



Meeting Summary: WUN Global Policy Research Group

(Draft 3 May 2018)

Renmin University of China -24 March 2018 1700h -1800h

Chair: Professor John Hearn, ED WUN; **Manager/Secretariat:** A Prof Grace Liu, Research Development Manager WUN. **Attending:** 26 delegates from WUN Partner Universities

(Names of attending representatives: WUN Secretariat: John Hearn, Grace Liu; **Renmin:** Xu Qinhua, Nie Huihua, Song Lu, Wu Jin, He Xujiao; **Southampton:** Gavin Costigan; **CUHK:** Fanny Cheung, Carlos Lo, Yuan Xu; **UWA:** David Norman; **Alberta:** Jia Wang; **York:** Tom Stoneham, Andrew Brown, Ran Hu; **UMass:** Richard Peltier; **Leeds:** Gerard McCormack, Heather Zhang, Zinian Zhang; **Zhejiang:** Dong Hengjin, Ka Lin, Ning Gangmin; **Nairobi:** Stephen Gichovi Mbogoh, X.N. Iraki; **Bristol:** Zhang Yongjin)

The RENMIN University of China – WUN Think Tank Conference 23-24 March included Universities, Government, Business and International Organisations (see attachment 1 and www.wun.ac.uk for the report). At the end of the conference, delegates attending from nine WUN Universities met to **focus the next steps and actions** to be developed for the WUN Conferences and AGM in Perth 20-25 May 2018.

The conference in Renmin included a **launch (part 1)** of the WUN Global Policy Research Group. **Part two of the launch** will be in Perth at the AGM and the Presidents Forum on WUN policy impact.

Background: the WUN Global Policy Research Group (GPRG) was proposed by Renmin in late 2016. A mapping study was carried out across WUN, with 14 member Universities registering strong interest. A working group was set up at the 2017 AGM in New York. A Forum was held on BREXIT in February 2017 in Brussels; and the Presidents Forum in New York in May 2017 was on the UN-SDGs. The conference in Renmin in March 2018 was successful, and the scope, scale and terms of reference for the group were discussed further.

The purpose of this meeting was to focus the principal outcomes of the Renmin Conference, consult with WUN members present, and articulate a plan for the Policy Group. Working closely with the four WUN Global Challenges, and aligning with global policy frameworks, WUN experts would have a platform to engage in evidence based policy development. The objective is to define knowledge gaps, key questions, and a global approach beyond the capacity of individual institutions. The main issues discussed, and outcomes for follow up are:

1. **The WUN Global Policy Research Group** should engage principally in its areas of expertise in health in NCDs, climate and food, higher education and research, and understanding cultures. Global disruptors such as BREXIT, Trump and relevant geopolitical change should be incorporated but should not drive the agenda.
2. **The focus of work** should be in addressing global challenges, and a WUN global teamwork beyond the capacity of single institutions. Programs and projects could be proposed by any WUN member(s).
3. **A further mapping study** should be carried out to explore the interests of WUN members not yet engaged in the policy group.

4. **Two or three co-chairs** should be elected across WUN for 2-3 years to establish and develop the network, along with an **active steering group**. Teleconferences should be quarterly and a face to face meeting annually, probably but not essentially at the AGM when many members would normally attend.

5. **The Steering Group** should have a representative each from each continent (6), with 2-3 year terms. All member university representatives can dial in to teleconferences and attend meetings.

6. **All WUN members** interested in the policy group should have a representative, who also promotes and engages the group, with the coordinators, in their University and with relevant WUN-Plus partners.

7. **A draft position paper** on the Group and its priority activities should be prepared by Secretariat for adoption in Perth.

8. **The Presidents Forum in Perth** will explore the opportunities for WUN in Global policy frameworks, including the SDGs, Belt and Road, Paris Climate accords, and regional policies.

9. **The Secretariat** for the Policy Research Group should include, in the first instance, representatives from the WUN Secretariat, Renmin NADS (National Academy of Development and Strategy), and one other member (TBC).

10. **Resources** would be provided from internal and external grants, and in kind from cooperating universities. Renmin University offered to assist with Secretariat support, in conjunction with WUN Secretariat and the GPRG steering group.

11. **The next meeting** of the Group will be a strategic planning meeting (dinner) at the WUN Conference in Perth, engagement with the four Global Challenge Groups, China Group and Africa Group; and the AGM.

12. **The terms of reference**, organization, priorities, initial opportunities, work plan (implementation) and resource plan will be drafted for discussion and further development in Perth. These will be based on the research and education priorities of the four Global Challenge Groups, with some focus themes and appropriate alignment with the relevant global policy frameworks.

Additional Notes from the meeting:

The group would follow WUN practice in shared governance, equal partnerships and global perspectives. Cooperation with other policy networks (national) would be encouraged. Projects should be targeted to the relevant policy makers, and indicators for success monitored. Empirical data should be incorporated and opportunities developed for ECRs and PhD students, including RMP exchanges. Data bases could be shared by agreement. A newsletter could be considered. Minutes of meetings can be shared with the Global Challenge, China and Africa Groups, as well as the AAG and Partnership Board.