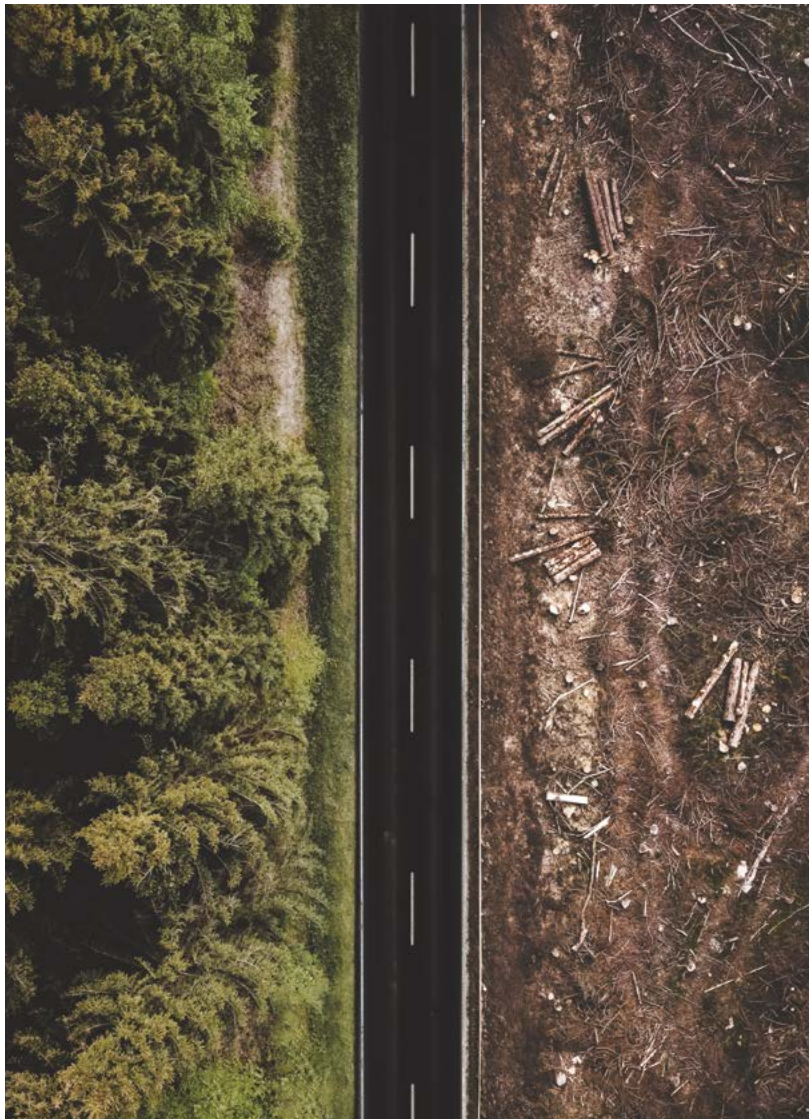
Learning Objectives

- Understanding what contributes to, and the impact of, climate change
- Explaining global climate change efforts, such as the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Conference of Parties (COP)
- Learning about how and why climate change affects the most vulnerable populations and its implications on social justice
- Identifying adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Discussing the complexity involved in countries' and economies' decision making

“This simulation exercise has brought me to look at climate change from various perspectives in terms of its causes and the possible mitigation actions that are scientifically proven. I will be so happy to share with my family and friends the importance of managing forests, which involves reducing deforestation and stepping up afforestation efforts.”

Pedros Marcol Tabulo

Student from Fiji National University



Co-Organizers

- APRU Global Health Program led by University of Southern California
- APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program led by University of Oregon

Partner-Experts

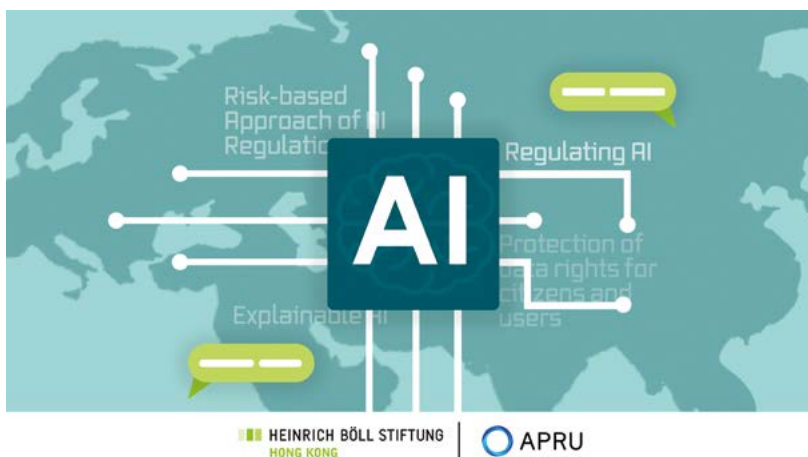
- adidas
- Smart Energy Connect powered by CLP
- International Monetary Fund
- Rebalance Earth
- UN Habitat

Discussing Potential Approaches to Regulating AI

APRU has developed a webinar series in partnership with the Hong Kong office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation to spearhead the discussions of emerging approaches to the regulation of AI in Asia Pacific and Europe. Titled “The Debating Approaches and Perspectives from Asia and Europe,” the series provided a platform for best practice sharing on AI developments and governance frameworks, as well as to deepen insights into AI-related policy challenges.

Addressing AI-related Challenges on a Global Level

A three-part webinar series was held in 2022 against the backdrop of two major shifts in the AI space: the increase in AI deployment across industries, and the beginning of AI regulations by governments using both existing and new legal frameworks. The webinars, titled “Risk-based Approaches to AI Regulation”, “Explainable AI” and “Protection of Data Rights for Citizens and Users”, brought together experts with the common goals of creating a better understanding of, and exchanging insights about, relevant concepts, best practices, challenges and approaches to AI regulation.



Key Takeaways

AI has already moved out of the lab and begun impacting our lives in many ways, some more visible than others. These are evident in sectors such as manufacturing, finance and social media. Governments are also shifting from moralizing AI to regulating it. During this international exchange, experts from different disciplines agreed that it was important for all players in the AI space to continue to find the right balance between protection of data rights and the advancement and risks of AI applications, in order to unlock long-term benefits for society.

“Explainable AI enables humans to understand why a system decides in a certain way, which is the first step to questioning its fairness. Algorithms are trained on datasets and proxies, and developers too often and unintentionally use datasets with poor representation of the relevant population.”

Prof. Liz Sonenberg

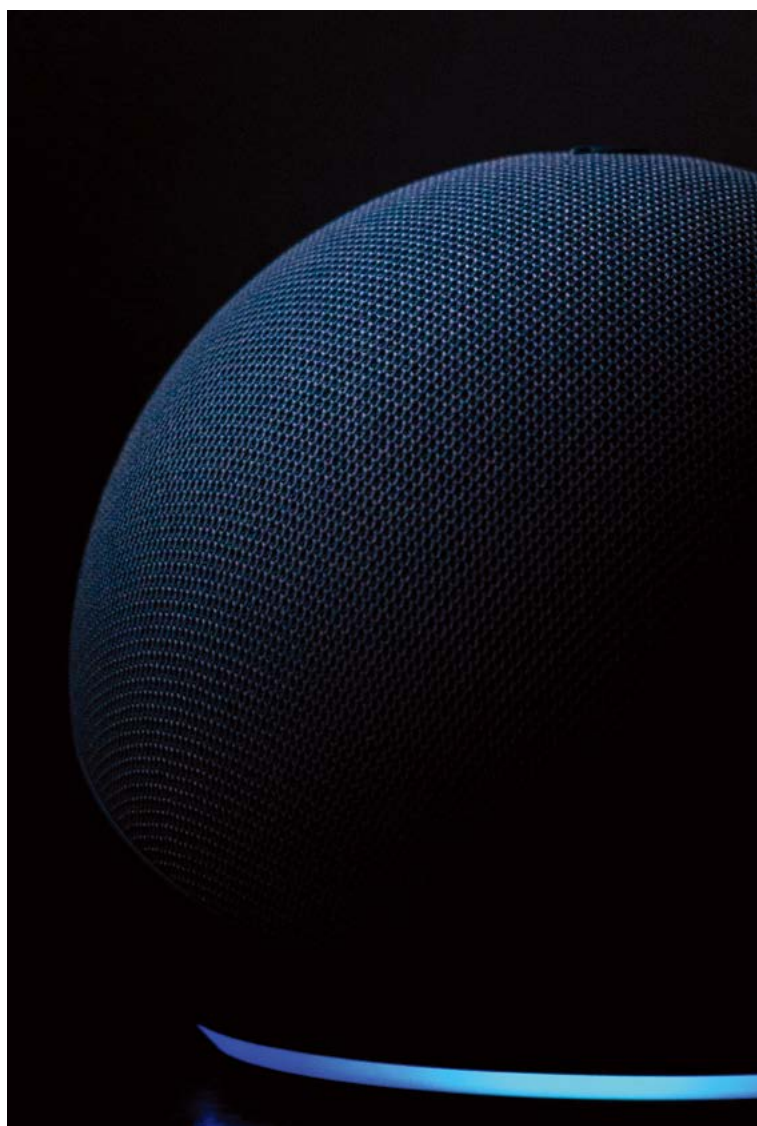
Pro Vice-Chancellor of Systems Innovation and Professor of Information Systems, The University of Melbourne

Speakers

- Prof. Toby Walsh
Scientia Professor of Artificial Intelligence,
UNSW Sydney
- Alexandra Geese
Member of the European Parliament
- Prof. Jiro Kokuryo
Professor, Faculty of Policy Management,
Keio University
- Prof. Matthias C. Kettermann
Head of research programme,
Hans-Bredow-Institute / HIIG
- Prof. Liz Sonenberg
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Systems Innovation,
The University of Melbourne
- Dr. Brian Lim
Assistant Professor of Computer Science,
National University of Singapore
- Prof. M Jae Moon
Underwood Distinguished Professor,
Yonsei University
- Sarah Chander
Senior Policy Advisor,
European Digital Rights EDRI
- Sankha Som
Chief Innovation Evangelist,
Tata Consultancy Services

Moderators

- Zora Siebert
Head of EU Democracy & Digital Policy Programme,
Heinrich Böll Stiftung European Union
- Kal Joffres
CEO and co-founder of Tandemic
- Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers
Director, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Hong Kong Office



Exploring the Future of Higher Education at Provosts' Forum 2022

The APRU Provosts' Forum aims to drive academic strategy and output in higher education by convening Provosts or Chief Academic Officers of the APRU network. Held online in April 2022, the forum was themed "Futures of Higher Education" and was hosted by Tsinghua University in collaboration with APRU and UNESCO. It saw participants and speakers exchange opinions and explore pathways toward a shared future of academic excellence.

“Higher education could and must help forge a new social contract for education, one that can shape more just and sustainable times for all. We need a new culture of collaboration which can only be fostered through strengthened partnerships and networks.”

Stefania Giannini

Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

Leading Voices in Higher Education

Inspired by the UNESCO report “Futures of Education”, the APRU Provosts' Forum 2022 featured a UNESCO keynote presentation to introduce the report to forum delegates. It was followed by two roundtables and breakout sessions for participants to explore the content presented from the perspective of the role of the provost.

Roundtable Sessions:

- “The Future of Instruction, In-Person Vs. Online, and Why This Matters” by Prof. Michael Bruno, Provost, University of Hawai‘i Mānoa
- “Nurturing Future-Ready Lifelong Learners” by Prof. Ling San, Provost, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- “How can universities enhance preparedness and resilience in higher education?” by Prof. Toshiya Ueki, Executive Vice President, Tohoku University
- “Renewing Education: Transformational Change or Back to Basics?” by Prof. Alan Chan, Provost, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Call for New Culture of Collaboration

The forum concluded with a summary delivered by Prof. Annamarie Jagose, Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor of The University of Sydney, and closing remarks from Dr. Christopher Tremewan, former Secretary General of APRU, and Prof. Yang Bin, Vice President and Provost of Tsinghua University. Yang stressed the importance of collaboration in enhancing shared academic development, mutual understanding, and levels of cooperation.

Forum Moderator

Prof. Gao Hong
Vice Provost, Tsinghua University

Host University

Tsinghua University

At A Glance

72 Participants

10 Speakers

4
In-depth
Presentations

29 APRU
universities



“We meet online as a result of the ongoing disruption caused by the pandemic. This reminds us that we live in a world where vastly different versions of the future are entirely possible. But we also have enduring hope to inspire through our shared commitment to education, research, and community service.”

Prof. Wang Xiqin

President, Tsinghua University



Mobilizing students to take action on Climate Change and Climate Justice

APRU is a strategic partner of the Worldwide Teach-in project, which aims to drive conversations about climate change and climate justice at more than 1,000 schools, universities, and communities globally. The project is led by the Graduate Programs in Sustainability at Bard College in New York with the Open Society University Network and partners worldwide.

7 Events by 7 APRU Universities

In 2022, seven APRU member universities held as many events at the Worldwide Teach-in, bringing together 28 experts and more than 2,500 participants.

“The Teach-in is moving young people from despair about climate change to engagement. As voters, volunteers, interns, and in their career choices as artists, activists, scientists, or businesspeople, young people are working to stop climate change.”

Dr. Eban Goodstein

Bard College and Director of the Worldwide Teach-in

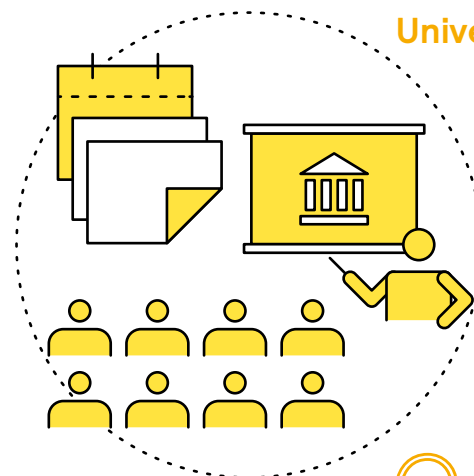




At A Glance

7 Events

7 Universities

2500
Live participants28
Experts**1. Plant-based 101 Online Talk**

The introductory talk explained the benefits of adopting a vegetarian diet for individuals and the planet, as no animal-source diet can greatly reduce the emission of CO₂ equivalent.

Host: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

2. UBC Teach-in on Climate Justice

The faculty, staff, and students of the Okanagan Campus convened to discuss ways to achieve social justice while tackling climate change, and introduce to the first UBCO Climate Action Plan 2030.

Host: The University of British Columbia

3. Universiti Malaya's Worldwide Teach-in on Climate and Justice 2022

The program underlined the importance of enhancing climate solutions locally within cities, states, and economies across the world to achieve social justice.

Host: Sustainability and Development Centre and Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, Universiti Malaya

4. A Global-scale Initiative 2022 Worldwide Teach-in on Climate and Justice

The online seminar shed light on the plight of climate-vulnerable communities and stressed the importance of taking local climate actions with global impacts.

Host: Chulalongkorn University

5. Climate Justice and Resilience Fest

The program, held in person, was designed to inspire participants to put climate justice in a bigger picture, such as envisioning new ways of living and thinking, and create space and experiences that would build community and foster resilience.

Host: University of California, San Diego

6. Climate Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean: A perspective from the professors of The Universidad de los Andes

The webinar sought to address climate justice as an opportunity to act ethically in the face of political and economic decisions, and to motivate society to take part in action and mitigation of it.

Host: Universidad de los Andes

7. Resilient Urban Landscape

The forum encouraged global cities rethink how to build more adaptable and resilient green infrastructure by sharing research and practical experience in the US, Australia, and China.

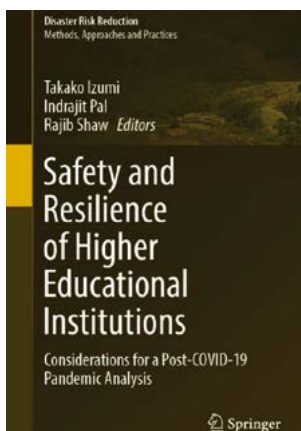
Host: Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Sharing Knowledge through Multi-Hazards Book and Exhibition

The Multi-Hazards Program released a Springer book in 2022, sharing interdisciplinary knowledge and experiences of significant transformations during the pandemic across the APRU network and other higher educational institutions (HEIs). An in-person exhibition and a symposium were also held under the ArcDR3 project, sharing case studies and immersive art pieces of seven regenerative cities.

“It is strongly recommended that universities review their current disaster management plans with proper risk assessment and improve them to be applicable to a wider range of risks.”

Prof. Takako Izumi
Tohoku University



APRU universities with experts who contributed to the Springer book

- Keio University
- National Taiwan University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Tohoku University
- Tsinghua University
- University of Oregon
- University of Southern California

Springer Book on the Importance of Higher Educational Institutions

In 2022, the APRU Multi-Hazards Program released a Springer book titled **“Safety and Resilience of Higher Educational Institutions – Considerations for a Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Analysis.”**

It demonstrates the leading role universities and institutions play in mitigating risks of natural disasters, tackling and recovering from natural and biological hazards, and dealing with widespread emergencies, such as COVID-19. The release was accompanied by a webinar, in which APRU experts from three continents shared new ideas to overcome the related challenges.

ArcDR3 Exhibition that Spotlights Regenerative Efforts

An exhibition on Architecture and Urban Design for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (ArcDR3) took place at Tokyo's Nihonbashi Muromachi Mitsui Tower in April 2022. Titled **“Regenerative Urbanism Living with Disaster: Stories from Seven Regenerative Cities”**, it presented a new paradigm of urban design created by the threat of climate change. It was also a forward-looking urban design strategy that aimed to realize a civil society that coexists with disasters in the future.

A Symposium of Fresh Perspectives

The **New Visions for Regenerative Urbanism Symposium**, hosted in celebration of the exhibition, were held in an all-new non-hierarchical configuration to flatten the relationship between speakers and audience. Architects, researchers, and experts in various fields discussed the concepts behind the design studios, which were the foundation for the seven explorations of future risk-resilient cities displayed in the seven wells of the exhibition.

2.3

Innovating for a More Sustainable World

A Greener Future through Global Sustainability Course

Developed as a pilot in 2021, “Global Sustainability Course: Waste and the City” was offered as a full course to APRU member students in 2022, comprising seminars, lectures, and peer-to-peer discussions. It covered important topics related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals; Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG); the linear and circular economy; and urban development. Facilitated by scholars and guest speakers and participated by students across multiple disciplines, it closely aligned with a successful example of APRU Global Health Distance Education Courses.

“As shared in the class, we know that more people want businesses to take concrete actions to address climate change, with the rise of eco-awakening starting to push leaders and organizations to move rapidly toward environmentally sustainable business outcomes.”

Amit Midha

President Asia Pacific and Japan, Dell Technologies

Leveraging APRU's Collaborative Network

The course was a collaboration between Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore); the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program led by The University of Oregon; and the APRU Sustainable Waste Management Program led by Korea University.

Empowerment through Sustainability

The course introduced graduate students to the concepts of global sustainability and how leading academics and industry experts applied them. Students learned the key points of UN SDGs from environmental and economic perspectives, focusing on waste and urbanization. They also had a rare opportunity to interact with leaders to find out how they work with key stakeholders in implementing sustainability in their organizations. It became a valuable experience for students to practice critical thinking and analytical skills.



Academic Lead

- Prof. Sierin Lim
Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Global Partnerships, NTU Singapore



“It will take a multi-stakeholder approach to address global challenges such as the circular economy. BP’s ambition is to become a net zero energy company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world to do the same. This can only happen by working with current and future stakeholders, suppliers, consumers and policy-makers to make this happen.”

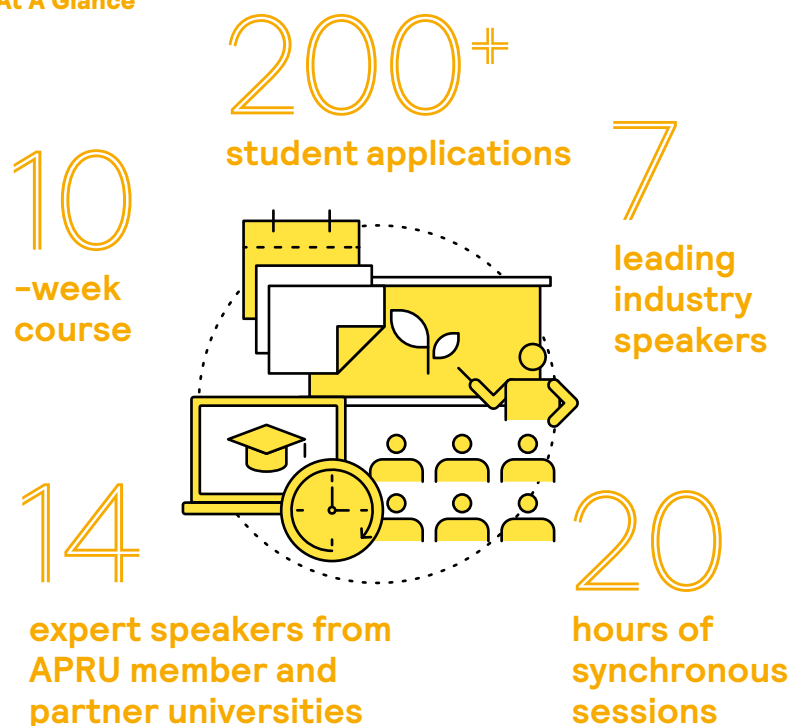
Dr. Kirsty Salmon

Vice President, Advanced Bio and Physical Sciences for Low Carbon Energy at BP

APRU Subject Experts

- Prof. David Wardle
NTU Singapore and Co-Chair of APRU Sustainable Waste Management
- Prof. David Lallement
Asian School of Environment, NTU Singapore
- Prof. Tao Chen
College of Business, NTU Singapore
- Prof. Shane Snyder
Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute, NTU Singapore
- Prof. Yekang Ko
University of Oregon and Director of the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program
- Prof. Yizhao Yang
School of Planning, Public Policy and Management, University of Oregon
- Prof. Chingwen Cheng
Landscape Architecture, Arizona State University
- Prof. Kory Russel
Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies, University of Oregon
- Prof. Yong Sik Ok
Korea University and Director of the APRU Sustainable Waste Management Program
- Prof. Jay Hyuk Rhee
School of Business Administration, Korea University
- Prof. Xiangzhou Yuan
OJERI, Korea University

At A Glance



Building Stronger Societies through Global Health Program

As societies began to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, cross-border collaborations and dialogues aimed at helping economies worldwide build resilience became more crucial than ever. As such, the APRU Global Health Program formed a new working group focusing on humanitarian emergencies and health. A case competition that simulated COVID-19's impact on Fiji's health system and economy also sparked thought-provoking discussions among 48 teams across 12 economies.

Host University

University of Southern California

Program Highlights

1. Virtual case competition
2. New working group
3. Two online courses
4. Mini certificate

The 7th APRU Global Health Student Virtual Case Competition 2022

The competition attracted 48 teams across 22 universities in 12 economies. It served as a platform to present solutions for the simulated challenges faced by Fiji's health system due to COVID-19. The winning team was Fiji Apple from six students at National University of Singapore. The decision was made by an international panel of judges – all specialized in global health – and experts and participants of the Sustainable Cities and Landscape Conference 2022.

A New Humanitarian Emergencies & Health Working Group

Its first webinar assessed how experts and practitioners could assist vulnerable populations in conflict situations. The working group is also developing a pilot role-playing exercise to help a fictional Pacific Island nation prepare for future pandemics. It aims to illustrate the complexity of decisions around allocating resources, using a WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan Operational Planning Guideline from 2020.

Key Figures (at the 2022 competition)

48
teams



22
universities

12
economies

Digital Learning on Global Health

Two online courses were offered last year: **Global Health Leadership and Global Health Ethics**. For 10 weeks, graduate students interacted with global health leaders, focusing on the relationship between health, foreign policy, cultural perspectives, and ethics standards.

Mini Certificate in Health Research Ethics

Offered to students and young researchers for free for the third time such since 2020, it engaged participants in lectures by international guest experts, and small group discussions of case studies facilitated by a group of APRU faculty members, in order to develop participants' competencies in health research ethics.



“The Global Health Ethics course that I’ve completed enables me to apply what I had learned and find out about views on ethics from other cultures. We learned through plenty of discussions, which is one of the best ways to learn about ethics. Now I feel more confident in tackling the ethical dilemmas in my future research.”

Arbel Tenenbaum

Student, The University of Auckland

Enhancing Climate Awareness with Carbon Neutral Society Action Month

Climate change is a critical global issue that affects societies, industries, and nature. The APRU Carbon Neutral Society Action Month highlights a range of research initiatives undertaken by APRU universities with the common goal of preserving the global environment and achieving a sustainable society. A webinar series focused on the “realization of a decarbonized society” was hosted as a means of combating global warming and establishing a green future.

Host University

Kyushu University

Time

Mid-May to mid-June 2022

Connecting Researchers, Enabling Collaboration

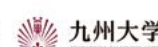
The action month targeted early career researchers (ECRs) as a first step to support them in expanding their professional networks across disciplines, research institutions, and borders. The program also drew on the expertise of researchers from various disciplines with the aim to build toward a carbon-neutral society and implement solutions that promote both sustainability and economic development. Its three primary objectives were:

1. To connect people from diverse fields who are committed to combating climate change and achieving a carbon-neutral society
2. To highlight various approaches for achieving a carbon-neutral society that stem from initiatives in Japan and worldwide
3. To continue building an international network with an emphasis on a carbon-neutral society

A More Neutral Future

The APRU Carbon Neutral Society Action Month served as a pilot for a longer-term program that will focus on facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration between early career researchers through skill set training, collaboration methods, joint grant applications, and more. Twenty-one APRU member universities have indicated their interest in collaborating and engaging with the long-term program. Kyushu University is developing a framework for a potential multi-year project.

A Carbon Neutral Society Action Month





“Providing global collaboration opportunities for early-career researchers through attractive APRU programs is critical for promoting a carbon-neutral society and climate action.”

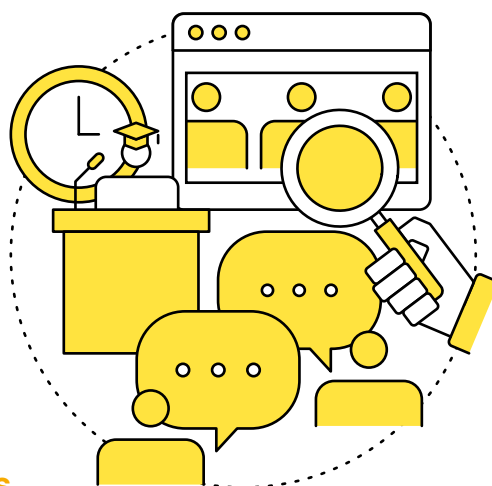
Prof. Toshiyuki Kono

Distinguished Professor and Executive Vice President of Kyushu University &
Honorary President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

At A Glance

5 weeks of activities

10 hours of expert talks and interactions

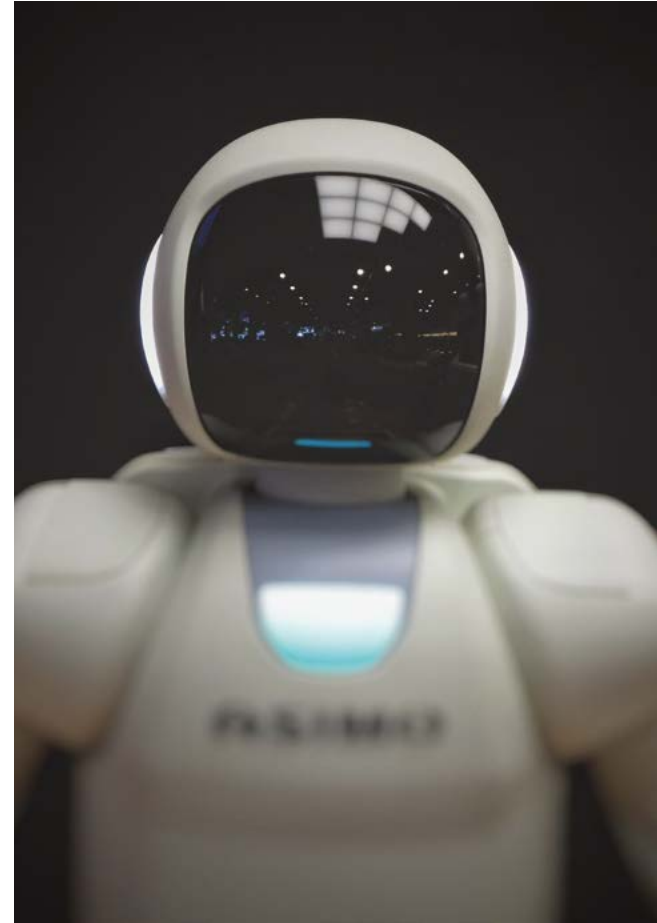


300+ registrations with 53 early career researchers

21 expert speakers and contributors

Path-leading Innovation under AI for Social Good

AI for Social Good is the latest collaboration between APRU, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and Google.org, which commenced in mid-2021 and will run until the end of 2023. The project draws on new insights from the development of a set of papers and reports, and a series of virtual and in-person workshops to actively support senior policymakers and governments officials in the cultivation of transparent ecosystems. It also aims to facilitate the development of AI solutions that will address specific socio-economic challenges while maximizing the technology's potential.



“The process of working closely with government agencies from the outset to discuss these problems and co-design research questions makes this project unique and genuinely collaborative.”

Prof. Toni Erskine

Project Lead and Professor of International Politics, The Australian National University

Identifying the Challenges

The Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council of Thailand has identified “Poverty Alleviation” and “Medicine and Healthcare” as two main areas of need. Meanwhile, two Bangladesh projects were initiated to look into “Continued and Personalized Pregnancy Monitoring Systems”, which aim to improve health outcomes during and after birth, identify and address the potential technological issues of Bangladesh’s healthcare sector, and how they would impact AI-based data analysis and decision-making processes.

Thailand

- On the issue of “Poverty Alleviation”, the Australia National University (ANU) team are focusing on enhancing the human-centered design, public accessibility and implementation of the data-driven decision-making systems developed by the Thai government. In addition, to support and accelerate the use of AI in “Medicine and Healthcare”, the National University of Singapore (NUS) expert team are focusing their research and analysis on identifying crucial bottlenecks and gaps that impede the beneficial use of AI.
- **Participating Universities:** The Australia National University (ANU) and the National University of Singapore

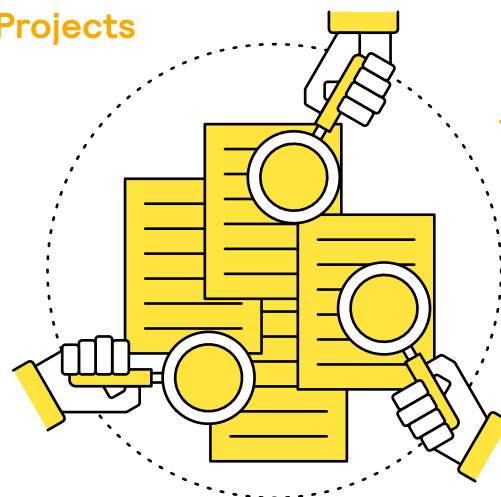
Bangladesh

- Under the leadership of NUS and KAIST teams, the first project for the Bangladeshi government investigates challenges in perceptions and reception of incorporating AI into continuous pregnancy monitoring systems. The second project, under the leadership of The University of Hawai’i team, circles in on technological issues of Bangladesh’s healthcare sector and their impacts on AI-based data analysis and decision-making processes.
- **Participating Universities:** NUS, KAIST, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa and Hawai’i Pacific University

At A Glance

4

Projects



Focusing on

3

Key areas of need

7

Participating experts

- Prof. Toni Erskine
The Australian National University (Project Lead)
- Dr. Jasper Tromp
National University of Singapore
- Dr. Sarah Logan
The Australian National University
- Dr. Arif Rahman
University of Hawai’i at Mānoa and Hawai’i Pacific University
- Dr. Olivia Jensen
National University of Singapore
- Dr. Cornelius Kalenzi
KAIST
- Nathaniel Tan
National University of Singapore

2023 Outlook

Researchers and government team will meet to present and discuss the final papers in the second quarter of 2023. A summit with all participants in the project and experts and government officials will also be held in the third quarter of 2023 at the ANU to mark its conclusion.

Funding

Google.org

Project Partners

- APRU
- The Australian National University
- Google
- UN ESCAP

Prepare for the Next Disasters through Multi-Hazards Program

A joint initiative between APRU and the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University, the Multi-Hazards Program marked its 10th anniversary in 2022. In this remarkable year, the program achieved more public engagement than ever, helping communities in the Pacific Rim – a region prone to natural disasters – prepare for and respond to adversities. It hosted four webinars, guided the annual symposium on-site at Chulalongkorn University, and greatly contributed to academic publications.

A Fruitful Decade

The program has gained wide recognition across the region and worldwide since its inaugural year of 2013. And as extreme events threaten the whole world, such a program is needed more than ever. It has excelled in promoting the development of highly effective collaborations with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). It also shines light on the shared vision, between Tohoku University and APRU, of addressing global concerns through partnerships.

Host University

Tohoku University



**“As education institutes,
we need to work harder
with collective efforts and
well-planned strategies to
mitigate potential risks and
use new innovations with
systematic management
methods to prevent any
hazards from happening.”**

Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn

President of Chulalongkorn University

Multi-Hazards Webinars to Build A Stronger World Together

A series of four MH webinars took place in 2022, enabling the sharing of forward-looking ideas and research efforts from scholars, policy makers and practitioners on the ongoing recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (GEJET). They also facilitated interdisciplinary research and initiatives on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across different sectors and fields.

Fostering Conversations on Innovative Approaches

Under the theme of “Innovation Toward Sustainable Growth and Disaster Risk Reduction”, the annual symposium was held by Chulalongkorn University, and highlighted the importance of innovative approaches for numerous key topics, ranging from infrastructure and community resilience to socio-economic and governance challenges. The in-person event gathered 120 scholars, practitioners and participants from the APRU network and the UN ESCAP.



Tackling Climate Risks and Building Urban Resilience with Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Program

Cities are responsible for an estimated 75% of global carbon dioxide emissions. However, they can also be a part of the solution for societies to increase resilience and adapt to climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes (SCL) Program aims to drive discussions and innovations in various areas, such as tackling climate change, conserving biodiversity, and boosting urban resilience. As part of its second five-year plan, the program also aims to develop a shared curriculum and a survey-based project partnering with the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy.

First On-site Conference since COVID-19

The SCL annual conference saw more than 80 participants meet in-person at The University of Hawai'i at Manoa in September, making it the first physical event in all APRU programs since the pandemic. Held under the theme "Climate Risk and Urban Resilience—Challenges Ahead," it comprised 13 interdisciplinary working groups, including two virtual working group sessions, and an on-site student symposium. Concurrently, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, a new member of the SCL steering committee, also hosted a timely, online student symposium, titled "Reconciling Cities with Nature in the Post Covid Era: Landscape Approaches and Strategies".



Looking Ahead with The Second Five-Year Plan

The program's second five-year plan will feature a number of enhancements in 2023 and beyond:

- A shared curriculum initiative being launched to develop a hybrid course for core education
- The establishment or planning of several working groups to build video libraries
- The submission of case studies by authors of the SCL Routledge handbook



Global Efforts to Tackle Climate Change

Following the success of the 2021 series, the APRU SCL program held the last three webinar sessions in 2022 with topics around urban biodiversity, intertidal zone, and climate actions for renewable energy transitions, while a new Urban Landscape Biodiversity working group was also set up to foster future exchanges on the topic.

Collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy

Experts from APRU members teamed up with the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy to develop a research project under the cross-institute collaboration, which began in 2019. The project aims to increase community leaders' sustainability competencies by providing them with cross-disciplinary learning opportunities. It also aims to help local decision-makers align their goals in sustainability development with their global counterparts.

“It was very encouraging to see how the SCL 2022 engaged over 80 in-person participants plus more than 20 online participants across Asia, North America, South America, and Australasia, with the shared aim of highlighting the importance of sustainability to the Pacific Rim as well to the globe.”

Prof. Michael Bruno

Provost, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Participating Universities

- National Taiwan University
- National Tsing Hua University
- National University of Singapore
- Seoul National University
- Simon Fraser University
- The University of Auckland
- The University of Hong Kong
- Tohoku University
- Tsinghua University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Universitas Indonesia
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- University of Oregon
- University of Washington
- University of Southern California
- Arizona State University
- Konkuk University
- National Cheng Kung University
- Singapore Institute of Technology and Design
- The University of Tokyo
- University of Otago



2.4

Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Advancing Gender Equity through Empowerment

Through 1-to-1 mentorship, seminars, sharing sessions, and informal networking, the APWIL Asia Pacific Women in Leadership Program (APWIL) offers leaders (women and men) at APWIL universities an opportunity to grow the pipeline of aspiring women leaders, to increase awareness of challenges that aspiring women leaders face within the region, and to introduce global and intercultural dimensions to leaders across the APWIL network and beyond.

“Women are invaluable assets to the nations and communities we represent and mentoring is necessary to ensure that you know we are well equipped and well prepared to assume leadership positions in our respective institutions.”

Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian

Professor of Parasitology at Universiti Malaya, and APWIL Co-Chair

Host Universities

- Universiti Malaya
- University of California, Davis
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Co-Chaired By

- Prof. Joanna Regulska
Vice Provost and Dean, Global Affairs, and Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, UC Davis
- Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian
Associate Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Universiti Malaya
(term began on 1 September, 2022)
- Dr. Sabrina Lin
Senior Advisor to the HKUST President
(term from March 2019 to October 2022)

New Co-chair

In 2022, APWIL confirmed its new co-chair, Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian, who commenced her appointment on 1 September, taking over leadership from Dr. Sabrina Lin, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, who led the program for three years. Prof. Lim now chairs the program together with Prof. Joanna Regulska.

Cohorts

During 2022, APWIL successfully concluded the second Cohort of its mentoring program with a virtual graduation ceremony involving 87 mentors and mentees. It also welcomed the third Cohort, which engaged 94 participants (mentors and mentees) from 24 APWIL institutions.

International Women's Day

Three academic leaders shared their experiences in initiating changes in higher education on International Women's Day 2022, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The speakers were Prof. Karima Bennouna of UC Davis, Prof. Chiapei Chou of National Taiwan University, and Dr. Marian Mahat of The University of Melbourne.

Media Spotlight

“Pandemic has shone a glaring light on disparities old and new”: Prof. Regulska and Dr. Lin, APWIL co-chairs, published an opinion piece on Nikkei Asia on 11 February, 2022 explaining the adverse impact COVID-19 had brought to women's careers in academia.

“I am inspired by the conversation among women of APRU member institutions about the challenges we face, but more importantly, by the opportunity to engage in an intercultural and collective effort to support women’s leadership in our institutions.”

Prof. Joanna Regulska

Vice Provost and Dean of Global Affairs at the University of California, Davis, and APWiL Co-Chair



Participating Universities in 2nd Cohort

- Keio University
- Korea University
- Kyushu University
- Monash University
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- National Taiwan University
- National University of Singapore
- Osaka University
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- The Australian National University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- The University of British Columbia
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Sydney
- Tohoku University
- Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Universiti Malaya
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- University of Oregon
- University of the Philippines
- UNSW Sydney

Participating Universities in 3rd Cohort

- Keio University
- Korea University
- Kyushu University
- Monash University
- Nagoya University
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- National University of Singapore
- Osaka University
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- The Australian National University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The University of Auckland
- The University of Sydney
- Universiti Malaya
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- University of Oregon
- University of Southern California
- University of the Philippines
- UNSW Sydney

Connecting Indigenous Knowledges Across the Pacific

The Indigenous Knowledges Working Group aims to bring together the work of APRU members in multilateral collaborations to share knowledge, build connections between researchers, and enhance teaching programs in indigenous and First Nations studies.

“We are also building on the knowledge from our indigenous peoples by sharing our experiences in preserving language, education, cultural diversity, and identity among our Indigenous communities and within our institutions.”

Prof. Inés Sáenz

Vice President of Inclusion, Social Impact, and Sustainability
at Tecnológico de Monterrey



Events

- Dialog surrounding Indigenous Knowledges within the Pacific Rim: Living Cultures and World Heritage
- Asia-Pacific Indigenous Studies Seminar Series

First-ever APRU Indigenous Knowledges Meeting

In 2022, led by **The University of Melbourne** and **Tecnológico de Monterrey**, the working group brought together APRU members to foster multinational collaborations. Twenty-four representatives from seven APRU member universities met face-to-face in Chiapas, Mexico – home to 68 Indigenous communities and 12 indigenous languages – for the inaugural workshop, entitled “Dialog surrounding **Indigenous Knowledges within the Pacific Rim: Living Cultures and World Heritage.**”

Each institution led a session which focused on the strategies to practice and promote comparative research and teaching in Indigenous studies at their respective institutions. These sessions offered insights into the challenges that Indigenous staff and students face when participating in international experiences. The participants also immersed themselves in Mexican culture and traditions during the workshop, as well as each participant's practice and belief.



“This workshop is an example of APRU at its best, demonstrating how the Pacific Ocean is something that unites us rather than sets us apart ... the foundation is now set to enable us to pursue these collaborations productively in the future.”

Prof. Adrian Little

Pro Vice Chancellor (International) at The University of Melbourne

Cross-cultural Indigenous Studies Seminar Series

The series provided a forum for researchers committed to working with, and for, the Indigenous peoples and communities to share information about their ongoing projects. APRU hosted discussions from Indigenous scholars working in various academic fields and contexts with 149 participants; it also introduced projects in areas such as Indigenous-led methodologies, the revitalization of Indigenous languages, and place-based research, teaching, and learning.

Participating Universities

- Simon Fraser University
- The University of Auckland
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- The University of Melbourne
- University of Oregon
- University of the Philippines
- Universidad San Francisco de Quito



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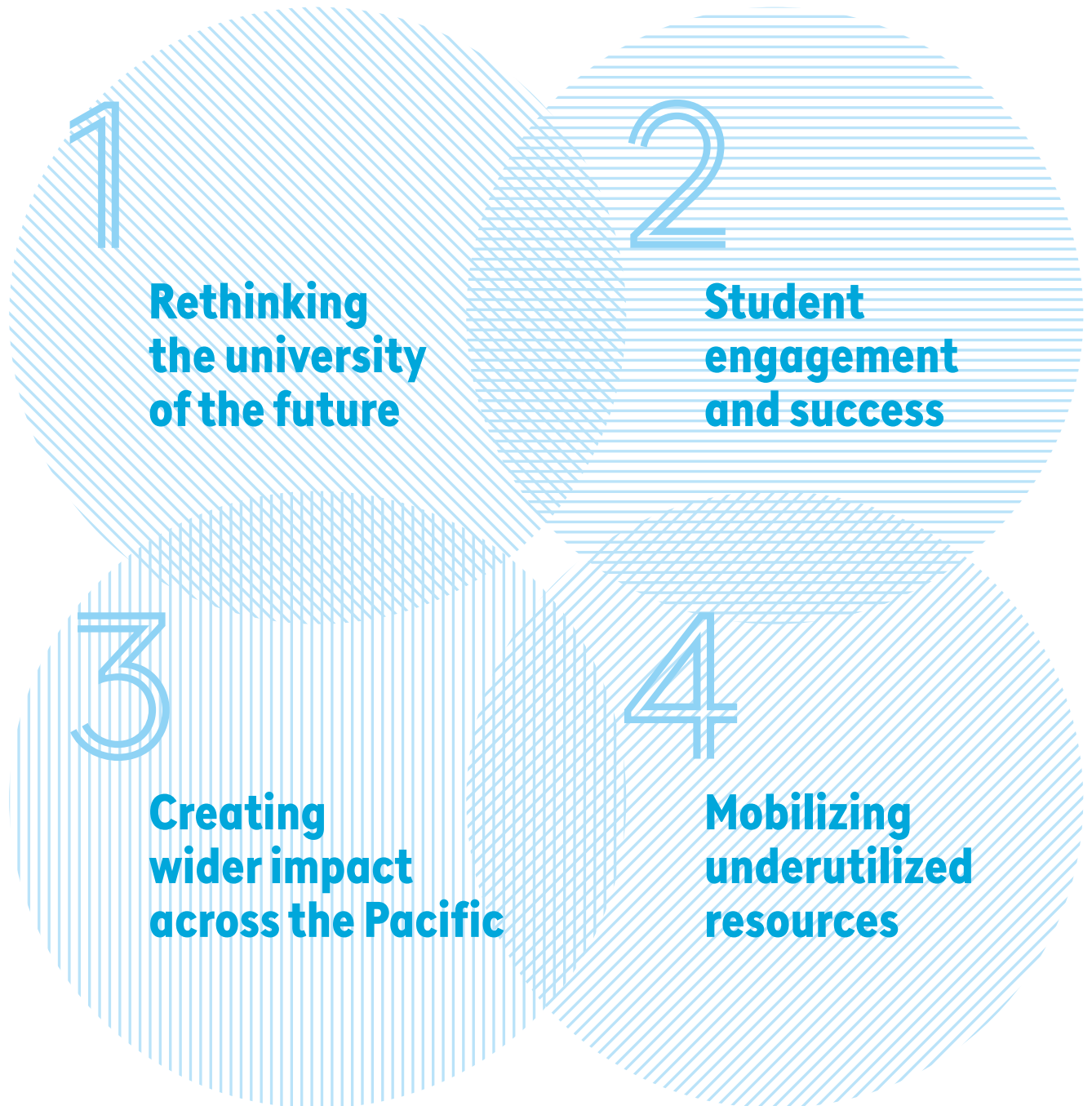
**FUTURE
INITIATIVES**

APRU in 2023

Exploring new strategic areas

APRU is more than a super-connector across the vast Pacific Rim with its 60 members — it is a super-translator: It translates between different mentalities, cultures, and institutional interests. More importantly, it translates ideas into action.

In a world dramatically transformed from when APRU was established in 1997, the network is tasked with building a coherent and proactive strategy that will continue to empower higher education, the member universities that we represent and, in particular, their two million students. For this reason, we are embarking on an improved value proposition that will also lead to increased connectivity across the network. It comprises four constituent parts:



For a network that brings leading research universities of the Asia-Pacific together, it is paramount that we collaboratively lead the debate about and rethink the future roles of the research university — from innovative ways to educate that allow students to be successful in the labor market of the future, to ideas that will make the structures of institutions nimble enough to adapt to future needs. We aspire to engage students in research and collaborative education and

create professional pathways after graduation. We also aim to make a broader and more tangible impact across the Pacific around the region's major challenges.

In support of these goals, we will mobilize underutilized resources of our member universities to deliver on APRU's mission for the communities we represent and serve — as a force of education and innovation.

Programs at a Glance



Share the Virtual Student Exchange Program with Your Students

Universities worldwide have adopted technology in their teaching to enhance the learning experience for students. Now, more than ever, digital technology is utilized to support international education. Assisted by the latest technologies and platforms, the APRU Virtual Student Exchange Program 2023 offers students in the APRU network an immersive learning opportunity to connect with peers from around the world, during which they can take academic courses and participate in international co-curricular programs without leaving home, and develop connections vital for success in the 21st Century.

Key Activities

- Academic Courses
- Co-curricular Programs
- SDG Education for Global Citizenship
- Earth Day 2023

Host University

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Participating Universities

- Chulalongkorn University
- Far Eastern Federal University
- Keio University
- Korea University
- Kyushu University
- Nagoya University
- Nanjing University
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- POSTECH
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- The University of Auckland
- The University of Hong Kong
- The University of Sydney
- Tohoku University
- Tsinghua University
- Universidad de Chile
- Universitas Indonesia
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Science and Technology of China
- UNSW Sydney
- Waseda University
- Xi'an Jiaotong University
- Yonsei University
- Zhejiang University



Invitation to Join: Asia Pacific Women in Leadership Program

Gender equity has a positive impact on economic growth, social well-being, and in addressing demographic challenges. APRU members are committed to promoting gender equity in universities through various initiatives. The Asia Pacific Women in Leadership Program (APWiL) aims to drive change by providing a stage for leaders to grow the pipeline of aspiring women leaders and to introduce the global and intercultural dimensions of gender equity to leaders across the APRU network and beyond.

Key Activities

- **APWiL Mentoring Program:** one-on-one mentorship to identify professional development goals, learn about successful strategies used by APRU senior leaders, and develop a personal assessment and plans for future leadership
- **Virtual workshops:** resource sharing, professional training, and international exchange
- **Informal networking:** unique opportunities to connect emerging female leaders with senior leaders at APRU

Host Universities

- Universiti Malaya
- University of California, Davis

Led by

- Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian, Universiti Malaya
- Prof. Joanna Regulska, University of California, Davis
- Dr. Sabrina Lin, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Co-chair from June 2018 to October 2022)

Core Group Leaders

- Prof. Akiyo Okuda, Keio University
- Prof. Junko Kimura, Osaka University
- Prof. Inés Sáenz Negrete, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Prof. Mai Har Sham, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Derlie Mateo-Babiano, The University of Melbourne
- Prof. Katherine Belov, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Yong Zulina Zubairi, Universiti Malaya
- Dr. Suat Yan Lai, Universiti Malaya
- Prof. Cindy Fan, University of California, Los Angeles
- Prof. Denise Konan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Dr. Marby Villaceran, University of the Philippines
- Prof. Ximena M. Córdova, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- APRU Secretariat Representative

APWiL Coordinators

- Chelsey Hawes, APWiL Mentoring Program Manager
- Kimberly Bellows, APWiL Mentoring Program Manager



Get Involved: Indigenous Knowledges Working Group

Indigenous knowledge plays a crucial role in wide-ranging topics, from climate change and language preservation, to education and cultural diversity. The Indigenous Knowledges Working Group gathers the work of universities across the Pacific Rim to pave the way for collaborations among researchers, and enhance teaching programs in Indigenous and First Nations studies.

Key Activities

- Dialog surrounding Indigenous Knowledges within the Pacific Rim: Living Cultures and World Heritage
- Asia-Pacific Indigenous Studies Seminar Series

Host University

- The University of Melbourne

Key Partners

- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- The University of Auckland

Participating Experts

- Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn, Simon Fraser University
- Dr. Inés Saenz, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Dr. José Manuel Paéz, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Ms. Debs McAllister, The University of Auckland
- Prof. Linda Nikora, The University of Auckland
- Ms. Fay Aliikalani, The University of British Columbia
- Prof. Adrian Little, The University of Melbourne
- Prof. Bronwyn Fredericks, The University of Queensland
- Prof. David Romo, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian, Universiti Malaya
- Dr. Welyne Jeffrey Jehom, Universiti Malaya
- Dr. Patricia Nora Anak Riget, Universiti Malaya
- Dr. Andy Sutton, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Dr. Noelani Puniwai, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Dr. Jonathan Osorio, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Prof. Brian Klopotek, University of Oregon
- Prof. Raymundo Rovillos, University of the Philippines
- Dr. Jessica Bissett Perea, University of California, Davis



Call for Participation: APRU's Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Program

While cities occupy about 3% of land globally, they consume about 75% of global primary energy, and account for over 70% of CO₂ emissions. In the face of unprecedented population growth and climate change, the APRU Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Program seeks to inspire conversations on better understanding and managing the interconnection between cities and their surrounding ecology. It also opens possibilities for cross-disciplinary collaborations to solve challenges that transcend city and country boundaries.

Key Activities

- 11 Sustainable Cities & Landscapes working groups
- APRU Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Live Webinar 2022
- APRU Global Sustainability Course: Waste & The City 2022 and 2023
- Asia Pacific Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development 2022–2023
- APRU Student Climate Change Simulation 2022 and 2023
- Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Annual Conference 2022 and 2023

Host University

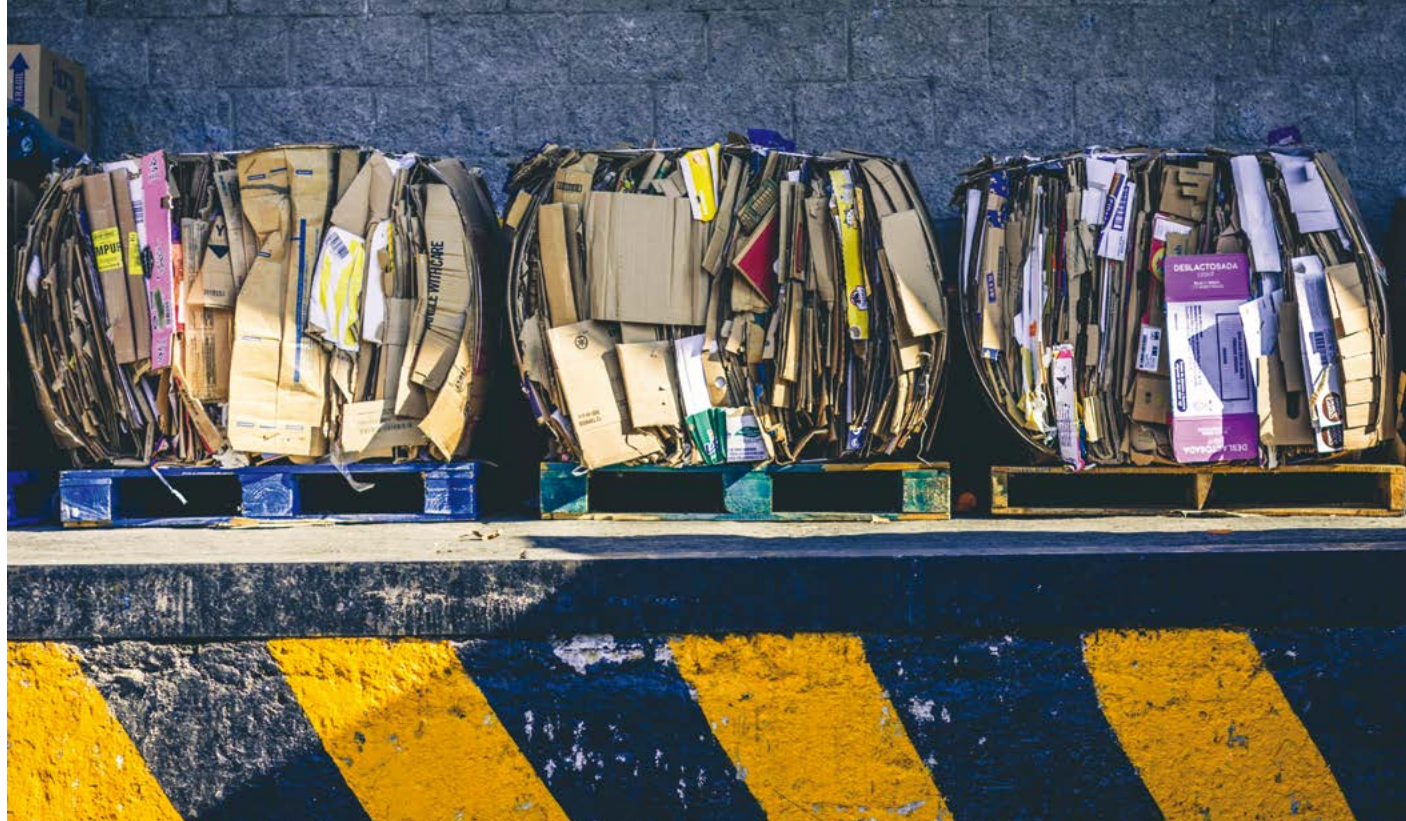
- University of Oregon

Program Lead

- Prof. Bart Johnson, Chair, University of Oregon
- Prof. Yekang Ko, Program Director, University of Oregon

Steering Committee Members

- Prof. Chingwen Cheng, Arizona State University
- Prof. Jinhyun Chon, Korea University
- Prof. Hongyang Wang, Nanjing University
- Prof. Chun-Yen Chang, National Taiwan University
- Prof. Yun Hye Hwang, National University of Singapore
- Prof. Fei Mo, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Prof. Andréanne Doyon, Simon Fraser University
- Prof. Roberto Ponce Lopez, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Dr. Robert Dyball, The Australian National University
- Prof. Paola Boarin, The University of Auckland
- Prof. Natalia Echeverri, The University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Yong Guo, Tsinghua University
- Prof. Beatriz Maturana Cossio, Universidad de Chile
- Prof. Ximena Córdova Vallejo, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Prof. John Alejandro Dunn Insúa, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Prof. Mohammed Ali Berawi, Universitas Indonesia
- Prof. Makena Coffman, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Prof. Dennis Galvan, University of Oregon
- Prof. Yizhao Yang, University of Oregon
- Prof. Jennifer Amparo, University of the Philippines
- Prof. Armin Sarthou, Jr., University of the Philippines
- Prof. Jeff Hou, University of Washington
- Prof. Nancy Rottle, University of Washington
- Prof. Anne Taufen, University of Washington
- Prof. Catherine Evans, UNSW Sydney
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Be a Part of APRU's Sustainable Waste Management Program

Building a greener and more sustainable future for communities, cities, and economies has become increasingly important, and it goes hand in hand with the development of sustainable waste management strategies. The APRU Sustainable Waste Management Program provides a timely opportunity for professionals from the Pacific Rim and beyond to exchange knowledge and experience on the matter. Scholars and experts gather to discuss ways of formulating an efficient sustainable management agenda, while paving the way towards circular economy, land reclamation, and water and wastewater treatments.

Key Activities

- APRU SWM Forum: New ESG Perspectives in Plastic Pollution – Governance, Business Models and Tourism 2022
- APRU Global Sustainability Course: Waste & The City 2022 and 2023

Host University

- Korea University

Program Lead

- Prof. Yong Sik Ok, Chair and Program Director, Korea University
- Prof. David Wardle, Co-Chair, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Prof. William Mitch, Co-Chair, Stanford University

Steering Committee Members

- Prof. Sutha Khaothiar, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Shicheng Zhang, Fudan University
- Prof. Cheng Gu, Nanjing University
- Prof. Chia-Hung Hou, National Taiwan University
- Prof. Chi-Hwa Wang, National University of Singapore
- Prof. Longbin Huang, The University of Queensland
- Prof. Ali Abbas, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Xiaonan Wang, Tsinghua University
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Build Stronger Communities with APRU Multi-Hazards Program

Asia-Pacific experiences 40% of the world's natural disaster events and 90% of the world's earthquakes, with the number of adversities likely to increase in the next decades due to climate change. Cross-border collaborative efforts are therefore urgently needed to prevent climate-related hazards from destroying the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and vulnerable communities in the region. The APRU Multi-Hazards Program aims to enable policymakers, university leaders, and scholars to share lessons learned and cutting-edge research to help society better understand risks and minimize losses.

Key Activities

- Multi-Hazards Webinar Series 2022
 - Looking Ahead to the 2nd Decade of Recovery After the GEJET
 - Safety and Resilience of Higher Educational Institutions: Considerations for a Post-COVID-19 Pandemic
- ArcDR3 Exhibition and Forum
- 2022 APRU Multi-Hazards Summer Lecture Series
 - Interdisciplinary disaster risk reduction research and actions in Japan
 - Disaster risk management initiatives in various sectors and fields
- *Safety and Resilience of Higher Educational Institutions: Considerations for a Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Analysis* published by Springer
- APRU-IRIDeS Multi-Hazards Symposium 2022 and 2023
- APRU Multi-Hazards Workshop 2023
- APRU Multi-Hazards Webinar Series 2023
 - 2023 Turkey-Syria Earthquakes

Host University

- Tohoku University

Program Leads

- Prof. Osamu Murao, Program Chair, Tohoku University
- Prof. Takako Izumi, Program Director, Tohoku University

Core Group Members

- Prof. Supot Teachavorasinskun, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Hung Chi Kuo, National Taiwan University
- Prof. Fumihiko Imamura, Tohoku University
- Prof. Hui Zhang, Tsinghua University
- Prof. Hugo Romero, Universidad de Chile
- Prof. John Rundle, University of California, Davis
- Prof. Denise Konan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Prof. Benito M. Pacheco, University of the Philippines
- Prof. Lalith Wijerathne, The University of Tokyo
- Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Yamanashi University
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Learn about the Significance of Population Aging with APRU

The impacts of an aging population present a number of challenges for sustained economic growth in the region, giving rise to the needs to address shrinking workforces, transforming healthcare services, and the increasing demands on public spending and social security. The APRU Population Aging Program creates a platform that enables researchers and experts to come together to discuss the impacts on society and propose solutions for potential challenges.

Key Activities

- APRU Population Aging Conference 2022
- Nikkei-METI International Forum on the Super Aging Challenge 2022

Host University

- National University of Singapore

Program Lead

- Prof. Angelique Chan, Program Chair and Director, National University of Singapore

Steering Committee Members

- Prof. Jin Nakahara, Keio University
- Prof. Gong Chen, Peking University
- Prof. Lan Liu, Peking University
- Prof. Stuart Gietel-Basten, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Prof. Peter McDonald, The University of Melbourne
- Prof. Robert Cumming, The University of Sydney
- Dr. Indri Hapsari Susilowati, Universitas Indonesia
- Prof. Eileen Crimmins, University of Southern California
- Prof. John Piggott, UNSW Sydney
- Prof. Ka Lin, Zhejiang University
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Build Your Capacity to Better Protect Our Biodiversity

Rapid economic development and climate change have brought a significant impact on the biodiversity of Asia-Pacific, home to a substantial proportion of the world's nine million species. The APRU Biodiversity Program aims to be a multi-country, multi-discipline, and multi-institution platform to inspire partnerships and collaborations on addressing biodiversity loss, protecting ecosystems, and combating climate change.

Key Activities

- Capacity-building workshops for undergraduate and postgraduate students 2023
- Postgraduate summer courses 2023
- Student competitions
- Inaugural Annual Conference 2023/2024

Host Universities

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The University of Sydney

Program Co-Chairs

- Prof. Jerome Hui, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Nathan Lo, The University of Sydney

Advisory Group Members

- Prof. Somsak Panha, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Peter Preiser, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Prof. Hsiao Wei Yuan, National University of Taiwan
- Prof. Tien Ming Lee, Sun Yat-sen University
- Prof. Alan Chan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Kathy Belov, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Silvia Restrepo, Universidad de los Andes
- Prof. Subha Bhassu, Universiti Malaya
- Prof. Harris Lewin, University of California, Davis
- Prof. Joanna M. Regulski, University of California, Davis
- Prof. Hayden Galves, University of the Philippines
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Help to Build Global Health Resilience

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of a robust global health system that can enable economies worldwide to build more sustainable societies, and to effectively prepare for public health emergencies. The APRU Global Health Program aims to facilitate collaborations between government, institutions, and partners to bridge health gaps, promote and protect population health, and meet shared health challenges.

Key Activities

- APRU Global Health Working Group Webinar Series 2022
- APRU Virtual Global Health Case Competition 2022 and 2023
- Mini Certificate Program in Health Research Ethics 2022 and 2023
- APRU Student Global Climate Change Simulation 2022 and 2023
- Global Health Leadership and Global Health Ethics Courses 2022 and 2023
- APRU Global Health Conference 2023

Host University

- University of Southern California

Program Leads

- Prof. Sofia Gruskin, Program Chair, University of Southern California
- Prof. Melissa Withers, Program Director, University of Southern California

Advisory Group Members

- Prof. Taninee Sahakitrungruang, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. PinPin Zheng, Fudan University
- Prof. Juhwan Oh, Seoul National University
- Prof. Manuel Pérez Jiménez, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Prof. Martin CS Wong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. King Chow, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Prof. Judith McCool, The University of Auckland
- Prof. Mu Li, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Masamine Jimba, The University of Tokyo
- Prof. Budi Haryanto, Universitas Indonesia
- Prof. Sanjay Rampal, Universiti Malaya
- Prof. Erlinda Castro Palaganas, University of the Philippines
- APRU Secretariat Representative



Spotlight Event: Vice Presidents for Research Meeting 2024

The APRU Vice Presidents for Research Meetings (VPRM) seeks to promote transformative collaboration, discovery, and innovation by gathering university leadership for strategic research and administration across the Pacific Rim. The program aims to build a sustainable and thriving culture of cooperation across the network, especially in research-intensive universities in the region. Critical issues will range from policies and funding, to technological transfer and enterprise.

Host University

- University of Science and Technology of China

Theme

- Collaborative Research for A Better Human Future

Reference Group

- Prof. Chakkaphan Sutthirat, Vice President for Research Affairs, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Peter Preiser, Associate Vice President (Biomedical and Life Sciences), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Prof. Arturo Molina, Vice Rector of Research & Technology Transfer, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Prof. Mai-Har Sham, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Prof. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation, The University of British Columbia
- Prof. Katherine Belov, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global & Research Engagement, The University of Sydney
- Prof. Ishwar Puri, Interim Vice President of Research, University of Southern California
- Prof. Carla Dimalanta, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (Research), University of the Philippines



Become a Future Changemaker at APRU's Undergraduate Leaders' Program

The Undergraduate Leaders' Program (ULP) supports emerging undergraduate leaders in becoming real-world changemakers by driving awareness, action, and change, supporting them in their academic and personal goals along the way. The program is designed to offer participants unique multicultural experiences, and equip them with the skills to contribute to positive change for the betterment of societies.

Host University

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Date

25 June – 6 July, 2023

The APRU ULP 2023, set to take place in Hong Kong, will focus on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) — SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. It prepares students to become future changemakers of sustainable, safe, resilient, and inclusive cities and economies worldwide. Themed “Leadership for Sustainable Cities Development”, this year’s ULP will empower undergraduate students to understand the interconnection between human activity, resource use, biodiversity protection, decarbonization, and the interdependence between cities, and how these are essential to achieving the UN SDGs.

Using case studies from Hong Kong, students will learn to apply design thinking principles to develop innovative and human-centered solutions for complex sustainability issues. The program will provide students with insights and hands-on experience from social, public, and business sectors with a global vision in solving urban and sustainability challenges that transcend city and country boundaries in the Pacific Rim.

The APRU Team

The Secretariat is responsible for supporting the coordination, facilitation, and liaison of APRU activities and programs.

Headquartered in Hong Kong at the International University Centre, Cyberport, the Secretariat works with APRU members to set the organization's agenda and ensure it fulfills its mission.

Secretariat Team in Hong Kong

Leadership



Prof. Thomas Schneider
Chief Executive
(From January 2023)



Dr. Christopher Tremewan
Secretary General
(Until January 2023)

Chief Executive Office



Eric Chu
Executive Manager

Network, Events and Communication



Elaine W. Hung
Director, Events and Relations



Jack Ng
Director, Communications
(until April 2023)



Jackie Agnello Wong
Director, Network Management

Operations



Sherman S. Cheng
Chief Financial Officer



Ellen Yau
Senior Administrative and Finance Officer

Strategy and Programs



Tina T. Y. Lin
Program Manager
(until May 2023)



Adriana Rojas
Senior Director, Networks and Students Programs
(from June 2022)



Anya Wong
Program Officer
(until December 2022)



David Quimbayo
Program Officer
(from March 2023)



Christina Maria Schönleber
Chief Strategy Officer

Affiliated Program Leaders



Kimberly Bellows
Program Manager,
APWiL Mentoring
Program, University of
California, Davis



Prof. Angelique Chan
Chair and Program
Director, Population
Aging Program, National
University of Singapore



Chelsey Hawes
Program Manager,
APWiL Mentoring
Program, University of
California, Davis



Prof. Jerome Hui
Program Co-Director,
Biodiversity Program,
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Prof. Takako Izumi
Program Director,
Multi-Hazards Program,
Tohoku University



Prof. Yekang Ko
Program Director,
Sustainable Cities &
Landscapes Program,
University of Oregon



Prof. Nathan Lo
Program Co-Director,
Biodiversity Program,
The University of Sydney



Prof. Yong Sik Ok
Chair and Program
Director, Sustainable
Waste Management
Program, Korea University



Prof. Mellissa Withers
Program Director,
Global Health Program,
University of Southern
California

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Us

Feel free to contact the APRU International Secretariat with suggestions, initiatives or enquiries:

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