Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Ground breaking new collaboration celebrated on China trade mission

An official function has been held in China to welcome students enrolled in a ground breaking new collaboration which will see them complete their studies both there and in Tasmania.

University leaders, including Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, along with state and local government figures, celebrated the partnership with Xi’an University of Science and Technology (XUST) as part of the Tasmanian Premier’s Trade Mission to China.

About 60 incoming students were presented with Tasmanian devils during a function marked by great warmth, returning the visit by a XUST delegation, headed by University President Yang Gengshe, in June last year.

Under the ‘2+2’ co-operative academic program, students will complete two years each in China and Tasmania, emerging with bachelor qualifications in engineering from both institutions.

“We are honoured to be part of a collaboration which demonstrates both our strong and enduring ties to China, but also our University’s capacity and standing in a global setting,” Professor Rathjen said.

“This is a wonderful example of what can be achieved in partnership with others, both abroad and at home. We will not achieve all that is possible without the University working in close co-operation with all levels of government and our community.”

The first students in the XUST collaboration will arrive in Tasmania next year, and course numbers are expected to rise to 100 by the end of this year.

The collaboration leverages the strengths of both institutions in the engineering discipline.

“It is tremendously exciting that this collaboration is in an area which is of significant strategic importance to both Tasmania and Australia’s future prosperity,” Professor
Rathjen said, “This partnership will serve to enrich an academic field within our University which is already very strong.”

University of Tasmania Provost Professor Mike Calford said the University’s aspirations for growth in the engineering discipline, housed within the Faculty of Science Engineering and Technology (SET), would be bolstered with the arrival of new Dean, Professor Brian Yates.

Professor Yates, a University alumnus, was head of Chemistry between 2006-2010, and arrives back after a period as Executive Director (Engineering, Mathematical and Information Sciences) at the Australian Research Council.

“Nationally and internationally, there is strong demand for well-educated engineering graduates,” Professor Calford said. “Given our strong faculty offering, and specialist institutes such as the Australian Maritime College, we are very well positioned to deliver.”

“The University has world standing in physical, chemical, agricultural and earth sciences. We expect the future to be marked by strong growth and new partnerships, such as the one we are celebrating at XUST this week.”

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