

ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE 2030 AGENDA

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS' ONLINE
FORUM

March 24, 2021



浙江大學
ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY



Role of Universities in the 2030 Agenda

Global University Presidents' Online Forum

15:30-18:00 (GMT+8), March 24, 2021

Hosted by Zhejiang University (ZJU);

Supported by the International Association of Universities (IAU)



SCHEDULE

15:30 – 16:10

Opening

1. WU Zhaohui, President, Zhejiang University
2. Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations
3. Stefania Giannini, Assistant-Director General for Education, UNESCO
4. Peter Salovey, President, Yale University
5. Pam Fredman, President, IAU

Moderator: LI Min, Director of the Office of Global Engagement, Zhejiang University

16:10 – 16:45

Session 1 - Educating for a Sustainable Future

Keynote speeches

1. Michael Spence AC, President and Provost, University College London
2. Stephen Garton AM, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, the University of Sydney
3. Eric Labaye, President, École Polytechnique
4. Wendy Wolford, Vice Provost for International Affairs, Cornell University

Q & A

Moderator: Hilligje van't Land, Secretary General, IAU

Session 2 - Advancing Scientific Collaborations

16:45 – 17:20

Keynote speeches

1. Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President, the Chinese University of Hongkong
2. Svein Stølen, Rector, University of Oslo
3. Andrei Rudskoi, Rector, Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University
4. Norihiro Tokitoh, Executive Vice President, Kyoto University

Q & A

Moderator: Kevin Zhigang Chen, International Dean of China Academy for Rural Development, Zhejiang University

Session 3 - Creating a Greener Campus

17:20 – 17:55

Keynote speeches

1. Tan Eng Chye, President, National University of Singapore
2. Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University
3. Mieke Van Herreweghe, Vice Rector, Ghent University
4. HE Lianzhen, Vice President, Zhejiang University

Q & A

Moderator: Aarnout Brombacher, Vice President International Relations (China), Eindhoven University of Technology

17:55 – 18:00

Closing

LI Min, Director of the Office of Global Engagement, Zhejiang University



WU Zhaohui

President
Zhejiang University

Prof. Dr. WU Zhaohui was named president of Zhejiang University in March 2015. He is an alternate member of the 19th Central Committee of Communist Party of China. He was elected as the member of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2017.

Dr. WU is a fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), IEEE, China Computer Federation (CCF), Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAAI) and Chinese Association of Automation (CAA). He also serves as director of the National Panel of Modern Service Industry, vice president of the China Association of Higher Education, and vice president of the Chinese Health Information and Big Data Association.

Dr. WU's major research is focused on computer science and technology. He was a chief scientist in the 973 Project and an information expert in the 863 Project.

Dr. WU was also a winner of the National Fund for Distinguished Young Scientists, a first-tier talent in the National Talents Program, the second-prize winner of the State Technological Invention Award, the second-prize winner of the State Scientific & Technological Progress Award, and the winner of the Prize for Scientific and Technological Innovation of the Ho Leung & Ho Lee Foundation. One of his studies was listed among the Top Ten Achievements in Science and Technology of Chinese Universities in 2016.

Abstract

The world is more complex than it used to be and is further complicated by the pandemic. With less than 10 years to go, we are now standing at the critical moment to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The recent vaccine rollout is a clear example of international collaboration, technology empowerment and the importance of education in fighting disinformation. Like COVID-19, every SDG requires joint efforts across disciplinary, regional and national boundaries.

For centuries, universities have been at the heart of social and cultural transformation, and innovation-driven universities in particular have unique roles to play in the 2030 Agenda. Universities can work to improve "SDG competencies" while harnessing the power of technology to expand access to quality education, and should draw on their academic ecosystem to support scientific collaborations and knowledge transfer across disciplines. They can also act as a central hub to combine strengths, link the global and the local, and promote cooperation among multiple stakeholders.



Nikhil Seth

Assistant Secretary-General
United Nations

On 8 June 2015, Mr. Nikhil Seth was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Before assuming the post of the UNITAR Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and of the secretariat for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up. Mr. Seth's Division was also responsible for supporting the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

Before joining the UN Secretariat, he was a delegate to the UN in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (Sep 1990 – Sep 1993) and involved with various UN conferences and summits including the Rio Summit on Environment and Development and the climate change related process. He joined the Indian diplomatic service in 1980 and his diplomatic assignments included Geneva, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Before joining the Indian diplomatic service, he worked as a Lecturer in Economics in St. Stephen College, Delhi University for 2 years (Aug 1977 – Sep 1979).

Abstract

Emerging quality education for all includes the call for all teachers to instil in the learners a sense of good global citizenship. SDG's belong to each of us and everything we do impacts on the achievement, in the aggregate, to SDG achievement. Internalizing this and making this personally relevant is at the heart of good global citizenship.

I do believe that climate change will give us even greater shocks and after-shocks than we can imagine, and these five transformations will be the minimum insurance for a sustainable future. It is here that I would urge a special thrust from all universities. Last year, the high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN took place. The title of the meeting - *The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism* - can also be a rallying cry for the university community to make their voice heard through coalitions of universities.



Stefania Giannini

Assistant Director-General for Education (ADG/ED)
UNESCO

Ms Stefania Giannini was appointed Assistant Director-General for Education in May 2018, becoming the top United Nations official in the field of education. In this position, she provides strategic vision and leadership for UNESCO's Education Sector in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, encapsulated in Sustainable Development Goal 4.

She has devoted her career to promoting education as a fundamental human right, through the importance of language, lifelong learning, culture, freedom of expression and identity, in an effort to ensure more inclusive and equal societies.

With an academic background in the Humanities (PhD in Linguistics), Ms Giannini became Professor of Linguistics in 1992 and served as Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia (2004 – 2012), being one of the first female Rectors and the youngest at that time in Italy.

During these years, Ms Giannini coordinated a number of relevant international projects in the field of higher education and research, contributing to the improvement of university cooperation between Europe and several other countries, from the United States to countries in Asia as well as the Middle East and North Africa region.

At the same time, she was member of the Selection Committee of the Erasmus Mundus programme in Brussels (2005 – 2009), the person responsible for international relations in the Committee of The Conference of Italian University Rectors (2006 – 2010) and a member of the National Commission for the Promotion of Italian Culture Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2006 – 2011).

Later on, in her role as Senator of the Republic of Italy (2013 – 2018) and Minister of Education, Universities and Research (2014 – 2016), she developed and implemented a structural reform of the Italian education system, centred on social inclusion and targeting cultural awareness. Ms Giannini also chaired the Education and Competitiveness Council of the European Union during the Italian Presidency (July – December 2014), working to promote the importance of creativity, cultural heritage and innovation as tools for dialogue between diverse populations, with a view to preventing radicalization and extremism.

In addition to her current position as UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, Ms Giannini is Advisor to the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation as well as a member of the Atlantis Group of the Varkey Foundation and of RISE (Research, Innovation and Science Policy Experts).



Peter Salovey

President
Yale University

Peter Salovey is the twenty-third president of Yale University and the Chris Argyris Professor of Psychology. Since becoming president in July 2013, he has led the development of new programs and facilities, strengthened partnerships worldwide, increased access to a Yale College education, and enhanced multidisciplinary collaboration and entrepreneurial opportunity for faculty and students. Other roles at Yale included serving as chair of the Department of Psychology (2000 to 2003); dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2003 to 2004); dean of Yale College (2004 to 2008); and provost (2008 to 2013).

President Salovey earned a Ph.D. (psychology) at Yale in 1986. He has authored or edited over a dozen books translated into eleven languages and published hundreds of journal articles and essays in social psychology. With John D. Mayer, he developed a broad framework called “emotional intelligence.” In addition to teaching and mentoring scores of graduate students, President Salovey has won both the William Clyde DeVane Medal for Distinguished Scholarship and Teaching in Yale College and the Lex Hixon '63 Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Social Sciences. In 2013, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine.

Abstract

At Yale, faculty and students are working across sectors and disciplines to safeguard the planet for future generations. Every academic department or school at Yale has at least one faculty member whose scholarship relates to the SDGs. Yale not only supports groundbreaking research in this area, but it also has a long history of preparing students to work across sectors to solve major challenges. For example, in 2018, William Nordhaus, a Yale alumnus and Yale Sterling Professor of Economics, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for transforming our understanding of the costs of environmental degradation and climate change. Other Yale graduates are at the helm of governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and research enterprises with environmental and social foci. Yale also applies the research findings of its faculty members to university operations. The university has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent over the past 15 years, even though the campus square footage has increased significantly. Yale is committed to contributing actively to putting society on a more sustainable trajectory.



Pam Fredman

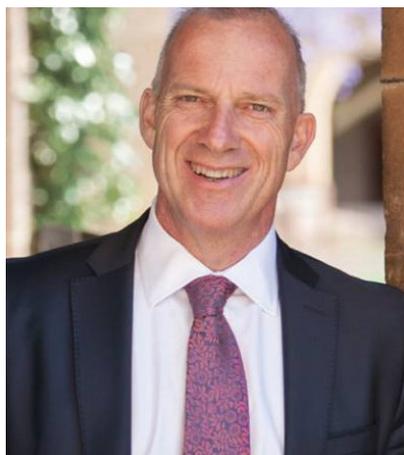
President
International Association of Universities (IAU)

Pam Fredman is since 2016 the elected chair of the International Association of Universities, IAU), the global network of higher education institutions and organizations created under the auspices of and an official partner of UNESCO 1950. Her academic background is Professor of Neurochemistry at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and she has been and is active in many of scientific and scholarly contexts. She has been a board member of national and international scientific organisations and academies. Pam Fredman has an extensive experience of academic leadership and was between 2006-2017 the rector of the University of Gothenburg. During 2009-2014 she served as the chair of the Swedish rector conference and in that position member of the European University Association council, EUA, of, and EUA Research Policy Working Group. Pam Fredman has participated in political initiatives and policy development in Sweden. For more than ten years she chair the national leadership programs for incoming rectors and deans and act as chair for research centres working with interdisciplinary and global approaches. On behalf of the Swedish government, she recently led the investigation on governmental steering and resource allocation to Swedish higher education institutions.

Abstract

Society should strive to generate Knowledge that will allow to leave no one behind. As stated by the UN Agenda 2030 – Transforming our Future, the world is facing a wide array of global challenges. Universities and other Higher Education institutions (HEIs) are to play a key role by engaging with the SDGs, to create and develop the kind of knowledge required to address these and to share it with society. HEIs are key actors in the education ecosystem; they equip future generations with knowledge and understanding of global and local challenges and with the competences required to leverage the opportunities; they are to take action and foster sustainable development. Cooperation and cohesion among HE Institutions and organizations will foster knowledge development and sharing. HE and HE cooperation hence need to be promoted and advocated for to policy and decision makers. As well awareness and understanding of the fundamental principles upon which to develop quality higher education need to be increased in order for the sector to fulfil its unique role in research and education and in society at large.

The International Association of Universities (IAU) was called into life by and is an official partner of UNESCO. For 70 years, the Association has served as the global platform and voice for HEIs and organizations. It promotes and advocates for HE, and focus specifically on fair, inclusive and meaningful internationalisation, higher education for sustainability, digital transformation of HE and value based leadership. These broad themes and the consequences of the ongoing pandemic on HE will be explored in the presentation.



Michael Spence AC

President & Provost
University of College London

Dr Spence took up his post as President & Provost of UCL on 11 January 2021. Prior to this he was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney, which under his leadership rose to first in Australia and fourth in the world for graduate employability. He was also responsible for the largest philanthropic campaign in Australian history, raising a record one billion Australian dollars.

Dr Spence is recognised internationally as a leader in the field of intellectual property theory and holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, where he headed Oxford's Law faculty and Social Sciences division. An alumnus of the University of Sydney, Dr Spence has a BA with first-class honours in English, Italian and Law. His other languages include Chinese and Korean.

In 2017, he was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours for service to leadership of the tertiary education sector, to the advancement of equitable access to educational opportunities, to developing programs focused on multidisciplinary research, and to the Anglican Church of Australia. Dr Spence is an ordained Minister in the Anglican Church.

Abstract

Educating for a sustainable future: UCL's approach to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Universities are uniquely well placed to bring together researchers, entrepreneurs and policy makers who will go on to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UCL is incorporating sustainability into teaching and championing international, inter-institutional and cross-disciplinary solutions to challenges at local, national and global levels; leading the academic conversation around the practice, application and methodology of the SDGs with our partners, in the knowledge that we cannot address global problems and deliver true impact on our own.



Stephen Garton AM

Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Sydney

Professor Stephen Garton began his term as the University of Sydney's 26th Vice-Chancellor and Principal in December 2020. He has held senior management positions at the University for almost two decades, including Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

His areas of research expertise include Australian, American and British history. He was appointed Professor of History in 2000 and Challis Professor in 2004 and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Royal Society of NSW.

Abstract

As we consider our role in the next decade, comprehensive universities around the world have a moral obligation to contribute more heavily to progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals – through our research, our education and our operations. As we work in partnership with others to achieve the goals, events of the past year, with COVID-19 following the bushfires of the Australian summer, make the need for common understanding and action abundantly clear. These events herald a future we must confront.



Eric Labaye

President
École Polytechnique

Eric Labaye is President of École Polytechnique, a major French institution of higher education and research in sciences and engineering and President of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris, created by École Polytechnique, ENSTA Paris, ENSAE Paris, Télécom Paris and Télécom SudParis in 2019. He serves on the board of Télécom Paris, the International Advisory Boards of ESSEC and Waterloo University, and the Board of Advisors of the School of Public Affairs at Sciences Po. Eric Labaye was formerly Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company and Chairman of the McKinsey Global Institute, where he led numerous research projects on key economic issues such as growth in Europe, productivity, digitization, the future of work and inequalities. Prior to this, he was Managing Director of the France office, led the firm's Global Knowledge and Communication and was a member of the Shareholders Council of the firm (Global Board) for ten years, of which he chaired the Client Committee. Eric has worked with global companies on business development in Asia and more recently strengthened partnerships with Asian universities. Eric Labaye is a graduate from École Polytechnique and Télécom Paris and holds an MBA with distinction (Henry Ford II award) from INSEAD.

Abstract

École Polytechnique's commitment towards sustainable development and diversity

For more than two hundred years, École Polytechnique has been training future responsible leaders, teaching them to innovate for the general interest of all. In 2019, during its symposium for international development, the School took strong commitments that placed sustainable development at the heart of its education and research. These commitments go hand in hand with its actions and initiatives working towards social diversity and gender equality, as well as its determination to give a chance to every young person to access high-quality scientific and engineering studies.



Wendy Wolford

Vice Provost for International Affairs
Cornell University

As vice provost for international affairs, Wolford focuses on strengthening Cornell University's many global connections and interdisciplinary initiatives, including the Global Grand Challenge on Migrations. Wolford is Robert A. and Ruth E. Polson Professor of Global Development in the Department of Global Development in Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She has published widely on international development, land use and distribution, social mobilization, agrarian societies and critical ethnography. She spent 2016-2017 as a Fulbright scholar in Mozambique and Portugal, and she is currently working on a book on the politics of inequality and rural development in Brazil and Mozambique. At Cornell since 2010, Wolford has served as the faculty director for economic development at the David R. Atkinson Center for Sustainable Development, where she co-led CARE-Cornell and Oxfam-Cornell collaborations. She was co-leader of a three-year theme project on contested global landscapes at Cornell's Institute for the Social Sciences.

Wolford received her bachelor of arts in economics and international development from McGill University (1994) and her PhD (2001) in geography from the University of California, Berkeley. Before joining Cornell, she was a faculty member in geography at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2001-2010) and a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University (2004-2005).



Rocky S. Tuan

Vice-Chancellor and President
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Rocky S. Tuan began his term as the eighth Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) on 1 January 2018. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he pursued further studies in the United States and received his PhD in Life Sciences in 1977 from the Rockefeller University in New York.

Professor Tuan is an internationally renowned biomedical scientist specializing in musculoskeletal biology and tissue regeneration who has authored >450 research publications. His work covers both basic science and engineering, as well as translational and clinical applications. Prior to joining CUHK in 2016 as a distinguished visiting professor and the founding director of the Institute for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, he was distinguished professor of orthopaedic surgery and director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering in the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021, Professor Tuan was elected to the fellowships of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), the Chinese Association of Inventions (CAI), the American Association of Anatomists (AAA), and the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS), respectively, for his accomplishments in innovation and translational research that bring significant impact on society.

Abstract

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) aims to be a civic university committed to addressing society's greatest challenges and contributing to the well-being of the global community through research, innovation and collaboration. This presentation highlights CUHK's role, as a co-host of the Hong Kong Chapter of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network and an active member of various national and international networks of higher education, in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through scientific collaboration with centres of excellence from around the world.



Svein Stølen

Rector
University of Oslo

Professor Svein Stølen is Rector of the University of Oslo (UiO) for the period 2017-2021. He was recently re-elected for another four years.

Stølen is the President of the European university Circle U. He is also a board member of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, and has internationalisation high on his and the University of Oslo's agenda. Furthermore, Stølen is Chairman of the Board of Oslo Science City, Norway's first innovation district, and a member of the board of Oslo University Hospital.

From 2013–2017, he was Dean for Research at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiO and a driving force for interdisciplinary initiatives for academic renewal. This led to the establishment of new, internationally competitive research environments that link research, education, career development and recruitment closer together. He also led the faculty's gender equality work.

During the same period, Stølen held positions as Chairman of the Board of UiO: Life Sciences and Digital Life Norway. He was also central in the establishment of the interdisciplinary study program Materials, Energy and Nanotechnology at UiO.

Stølen is a Professor of Chemistry and has broad international experience including a two-year stay at Nagoya University, Japan.

Abstract

The present day gigantic global scientific efforts to develop a vaccine to mitigate the devastating impact of Covid-19 on societies demonstrate the power of and dependence on science. At the same time, the pandemic forms an urgent reminder that this dependency is global. Hence, this underlines the need to support and strengthen appropriate knowledge and technology developments in low-income countries. Inclusive, more equal and mutually beneficial partnerships must be developed — at the global, regional, national and local levels. These partnerships must build upon scientific principles and academic values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the centre.



Andrei Rudskoi

Rector
Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University

Born on February 19, 1957, Andrei Rudskoi graduated from M.I. Kalinin Leningrad Polytechnic Institute (now Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University) in 1981. He majored in “Metal Treatment under Pressure.” In 1985, he defended his candidate dissertation, and in 1998, he defended his doctoral dissertation and received the doctor of engineering degree. In 2008, he was elected a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and in 2016, an Academician of the RAS. From 2003 till 2011, Professor Rudskoi has been the Vice-Rector of SPbPU and in 2011 he has elected as a Rector of SPbPU. Professor Rudskoi is a prominent scientist in the field of thermomechanical treatment of metals, powdered metals, metal-matrix composite materials synthesis, and materials for additive technologies. Professor Rudskoi is the author of more than 300 scientific works, including 12 monographs and a number of patents and tutorials. Professor Rudskoi is a member of the European Engineering Society and has Honorary Doctorates at Czestochowa University of Technology (Poland), Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus–Senftenberg (Germany), City, University of London (UK). Professor Rudskoi is an Honorary Professor of Tsinghua University (P.R. China) and an Honorary Senator of Leibniz University Hannover (Germany).

Abstract

Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (SPbPU) has been the leading technical university in Russia and actively contributing to the global enhancement and universities impact in the overall advancement. SPbPU has been holding the leading positions in Russia and the world – 37th position in the worldwide ranking “THE University Impact Rankings 2020” in terms of universities contribution to the implementation of 17 UN SDGs. SPbPU has been implementing a range of projects in terms of SDGs, such as carrying out UNESCO Chair activities, education for SD, research projects for clean energy, water and climate, Arctic technologies, smart cities of the future, economic growth.

Realizing its mission, SPbPU has come up with a development strategy based on the strongest research schools and directions and established a World-Class Research Centre, which allows concentrating resources on truly important global problems. The center attracts Russian and foreign partners, brings together leading scientists. The Centre allows to quickly collect interdisciplinary teams to address global challenges. The brilliant example has become the electro mobile KAMA-1 development, the first Russian electric car – only two years from idea to production sample.

This approach of rapid concentration of resources when conducting frontier research and solving global SD problems of regions and countries will become the main development strategy of SPbPU for the coming years. SPbPU mission is the development of scientific technologies and the creation of educational environment that will make it possible to intelligently manage the precious resources of our planet, provide future generations with knowledge, ideas, aspirations for the SD of mankind. We are always open for cooperation, new ideas and innovations.



Norihiro Tokitoh

Executive Vice-President
Kyoto University

Academic and Professional Career: PhD in Science, The University of Tokyo (1985); Professor of Institute for Chemical Research (ICR), Kyoto University (2000–present); Director, Institute for Chemical Research (ICR), Kyoto University (2008–2012, 2014–2018); Director, Kyoto University Research Coordination Alliance (KURCA) (2018–2020); Executive Vice-President for Research, Evaluation, and Industry-Government Academia Collaboration, Kyoto University (2020–present).

Academic Association Memberships: Vice-President, The Society of Physical Organic Chemistry, Japan (2011–2012, 2016–2018); President, The Society of Silicon Chemistry, Japan (2016–2018); President, The Society of Physical Organic Chemistry, Japan (2018–present).

Awards and Honors (Abbreviated List): Progress Award in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (1992); Progress Award in Silicon Chemistry, Japan (1996); Japan IBM Science Award (1998); Chemical Society of Japan Award for Creative Work (2003); Alexander von Humboldt Research Awards (2003, 2013); Society of Silicon Chemistry Award (2019).

Main Research Interests: Main group and organometallic chemistry, especially the creation of novel bonding and structures of heavier main group elements, and the elucidation of their unique and novel structures and properties.

Abstract

The year 2022 will mark the 125th anniversary of Kyoto University's founding. The university comprises 10 undergraduate faculties, 18 graduate schools, and a total of 19 research institutes and centers. These academic departments are dedicated to diverse fields that span the natural sciences, engineering, medicine, life sciences, and the humanities and social sciences. With a long-established culture of academic freedom, Kyoto University pursues research, education, and social engagement that contributes to harmonious coexistence in the global community—a focus on global welfare that long predates the formulation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with today's theme of "Advancing Scientific Collaboration," I would like to introduce some of Kyoto University's good practices that relate to the SDGs. The university promotes sustainable development through diverse forms of collaboration with academic institutions around the world. Initiatives include a center for research into zero-emission energy sources, and joint graduate programs, including double-degree programs, in fields that contribute to sustainable development.



Tan Eng Chye

President
National University of Singapore

Professor Tan Eng Chye was appointed President of the National University of Singapore (NUS) on 1 January 2018. He is the University's 5th president, and the 23rd leader to head Singapore's oldest higher education institution.

Prof Tan is a passionate and award-winning educator. He was a pioneer architect of the current academic system in NUS, and has seeded many initiatives such as the Special Programme in Science, University Scholars Programme, University Town Residential College Programme, Grade-free Year, and Technology-enhanced Education.

Prof Tan received the Public Administration Medal (Gold) at Singapore's National Day Awards in 2014 for his outstanding contributions to education. He was awarded the Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal, which honours exceptional alumni in the areas of scholarship, teaching, academic administration and public service, by Yale University in 2018. Prof Tan was also conferred an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Southampton in 2018 in recognition of his achievements as "an innovative and exceptional teacher, and then as a distinguished and respected leader in academia".

Abstract

The National University of Singapore ("NUS") is committed to protecting the environment and incorporating sustainability in all aspects of our campus life – from research, education and operations. This presentation features NUS' experience in building a green campus for learning, discovery and living. It highlights two examples of sustainably-designed, built and rejuvenated precincts namely University Town and School of Design and Environment. In addition to a lower environmental footprint, these precincts and the buildings within, are platforms for students to learn about the practice of sustainability and to promote a more vibrant student life. They are also home to collaborative research laboratories and serve to deepen a culture of sustainability. Building on these foundations, NUS is embarking on its Climate Action Plan 2030 comprising two signature programs : Carbon Neutral Campus and Cool NUS (by 4 degrees Celsius) to address the global climate challenges and contribute to the UN SDGs.



Wim de Villiers

Rector and Vice-Chancellor
Stellenbosch University

Prof Wim de Villiers has been Rector and Vice-Chancellor since 2015, when he joined his alma mater again after 21 years abroad. After graduating from Stellenbosch University with an MB, ChB, he went to Oxford University for his PhD, and then to America, where he held a number of senior positions at the University of Kentucky. He also studied at Harvard and was included in the publication Best Doctors in America. On the national stage, he serves as Vice-Chair of Universities South Africa, and chair of Higher Health; and on the international stage as council member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities.



Mieke Van Herreweghe

Vice-Rector
Ghent University

Professor Mieke Van Herreweghe (°1965) has been vice-rector of Ghent University since 1 October 2017.

In 1987 she obtained a master's degree in Germanic Philology at Ghent University and one year later a M.A. in Linguistics at University College Dublin (Ireland).

After a PhD fellowship at the Research Foundation - Flanders, she obtained a PhD at Ghent University in 1996 as Doctor in linguistics and literature: Germanic languages.

In 2012, Mieke Van Herreweghe became a full professor of English linguistics. Her research field encompasses English linguistics (on the one hand diachronic linguistics, on the other hand second language acquisition) and Flemish Sign Language.

From 2012 to 2017 she was a member of the Ghent University Research Council. She was chairperson of the Linguistics and Literature study programme from 2012 to 2016 and research director of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy from 2016 to 2017. She was also a laureate of the UGent Minerva award for education.

Abstract

Ghent University wants to be a leading knowledge institute for a future that is ecologically, socially and economically sustainable within a local and global context. Therefore we create substantial support for sustainable development through policies, we integrate sustainability in education and research and we implement sustainability in our business operations and organisation.

Ghent University supports the EU ambition to be climate neutral by 2050 and has set itself specific goals for the period 2020-2030 which will be brought together in a climate plan with short- and medium-term objectives with respect to CO2 reduction, circular economy and climate adaptation. We also stimulate sustainability in research and education. In order to keep track of where we are close monitoring is being done and adjustment is carried through when necessary. We publish this every two years in a sustainability report. The reports and the climate plan show that it is of paramount importance to combine forces with respect to expertise, policy and commitment in order to reach our ambition to be climate neutral by 2050.



HE Lianzhen

Vice President
Zhejiang University

Professor Dr. HE Lianzhen assumed the role as Vice President of Zhejiang University in June 2018. She also serves as a member of the standing committee of CPC Zhejiang University Committee, Dean of ZJU's International Campus and Secretary of the CPC Committee of ZJU's International Campus.

Prior to her current position, Dr. HE was dean of School of International Studies from March, 2009 to November, 2016 and dean of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences from April, 2016 to April, 2017.

Dr. HE got her Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of Birmingham, UK (1993) and her PhD degree in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics from Guangdong Foreign Studies University, China (1998). Her main research interests are language assessment, applied linguistics, and discourse analysis. She was senior visiting scholar at University of California at Los Angeles in 2004, Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor at University of Bristol in 2014. She was awarded National Professor of Distinction by Chinese Ministry of Education in 2006. Her publications include articles on language assessment research in top journals like *Language Testing*, *Language Assessment Quarterly*, and many key journals in China.

She is also director of the National Advisory Board for College Foreign Language Teaching of the Ministry of Education, chair of "Double First-class" University Network, China Education Association for International Exchange, and vice chair of China Association for Language Testing and Assessment.

Abstract

Zhejiang University is a model of sustainable university construction in China. The presentation will take ZJU's International Campus as an example. It will introduce ZJU's specifically active approach regarding the UN SDGs from four aspects: green university concept, green campus construction, green education and green research.



LI Min

Director, Office of Global Engagement
Zhejiang University

Prof. LI Min was born in Hangzhou, China. She completed her undergraduate study in English Language and Literature in Fudan University, Shanghai and received her MA in Applied Linguistics in Zhejiang University.

Min has been teaching in Zhejiang University since 1991 and her research interests are Second Language Acquisition and Cognitive Learning. Recently her focus is more on higher education policy and internationalization of higher education.

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Min was Deputy Director for Office of Global Engagement of Zhejiang University from November 2009 to December 2015. Since then she has been Acting Director of the Office and was appointed as Director of the Office in November 2016. She oversees the university's global strategy and outreach. Her major responsibility is developing collaborative relations with international partners, in terms of facilitating faculty and student mobility, promoting joint research, developing overarching framework for university collaboration and looking over ZJU's participation in international consortiums etc.



Hilligje van't Land

Secretary General
IAU

Dr. Hilligje van't Land serves the global higher education community as Secretary General of the International Association of Universities (IAU) - global NGO with UNESCO Associate Status. For the past two decades, she has fostered the key role of higher education in societal transformation. She supervises the overall programme activities of the IAU, develops the Association's strategic plans and oversees the everyday work of the secretariat. She positioned the IAU as partner in UNESCO work on Education for sustainable development and in the UNESCO Futures of Education initiative, and higher education as a key stakeholder for the UN Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world. Hilligje van't Land strongly believes in the importance of international cooperation and intercultural understanding and has developed multilateral projects related higher education and beyond. She represents IAU in various working groups and expert committees including at the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the UN.

Hilligje van't Land holds a PhD in comparative francophone literature, speaks six languages and published on higher education issues of relevance locally and globally.



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Dr. Kevin Chen is Qiushi Chair Professor of the School of Public Affairs at Zhejiang University and International Dean of China Academy for Rural Development (CARD). He is also co-founder of Rural Development Foundation and Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. He is editor-in-chief of *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review* and co-editor of *China Agricultural Economic Review*. He is a member of Independent Expert Group (IEG) for Global Nutrition Report (GNR). He was an associate professor at the Department of Resource Economics and Sociology at the University of Alberta from 1995-2004. He also served as an editor for *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* in 2003-04. His interests focus on the impact of major shocks on China's economy, agriculture and rural areas, agri-food value chain development, public policies on poverty, modeling agricultural markets, and South-South cooperation on agriculture.



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From March 1st, 2010 until March 1st 2018 he was also Dean of the department Industrial Design.



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