



Press release – for immediate release

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21 LEADING INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMIT TO FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

- 21 international universities sign commitment
- Focus on sustainability seen as key issue
- Commitment to engage in research towards a sustainable future

Vice-Chancellors and Presidents from *Universitas 21*, the leading international network of 21 leading research-intensive universities in fourteen countries, this morning signed a Statement on Sustainability at their Annual Network Meeting held in Seoul, Korea, which emphasizes the important role that universities can and do play in addressing the decline of biodiversity, of energy, food and water security, of climate change, of economic sustainability and of human health.

Through the Statement, which is one strand of the network's Year of Sustainability, the *Universitas 21* member universities commit themselves to ensuring a sustainable future:

- through research, teaching, community partnerships and demonstrable actions, to advance timely solutions to ecological, societal and economic problems,
- through engagement with civil society, industry and government, to accelerate these solutions beyond the campus, and
- by working together collaboratively and cooperatively, to achieve more than is possible by working alone.

Each university will:

- develop, publish and monitor targets;

- share the results with each other;
- engage in research towards a sustainable future;
- establish the university campus as a living laboratory for a sustainable future;
- emphasise citizenship & engagement to promote faculty, staff, and student volunteerism, and
- build capacity through cross-network collaboration and work.

The network as a whole recognises the importance of this commitment and sees it as a necessary step in addressing the increasingly relevant issue of sustainability and ways in which universities can address it both internally and externally.

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Universitas 21 is a network of 21 research-led universities around the world. It aims to promote and achieve collaboration, co-operation and work of a comprehensive nature, drawing on a strong bond of collegiality found between similarly-minded universities all of whom occupy a highly regarded status in their respective global regions and among the global league tables. The membership comprises: University of Auckland, University of Birmingham, University of British Columbia, University of Delhi, University College Dublin, University of Edinburgh, Fudan University, University of Glasgow, University of Hong Kong, Korea University, Lund University, McGill University, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales, University of Nottingham, University of Queensland, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, National University of Singapore, Tecnológico de Monterrey, University of Virginia, Waseda University.

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