

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 13 April 2010

University network celebrates Asia-Pacific links

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) network will celebrate its links with the Asia-Pacific at the 2010 Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) Conference being held at the Gold Coast on 14-16 April.

IRU will host a **Breakfast Reception** for over 70 representatives of valued partner organisations from a range of Asia-Pacific and other countries. These partnerships are central to the network's goals of global engagement, research collaboration, student mobility and cultural diversity.

Chair of the IRU International Group, Professor Gary Martin, will welcome the visitors and will launch a new IRU brochure highlighting the network's purpose, teaching and research strengths and areas of focus.

International and domestic student representatives, sponsored by the seven member universities to attend the Conference, will also come together for a **Student Roundtable**.

"The Student Roundtable will provide a valuable opportunity for IRU members to receive feedback from a diverse group of students about the internationalisation of their universities," Professor Martin said.

Professor Martin said that he expected that IRU members would find the student feedback useful in planning strategies to further enhance the campus and educational experience of both international and domestic students.

Each year, the IRU network enrolls over 34,000 international students from 120 countries, with 85 per cent of students coming from the Asia-Pacific.

Senior staff of IRU will also be making a Conference presentation on the network's utilisation of the **International Student Barometer**, a benchmarking instrument used by 160 universities worldwide to track the expectations, experiences and perceptions of international students.

IRU is a network of seven comprehensive Australian universities – Charles Darwin, Flinders, Griffith, James Cook, La Trobe, Murdoch and Newcastle – conducting research of national and international standing and applying their collective knowledge, capabilities and resources to enhance the outcome of higher education. IRU is a silver sponsor of the 2010 APAIE Conference.

APAIE is an international non-profit organisation working towards the internationalisation of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. Each year APAIE holds an international conference hosted by a University in the Asia-Pacific Region. Griffith University, a member of IRU, is the host of this year's Conference. Over 750 delegates are registered to attend.

Media are welcome to attend the **Breakfast Reception** from 7.30am – Wed 14 Apr - at Conrad Jupiters and the **International Student Roundtable** from 4.30pm – Thurs 15 Apr – APAIE Exhibition Hall, Room 5, first floor.

Contact

Professor Gary Martin

Chair, IRU International Group

m 0416 013 859

Ms Lenore Cooper

Director, IRU

m 0408 760 592

w iru.edu.au

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