HSS Signs Research Networking Accord with ADB and top Asian universities

The Division of Economics started an exciting new chapter in research collaboration on 12 September 2013 as representatives from four Asian-Australian research centres descended on NTU to ink the Research Centres Networking Group (RCNG) accord – a partnership agreement set up to promote research synergies between NTU and eight other research centres.

Initiated by Prof Euston Quah, Director of the Economic Growth Centre, HSS, the RCNG sets out to promote research collaboration among members by instituting periodic visits and attachments. As part of the tie-up, researchers will visit other member institutes where they will be hosted by local scholars with similar interests and also paired with graduate students from the same field. The host institution will provide accommodation during these visits, which will last at least one to three weeks. Designed to promote recurring joint-workshops that will be hosted in turn by the centres, the accord hopes to initiate new external research grants and research projects among the eight member institutes.

From left: Prof Euston Quah, Prof Park Dae Keun, Prof Liu Hong, Prof Peter Warr, Prof Kazuyuki Tohji, Prof Oh Jeung Hun, Emeritus Prof Lim Chong Yah and Prof Lim Hua Sing

The eight centres representing their respective member universities/entities are: Asian Development Bank Institute (Asian Development Bank), Arndt Corden Department of Economics (Australian National University), Hanyang Economic Research Institute (Hanyang University), Graduate Institute of Economic Research (Keio University), Graduate School of International Studies (Korea University), Graduate School
of Environmental Studies (Tohoku University), Waseda Institute of Chinese Economics (Waseda University) and the College of Economics (Zhejiang University).

Due to their busy schedules, the signing ceremony took place in two instalments with delegates from NTU, Asian Development Bank Institute, Keio University, Waseda University and Zhejiang University penning the agreement at an earlier signing ceremony held on 6 August 2013.

Prof Peter Warr from the Australian National University, Prof Park Dae Keun from Hanyang University, Prof Oh Jeong Hun from Korea University and Prof Kazuyuki Tohji from Tohoku University completed the signing formalities at HSS Auditorium on 12 September with HSS Chair Prof Liu Hong, Emeritus Prof Lim Chong Yah of HSS, NTU, and Prof Lim Hua Sing of Waseda University serving as official witnesses.

Speaking after the ceremony, Prof Park had glowing things to say about the initiative:

“I’m honoured to be part of this programme. I think it’s a very good idea. In Asia, we have a lot of talented and well qualified researchers in the social sciences. This networking provides a very good environment for these talents to get together and make better progress in research. We have some young faculty members who would be very interested to do research with faculty members in other universities. I know we will make good progress.”

Although a little cautious about the fiscal implications of the agreement, Prof Warr was also bullish about it.

“I think one issue that we are a little uncertain about is the funding for the visitors but that’s a practical matter we can work out as we go along. The important thing is that we use this as an instrument for increasing the contact among our universities, try to get some benefit from interaction among us,” said Prof Warr.

“I think in the longer term we may be able to expand it to other institutions. It’s only eight institutions here so it’s just a very small proportion of the institutions in our various countries,” he added.