



PRESS RELEASE

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WASEDA UNIVERSITY JOINS *UNIVERSITAS 21*

Universitas 21, the first major network for international higher education, is pleased to welcome another new member to the consortium. At its AGM in Montreal, Canada on Saturday 20 April 2007, Waseda University, Japan became the latest collaborator in this pioneering group, taking the membership total to twenty.

Professor Shirai, President of Waseda University, speaking on admission to the Network said *"As a member of U21, we look forward to active and fruitful academic collaborations through partnerships with world-leading institutions. Moreover, we would also like to contribute in nurturing human resources and the development of progressive educational programs in order to create individuals who can make effective and constructive contributions to the international community."*

Professor Heather Munroe-Blum, current Chair of *Universitas 21*, formally welcomed the newest member of the network, commenting: *"We are very pleased to welcome Waseda University as a new member of the Universitas 21 family in this, our 10th year as a network and the 125th anniversary of the founding of Waseda university."*

"Waseda is widely acknowledged to be one of the leading co-educational private universities in Japan, and its graduates have gone on to shape and form modern Japan. The inclusion of this leading Japanese institution in the Universitas 21 network extends U21's global reach and the strength of the network as we enter our second decade. Waseda University has much to contribute as a member of U21."

The inclusion of this leading university is seen as a valuable contribution to the network's membership, which now spans North and South America, Europe, the Far East and Australasia. Together, *Universitas 21* members work to achieve a programme underpinned by four key elements: Global Learning, Cross-National Research, Technologies and Delivery Mechanisms, Public Policy and Community Engagement.

For further information about *Universitas 21* log on to www.universitas21.com

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NOTES TO PRESS

Universitas 21 was founded in 1997 as a network for international higher education, bringing together a collection of some of the leading research-led universities around the world.

Since then, *Universitas 21* has evolved into an internationally recognised partnership, which strives to facilitate collaboration and co-operation between the member universities, creating entrepreneurial opportunities on a scale that no member would be able to achieve operating independently or through traditional bilateral alliances.

Universitas 21 comprises the following members: University of Auckland, University of Birmingham, University of British Columbia, University College Dublin, University of Edinburgh, Fudan University, University of Hong Kong, Korea University, McGill University, University of Glasgow, Lund University, University of Melbourne, Tecnológico de Monterrey, University of New South Wales, University of Nottingham, University of Peking, University of Queensland, Shanghai Jai Tong University, National University of Singapore, University of Virginia, Waseda University.

For more information, photos or further details about the Network, please contact Clare Noakes at *Universitas 21* on c.e.noakes@bham.ac.uk