

Report on the Visit of University of Regina Representatives to Xiamen University of Technology and Hunan University, China

September 8-13, 2008

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A delegation of representatives from the University of Regina visited Xiamen University of Technology (XMUT) in Xiamen, China and Hunan University in Changsha, China between September 8-13, 2008.

The UofR delegation consisted of: David Gauthier (VP R&I), Dean Rod Kelln (Graduate Studies and Research), Dean Anne Lavack (Business Administration), Dean Sheila Petty (Fine Arts [note that Dean Petty attended only the Xiamen visit]), Dean Paitoon Tontiwachwuthikul (Engineering), Bob Schad (Director, OICD), Dongyan Blachford (Associate Dean, FGSR), Gordon Huang (Engineering), Xue Dong Yang (Head, Computer Science), and Ashley Yeaman (Recruitment). As well, our delegation was joined in Xiamen and Changsha by representatives from King Mongkut's University of Technology from Thailand to observe our partnership arrangements with XMUT and Hunan University. William Wang of the Government of Saskatchewan was also associated with our delegation in Xiamen providing information on economic investment opportunities for the province of Saskatchewan. Dr. Dongyang Blachford, Associate Dean of FGSR provided translations of presentations by the VP (R&I) and Dean FGSR in advance of the visit.

The purposes of the visit were to:

- discuss opportunities for the development of joint academic degree programs (2 + 2 and 1 + 1 programs) in Engineering, Business Administration, Fine Arts and Computer Science)
- hold recruiting sessions with students at XMUT and Hunan University
- begin discussions about possible research collaborations
- discuss collaborative partnerships between UofR, XMUT, and King Mongkut's University of Technology.

Meetings were held with representatives of XMUT from 08-10Sep08 and with representatives of Hunan University from 12-13Sep08.

Xiamen University of Technology (September 8-10, 2008)

At XMUT, members of the UofR delegation met in full group as well as targeted focus sessions with senior members of the University administration including the President and Vice-Presidents, Director and staff of the International Office, Deans and staff of Faculties. We also had an opportunity for an introduction to the Governor of Fujian Province in which the Xiamen Special Economic Zone and XMUT are located.

Three agreements were signed with XMUT.

Our visit to Xiamen was timed to coincide with the 12th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) at which a major signing ceremony was held in confirmation of our previously negotiated MOU with XMUT.

An agreement was also signed promoting academic cooperation between XMUT, King Mongkut's University of Technology (Thailand). The three institutions agreed on the following general forms of cooperation:

- Joint educational and research activities;
- Exchange of academic materials and academic publications;
- Exchange of faculty members for research, lectures, and discussions;
- Exchange of students for study and research.

Please note that a separate meeting between the UofR delegation and the representatives of King Mongkut's University of Technology (KMUT) was also held. KMUT has identified 7 strategic areas of research development: 1. Energy, Environment and Clean Technology Area; 2. Engineering Technology Area; 3. Biotechnology, System Biology, Food Technology and Agro-based Technology Area; 4. ICT and Applied Mathematics Area; 5. Learning and Industrial Education Area; 6. Humanities Area; and 7. Policy Studies Area.

The UofR signed an agreement with KMUT in 2000. KMUT has sent their students to the UofR through the 2 + 2 program in Engineering and Computer Science. Issues of course transfer and accreditation were discussed. KMUT wants their engineering students to acquire international experience and is working towards the development of an Asian Students Association.

Negotiations also resulted in the signing of a third agreement between the UofR and XMUT that specified the following:

- (1) The two sides will work towards the development of a partnership in the certificate program of Culture and Heritage Management.
- (2) The two sides will pursue the possibility of developing a joint graduate program in Painting.
- (3) Both sides agree with the development of a joint online gallery and a series of online guest lectures.
- (4) Both sides agree to pursue the possibility of developing joint graphic design program that involves faculty members from Fine Arts, Computer Science, and Engineering.
- (5) The two sides will pursue the possibility of having 25 XMUT students (per year) in the field of Fine Arts visit UR to experience Canadian culture.
- (6) UR Faculty of Business Administration will facilitate the visit of XMUT faculty members to Regina, in order for XMUT faculty members to observe undergraduate teaching for courses related to the joint undergraduate program.
- (7) Both sides agree that at most 40 XMUT students (per year) will visit UR Faculty of Business Administration for a study tour of 1 to 2 weeks. As well, both sides agree that up to 50 XMUT students per year will be admitted to the UR Faculty of Business Administration for a 2+2 program.
- (8) Both sides agree that 1 to 2 UR faculty members (per year) in Business Administration will visit XMUT to offer short courses (1 to 2 weeks). XMUT will cover their air tickets, accommodation costs, and some honorarium.

(9) For every group of 25 newly recruited joint international program students, UR will accept one additional XMUT teacher to visit UR's ESL Program and observe its ESL courses.

(10) UR agrees in principle that one UR ESL teacher (each year) will visit XMUT to assist in various ways in the improvement of ESL teaching quality at XMUT.

(11) For the joint undergraduate program in Computer Science, approximately 15 transferable courses will be offered by the Department of Computer Science at XMUT in the first two years, and a credit transfer agreement will be drafted in the next step with a total transferred credits being in the range of 45 to 60.

(12) On academic exchange and research collaboration in Computer Science, both sides reach the following understandings:

- When a suitable faculty member is available, the Department of Computer Science at UR will recommend him/her to teach a course at XMUT in May or June.
- The Department of Computer Science at XMUT may send faculty member(s) to UR as visiting scholar(s) in Computer Science for research and academic collaborations.
- The collaborative research will be based on concrete research project(s) mutually interested and beneficial to both sides.
- The Department of Computer Science at UR will give a preferential consideration to faculty members of XMUT into its Ph.D. program given that they are qualified for admission and suitable resources of graduate-student supervision are available.

(13) Both sides agree that a recruiter from UR will visit XMUT every year to work with XMUT in promotion of the joint academic programs.

(14) XMUT will appoint an International Program Coordinator who will communicate with UR's International Student Success Office.

(15) Both sides recognize the importance of developing a joint International Cooperation Manual.

(16) UR agrees to eliminate its program fee requirements in its joint undergraduate and graduate programs.

(17) Both sides agree to work towards the initiation of a joint international research workshop. Selected faculty members from XMUT and UR will get together to present their research advancements and discuss potential collaborations.

Discussions were also held regarding the promotion of research cooperation between the UofR and XMUT. It was agreed that sharing information between the two universities on prospective areas of research collaboration and working towards a workshop of key researchers in 2009 would be helpful to fostering a productive research partnership.

The Dean and Associate Dean of FGSR made a presentation to the Joint Academic Committee and others at XMUT regarding the details of the MEng program as a 1+1 joint international program and also discussed some proposals regarding a prospective 1+1 for the MASc degree. As well, XMUT was presented with the details regarding the admission procedures for 1+1 students and the UofR is looking forward to receiving the first cohort from XMUT.

Hunan University (September 12-13, 2008)

The UofR has had agreements in place with Hunan University for 10 years. While the visit to XMUT was largely focused on developing new relationships, the visit to Hunan University was focused on reviewing the existing partnership and building upon our long relationship.

1. At Hunan University, a three-way agreement between UofR, Hunan University and King Mongkut's University of Technology (Thailand) was signed (similar to the one signed with XMUT).
2. Meetings were held by UofR representatives regarding the Engineering, Business Administration, Graduate Studies and Computer Science programs.
3. Meetings were also held with the Hunan International Office. Hunan University has requested that the UofR accept 3-5 PhD students who are funded by the China Scholarship Council.
4. Regarding the 1 + 1 program, discussions focused on improving the timelines for evaluation and notification of acceptance to Hunan students. Hunan University has also requested free tuition for the students. It was explained that the UofR cannot guarantee free tuition but can offer an enhancement award that the student could then apply to tuition. The UofR will draft potential wording that the Hunan International Institute can review.
5. Hunan University also asked if they could send doctoral students to the UofR for one year after which time the student would return to Hunan University to finish their degree. It was indicated that was possible as a visiting research student.
6. Discussions were also held regarding the 2 + 2 program and a variety of issues that had been identified by the UofR ISSO which are fundamentally communication issues. It was agreed that Hunan University would identify a central contact person to work with ISSO.
7. Discussions took place between the Head of the UofR Department of Computer Science (Xue-Dong Yang) and the Dean of the School of Software (Dr. Lin Yaping) at Hunan University in regard to credit transfers. It was agreed that the issue of credit transfers should be completed as soon as possible, such that the School of Software can recruit students from both their current 1st and 2nd year students immediately. They will advertise this 2+2 program next year when admitting new students. This program will be within the framework of the existing agreement between U of R and Hunan University (therefore, there is no need for a new agreement.)
8. The Dean and Associate Dean of FGSR reaffirmed the admission steps for 1+1 with Hunan's 1+1 facilitator (S. Tang). Ms. Tang was appreciative of the clarifications and we believe that the two sides are now in a position to be more efficient and effective on the administrative aspects.
9. The Dean of FGSR gave a general presentation to 100+ students on applying to graduate schools in Canada and used the opportunity to promote the UofR as a destination of choice.
10. The UofR delegation met with the Party Secretary to Hunan University (the highest ranking university official).
11. A special meeting with the UofR delegation and the Vice-President Research of Hunan University was also held. It was agreed that the two universities would actively explore areas of research and development that could be developed under the

Canada-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement. Energy, environment and health are among the major areas of potential collaboration. It was agreed that both universities would develop and share summaries of key high impact applied research and development project areas from which potential pilot projects could be explored.