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# 10 Corporate Development

## International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes meets up in Seoul

By Prof Goh Kim Chuan, Office of Academic Quality Management

In August last year, members of the International Alliance (IA) of Leading Education Institutes gathered for their third meeting under the chairmanship of Prof Lars Qvortrup of the Danish Pedagogical University, Denmark. Hosted by the Seoul National University, Deans and Directors of the 10 leading colleges/faculties/institutes of education met in Seoul, South Korea from 17 to 19 August 2009.

The theme for 2009 was 'Climate Change and Sustainable Development: the Response from Education.' For the first time, Africa was represented at the meeting by the School of Education, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

At the business meetings, the Deans and Directors discussed the activities and achievements made in the second year of the Alliance's establishment, including admission of new members and the venue and host of the next meeting in 2010.

Several major decisions were made. This included the confirmation of Prof Cho Youngdal, Dean, Faculty of Education, Seoul National University as the next Chair; NIE, Singapore as host of the next meeting in 2011; and the confirmation of 'multiculturalism' as the theme for 2010. Planning ahead, the IA members agreed that the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto, Canada will be the chair for 2011 and the theme for 2011 will be 'knowledge management.'

The IA members also held a fruitful session with Dr David Istance representing CERI (OECD) on possible future collaborations. Concurrently held with the business meetings were sessions involving the authors of the members' country reports based on the 2009 theme, 'Climate Change and Sustainable Development: the Response from Education.'



Chairmen of the International Alliance – (From left) Prof Lars Qvortrup, Dean, Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark and Chairman from Sep 2008 to Aug 2009, Prof Cho Youngdal, Dean, College of Education, Seoul National University, South Korea and Chairman from Sep 2009 to Aug 2010, and Prof Lee Sing Kong, Director, National Institute of Education, Singapore and Chairman from Sep 2007 to Aug 2008

At these concurrent sessions, the authors, under the leadership of Professor Jeppe Laessoe of the Danish Pedagogical University, discussed how the cross-country report that he had prepared and would be presenting could be further refined. Publication opportunities for the country papers and future areas of collaboration among the authors were also discussed.

On the last day of the meeting, following the cross-country report by Prof Jeppe Laessoe, all ten authors presented their respective country reports. This session was open to academics and educators from Seoul National University and other universities in South Korea as well as the press and officers from the relevant government departments in Korea.

The third meeting of the International Alliance in Seoul was a great success. NIE thanks Dean Cho Youngdal of Seoul National University for his leadership and his team of support staff for their efficient planning and great hospitality shown to all the participants.

Members of the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes gathered in Seoul for their third meeting

