

# **WUN Presidents Forum**

## **Global and Local: Higher Education and Research in International Policy Development**

**The SDGs, Climate Accords, Belt and Road, Pacific Partnership**  
Friday 25 May 2018, The University Club of Western Australia, Perth

### **Participants Biographies**

#### *Conference Opening Welcome*

##### **Professor John Hearn**

**Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network**

**Chairman, Australia Africa Universities Network**

John Hearn is Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network; Chairman of the Australia Africa Universities Network; and Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney. Born in India and raised in East Africa, he received his BSc (1<sup>st</sup> hons), MSc and DSc (hc) from University College Dublin, and PhD from the Australian National University (ANU). He served 6-7 years each in leading research, teaching and administrative positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin, ANU, and Sydney. Most recently he was DVC (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and DVC (Academic and International) at Sydney 2004-13. He teaches first year and advanced students in science and biomedicine, and has published 220 research papers and edited six books in reproduction and fertility, stem cell biology and biotechnology. His current research is in stem cell science and in higher education reform. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. A committed international citizen, he has worked globally in research capacity development. He is a policy adviser to the Australian Government, WHO, British Council, and OECD. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, and founding Chairman of the Sydney Confucius Institute.

##### **Professor Martin Paul**

**President, Maastricht University; Chair, WUN Partnership Board**

Professor Martin Paul is President of Maastricht University (UM) since 2011. After finishing medical school at the University of Heidelberg he has worked as an academic at Harvard University, University of Heidelberg, Freie Universität Berlin and Charité University Medical Centre Berlin. Next to his distinguished career as a researcher (with more than 300 publications) and educator, Professor Paul has become active in academic management. He was Dean of the Medical Faculty of the Freie Universität and from 2004 to 2008 and Dean and Vice President of the Executive Board of the Medical Faculty of the Charité Medical Centre. From 2008 to 2011, he has served as Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences at UM and Vice President of Maastricht University Medical Centre +.

In addition, Professor Paul has worked actively to improve academic management and leadership on the international level. In this context, he has served as Chair of DEAN, a European Network of deans and academic managers and has been a board member of the European Centre for Strategic Management of Universities. He also has been on the board of the Association of Academic Health Centers and served as chair of its International Steering Group. Currently, he is member of the board of the Dutch Association of Research Universities and is an elected member of the Netherlands Academy for Technology and Innovation. As of June 2016 he has been appointed as a member of the National Science Council of Austria and as a honorary fellow of the Free University Brussels. He has been elected chairman of the Partnership Board of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) as of January 2018. Apart from these roles he serves on several advisory and supervisory boards in the Netherlands, Europe and beyond.

## Session 1

### Higher Education and Research: Global policy frameworks, synergies and opportunities.

**Chair: Prof Dawn Freshwater, Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia**

#### **Professor Dawn Freshwater**

##### **Vice-Chancellor, The University of Western Australia (UWA)**

Member of the Partnership Board of the World University Network (WUN) and former Chair of the Understanding Cultures Steering Group, Deputy Chair and Director of Group of Eight (Go8), member of Chief Executive Women (CEW) Engagement Committee, Board Director of Perth USAsia Centre, Board Vice-Chair of the Matariki Network of Universities (MNU), Vice-Chair of the Australian Higher Education Industrial Association (AHEIA) and a Governor of the Forrest Research Foundation.

Born in England, Professor Freshwater was awarded her PhD at the University of Nottingham in 1998. She is a highly experienced and driven supporter of translational research and research-led teaching. Her contribution to the fields of Public Health (specifically Mental Health and Forensic Mental Health) and in researching Leadership practices won her the highest honour in her field - the Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing (FRCN). In 2016, she was invited to act as Chair of the Institutional Research Review Panel (IRRP) for Research Assessment and Impact Case Measurement in Ireland. Prior to this she was a panel member for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) (UK), the first full research assessment using impact measures to assess the quality of research in UK higher education institutions.

#### **Professor Gerard Postiglione**

##### **Chair Professor of Higher Education, The University of Hong Kong**

Gerard A. Postiglione is Chair Professor and Coordinator of the Consortium for Research on Higher Education, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong. He has published 16 books and over 150 articles and chapters. His books include: *Mass Higher Education in East Asia*, *Crossing Borders in East Asian Higher Education*, and *China's Precarious Balance* (forthcoming with Johns Hopkins University Press). He is editor of the journal *Chinese Education and Society*, and four book series. Among his awards are Best Book Award, Humanities and Social Science Prestigious Fellow, Lifetime Contribution for Studies in Higher Education, and Fellow of the American Educational Research Association. His autobiography was published in *Leaders in the Sociology of Education*, and his collected works were published by Routledge Press. He has done project work for ADB, DFID (UK), IIE (USA), IDRC (CA), OECD, UNDP, UNESCO, World Bank and international foundations, including the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Ford Foundation/Beijing. He participated in policy reports received by China's National Reform and Development Commission, State Education Commission and Ministry of Education. He appeared on CNN and China's CCTV, wrote for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and has been quoted in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and other publications such as *Science*, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Shanghai Education*. He is a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations.

#### **Professor Nigel Healey**

##### **Vice-Chancellor, Fiji National University**

Professor Nigel Healey is Vice-Chancellor of Fiji National University and a Council member for the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). He has previously served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) at Nottingham Trent University and the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. His current research interests are in the internationalization of higher education, transnational education and higher education policy and management. Dr Healey has served as an economic policy advisor to the Prime Minister of Belarus and the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Russian Federation and managed a number of multinational research and economic development projects in Europe and the Asia-Pacific. He is chair of the QS-APPLE international academic conference committee and a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He holds a PhD (Nottingham Trent), DBA (Bath), MBA (Warwick), MA Economics (Leeds) and a BA (Hons.) Economics (Nottingham).

#### **Professor Peter Mbithi**

##### **Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi (UoN)**

Professor Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi is the Vice Chancellor and Professor of Veterinary Surgery, University of Nairobi (UoN). Born in 1956, Prof Mbithi graduated from UoN with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine in 1983 and an MSc. in Clinical Studies in 1985. In 1987, he graduated with a Master of Veterinary Science

from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and in 1995, he completed his PhD at UoN. He is an accomplished and transformational leader, a senior executive and eminent scholar with visionary and high level leadership insights and experience of over 30 years. Professor Mbithi has a track record in providing progressive University leadership and management. He has received several international and regional awards in recognition of his work.

### **Professor Andrew J Deeks**

#### **President, University College Dublin**

Since January 2014 Professor Andrew J Deeks has been the President of University College Dublin, Ireland's largest and most globally engaged university. He is responsible for the University's overall direction, in consultation with the Governing Authority, and, in accordance with the Universities Act, manages and directs the University in its academic, administrative, financial, personnel and other activities. Under his leadership the University published a Strategy for 2015-2020, setting out a clear vision for ensuring UCD is known around the world as Ireland's Global University, and this strategy is currently being successfully pursued. He is highly respected for his research in structural mechanics, structural dynamics and dynamic soil structure interaction. His strong commitment to students is acknowledged in the awards he holds for teaching excellence and innovation. Previously, he was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Durham University, where he led the Science, Engineering and Technology division of the University and contributed to the development of extensive international and industry partnerships. He is a member of the Executive Committee the Universitas 21 university network, a member of the Administrative Board of the International Association of Universities and a Council member of both the European Universities Association and the Irish Universities Association.

### **Professor Arturo Molina**

#### **Vice Rector for Research and Technology Transfer, Tecnológico de Monterrey**

Professor Dr Arturo Molina is Vice Rector for Research and Technology Transfer at Tecnológico de Monterrey. He received his PhD degree in Manufacturing Engineering at Loughborough University of Technology in 1995, his University Doctor degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Budapest in November 1992, his M.Sc. degree and BSc. in Computer Science from Tecnológico de Monterrey.

Professor Molina is member of the National Researchers System of Mexico (SNI-Nivel III), Mexican Academy of Sciences, Mexican Engineering Academy, Member of the Council of the National Institute of electricity and clean energies, Member of the IFAC Council, member of IFIP WG5.12 Working Group on Enterprise Integration Architectures and IFIP WG 5.3 Cooperation of Virtual Enterprises and Virtual Organizations.

He has participated in the incubation of two technology-based companies: IECOS and ALBIOMAR. He is the co-author of over 120 scientific papers in journals, conferences, chapter books, more than 2,000 citations (Google Scholar) and has 2 patents, and 12 patent solicitations and he is editor of 9 books. His current research interests include concurrent engineering, technologies for rapid product design and manufacturing, enterprise integration engineering, technology management, and collaborative networked organizations, he has applied research and development for the economic sectors of: automotive, construction, energy.

### **Dr David H. Turpin**

#### **President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta**

David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, LLD, FRSC, is the 13th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alberta. Dr Turpin has established a new vision for the University of Alberta in *For the Public Good*, an ambitious plan that will ensure the university's continued leadership among the world's finest public institutions. During his tenure, Dr Turpin has stewarded major grants and donations, including the largest gift in U of A history. One of Canada's most admired and respected post-secondary leaders, Dr Turpin is past chair of the World University Service of Canada, Vice-Chair of the U15 Executive Heads, and serves as a member of both the Universities Canada Board of Directors and Research Advisory Committee. He is a distinguished scholar and Thomson ISI highly cited researcher and has earned many honours and distinctions, including fellowship in the Order of Canada and the Royal Society of Canada.

### **Professor Joseph J Y Sung**

#### **Mok Hing Yiu Professor of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)**

Professor Joseph J.Y. Sung received his medical degree (MB BS) from The University of Hong Kong, and conferred PhD in biomedical sciences by the University of Calgary and MD by The Chinese University of

Hong Kong (CUHK). Professor Sung holds fellowships from the Royal Colleges of Physicians of Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, and Australia, the American College of Gastroenterology, the American Gastroenterological Association, the Hong Kong College of Physicians, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong (ASHK). He served as Vice-Chancellor/President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2010-2017 and the Chair of WUN in 2016-17. He is concurrently Mok Hing Yiu Professor of Medicine of CUHK, an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering of the People's Republic of China, and Academician of the Eurasian Academy of Sciences.

## Session 2

### Regional action plans and priorities for engagement in policy research

*Chair: Prof Katherine Newman, Vice President University of Massachusetts System*

#### **Professor Katherine Newman**

##### **Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the University of Massachusetts System**

Katherine Newman is the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Massachusetts system office in Boston and Torrey Little Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her responsibilities include system-wide academic innovation and strategic planning, policy development in collaboration with the Commonwealth Board of Higher Education, tenure and promotion for the five campuses of the university, and the growth of UMass programs that speak to a flourishing labor force and an educated citizenry.

Newman was previously the Provost of UMass Amherst and prior to that, the James B. Knapp Dean of the Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University. She is the author of fourteen books on topics ranging from technical education and apprenticeship, to the sociological study of the working poor in America's urban centers, middle class economic insecurity under the brunt of recession, and school violence on a mass scale. Dr Newman has served as the Forbes Class of 1941 Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs and Director of the Institute for International and Regional Studies at Princeton, the founding Dean of Social Science at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study and the director of Harvard's Multidisciplinary Program on Inequality and Social Policy. She taught for 16 years in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University and for two years in the School of Law at the University of California Berkeley. Her most recent book, "Reskilling America: Learning to Labor in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," focuses on the need for national investment in technical education and apprenticeship.

#### **Professor Dag Rune Olsen**

##### **Rector, the University of Bergen**

Professor Dag Rune Olsen is the Rector at the University of Bergen in Norway, currently elected for his second period (2017-2021). He was Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the University of Bergen from 2010 until becoming Rector for his first period in 2013. Olsen was previously Director of Research at the Norwegian Radium Hospital in Oslo and is a Professor in Medical Physics. His research interests are radiation therapy and cancer. Olsen has published over 120 scientific papers in international peer-reviewed journals as well as book chapters and popular-scientific works.

Olsen has held a number of international offices, organized several international meetings and conferences and has been a member of the editorial committee of various international journals. He was awarded the Klaas Breur gold medal for his research in 2008 and was elected to Academia Europaea in 2011 and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences in 2013. Olsen is the current Head of the Research Policy Committee in Universities Norway (UHR) and he is also a member of the European University Association (EUA)'s Research Policy Working Group.

#### **Professor Rocky S. Tuan**

##### **Vice-Chancellor and President, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)**

Prof Rocky S. Tuan assumed office as the eighth Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) on 1 January 2018. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he pursued further studies in the US and received his PhD in Life Sciences in 1977 from the Rockefeller University. He is concurrently Lee Quo Wei and Lee Yick Hoi Lun Professor of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine at CUHK.

Prior to joining CUHK in 2016 as a Distinguished Visiting Professor and the Founding Director of the Institute for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, Prof Tuan held several appointments at the University of Pittsburgh, including Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Founding Director of

the Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering in the School of Medicine. He is also Founding Director of the Center for Military Medicine Research and Co-Director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Professor Tuan is a world-leading biomedical scientist specializing in musculoskeletal biology and tissue regeneration. His work covers both basic science and engineering, as well as translational and clinical applications. His research focuses on developing technologies to regenerate function to diseased and damaged skeletal tissues. He has published over 450 research papers.

**Professor L. Gordon Flake**  
**CEO, Perth USAsia Centre**

L. Gordon Flake is the founding CEO of the Perth USAsia Centre, a position he assumed in January of 2014. He was previously Executive Director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, a Senior Fellow and Associate Director of the Program on Conflict Resolution at The Atlantic Council of the United States and prior to that Director for Research and Academic Affairs at the Korea Economic Institute of America. Mr Flake is editor of the companion volumes 'One Step Back? Reassessing and Ideal Security State for Northeast Asia 2025' (Mansfield Foundation, March 2011) and 'Toward an Ideal Security State for Northeast Asia 2025' (Mansfield Foundation, September 2010) co-editor with Park Roh-byug of the book 'New Political Realities in Seoul: Working toward a Common Approach to Strengthen U.S.-Korean Relations' (Mansfield Foundation, March 2008) and co-editor with Scott Snyder of the book 'Paved with Good Intentions: the NGO Experience in North Korea' (Praeger, 2003). He has authored numerous book chapters on policy issues in Asia and is a regular contributor to the press on Asia issues. He serves on the Board of the United States Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (USCSCAP) as co-Vice Chair of the Board of the U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea on the Advisory Council of the Korea Economic Institute of America.

**Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu**  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana**

Prof Ebenezer Oduro Owusu is currently the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, having previously served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dean/Ag. Dean of the School of Biological Sciences, and Provost of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. As Head of the Department of Zoology (2008-2010), Prof Owusu provided respectable academic and managerial leadership, culminating in the change of the Department's name to "Animal Biology and Conservation Science", and also led the faculty to revise the undergraduate program of the Department to make it more demand driven and relevant to national needs. Prof Owusu has worked extensively on millet, vegetable, and urban insect pests, especially in the areas of insecticide resistance and use of indigenous plant materials for management of major insect pests. He has attracted some funds for research, and in 1999, personally built a laboratory (Food Security) at the University of Ghana for use by staff and students. He was instrumental in seeking for a grant for the acquisition and installation of a Scanning Electron Microscope (first of its kind in West Africa, worth US\$500,000) through a grant aid from the Government of Japan.

**Professor Peter Quinn FTSE, FASA**  
**Executive Director, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR), UWA**

Peter graduated from ANU with his PhD in astronomy in 1982. During appointments at Caltech and the NASA Space Telescope Science Institute, Peter pursued his research interests in galaxy formation and dynamics, computational cosmology and dark matter. In 1989, he led the Australian involvement in the MACHO Dark Matter Search Project whose discoveries featured on the front cover of Nature 1993. In 1995, Peter accepted a position as Division Head at the European Southern Observatory headquarters in Munich. While at ESO, Peter led the efforts to set up science operations and data systems for the world's largest optical observatory in Cerro Paranal, Chile. In August 2006, Peter became Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Western Australia and was appointed Inaugural Director of the new International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) in 2009. Peter is Deputy Chair of the Australian and New Zealand SKA Coordination Committee, he has published over 300 research articles and became WA Scientist of the Year in 2012. He was made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 2013.

## **Dr Max Price**

### **Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town**

Dr Max Price took up the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town in July 2008. From 1996 to 2006, he was dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.

After obtaining his medical degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, Dr Price was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. He studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford. Following clinical work in academic and rural hospitals in SA, he took a Masters degree at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine continuing there as a Research Fellow in Health Economics. He joined the Centre for Health Policy at Wits University in 1988 as a senior researcher, and became its director in 1992.

Dr Price's research has covered the political economy of health in SA, health economics, rural health services, health systems research and health science education. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa in recognition of his leadership role in public health medicine and medical education.

Dr Price is currently chair of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), was previously chair and then vice-chair of the Worldwide Universities Network.

## **Session 3**

### **Local Policy Research Priorities for Global Challenges of the Future**

***Chair: Prof Robyn Owens, DVC Research, UWA***

## **Professor Robyn Owens**

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of Western Australia (UWA)**

Professor Robyn Owens is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at The University of Western Australia, with responsibility for research policy development and leadership of the University's research activities, postgraduate education, industry liaison, intellectual property and commercialisation.

She has a BSc (Hons) from UWA and a MSc and a DPhil from Oxford, all in Mathematics. She worked at l'Université de Paris-Sud, Orsay, continuing research in mathematical analysis before returning to UWA to work as a research mathematician. She has lectured in Mathematics and Computer Science at UWA, and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Berkeley. Her research has focussed on computer vision, including feature detection in images, 3D shape measurement, image understanding, and representation. She is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and a winner of the UK Rank Prize.

Professor Owens led development and research training through her previous role as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Research Training) at UWA. Prior to this, she was Head of the School of Computer Science & Software Engineering at UWA. She is currently a Board member of the Integrated Marine Observing System and the Population Health Research Network.

## **Professor Stephen Smith**

### **Professor of Public International Law, UWA; Previous Foreign Minister of Australia**

Professor Stephen Smith has been a Professor of Public International Law at the University of Western Australia since 2014. Prof Smith was Federal Member for Perth for the Australian Labor Party from March 1993 until September 2013. In a distinguished career spanning 20 years in the Australian Federal Parliament, Prof Smith served as the Minister for Defence, and prior to that, as Minister for Foreign Affairs. In opposition, Prof Smith held a range of Shadow Ministerial positions including Shadow Minister for Trade, Shadow Minister for Resources and Energy, Shadow Minister for Communications, Shadow Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Immigration, Shadow Minister for Industry, Infrastructure and Industrial Relations and Shadow Minister for Education and Training.

Prof Smith completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia and has practised as a Barrister and Solicitor in Perth. He then completed a Master of Laws in Public International Law at London University, and subsequently lectured and tutored in Law in London.

From 1983 to 1987 Prof Smith was Principal Private Secretary to the Attorney-General of Western Australia. From 1987 to 1990 he was the State Secretary of the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Labor Party. During 1991 and 1992, Prof Smith was Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia and Senior Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia, Paul Keating.

Prof Smith is currently the Chairman of archTIS and a Member of the Board of LNG Marine Fuel Institute.



**Professor Fanny M. Cheung****Vice-President (Research), The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

Professor Cheung is Vice-President (Research) and Choh-Ming Li Professor of Psychology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She co-convenes the Global China Research Program and the Policy Research@HKIAPS, both housed under the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies. Fanny has published and lectured widely with over 200 international publications related to cross-cultural psychology and gender equality. Her academic honours include Fellow of The World Academy of Science, IAAP Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award and APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology.

Fanny has served on many government committees, including being Founding Chairperson of the Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission (1996-1999) and Special Delegate to the 7th to the 11th Sessions of the National Congress of Chinese Women in China (1994-2017) and currently Member of the Electoral Affairs Commission. In recognition of her community contributions, she was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1988 and a Hong Kong Affairs Advisor (1995-1997). She was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1997 and received the Silver Bauhinia Star award from the HKSAR Government in 2016. Within WUN, Fanny is a member of the AAG Steering Group and the WUN Policy Working Group, and Co-Convenor of the Global China Group.

**Dr David Mickler****Senior Lecturer, University of Western Australia (UWA); Co-Chair WUN Global Africa Group**

Dr David Mickler is the Founding Co-Chair (with Prof. Maano Ramutsindela, UCT) of the Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group (WUN GAG), and is also the Founding Coordinator of the University of Western Australia's Africa Research Cluster (AfREC). His teaching and research focus on the international and regional politics of Africa, particularly the role of the African Union in regional security and governance, as well as on contemporary Australia-Africa relations. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (2013), and a Visiting Researcher at the African Union Commission in Ethiopia and South Africa (2017). His two current book projects are *The African Governance Architecture: Principles, Platforms and Politics* (co-authored with George Mukundi, forthcoming Routledge), and *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (co-edited with Maano Ramutsindela, forthcoming Springer). He is also a member of the University of Bristol-led 2018 WUN RDF grant project *Resilient Peace: Exploring peacebuilding actors, cultures and policy transfer in West Africa*. At UWA, he teaches the International Politics of Africa and Peace and Security in Africa.

**Professor Liu Yuanchun****Vice President, Renmin University of China, Co-Chair WUN Global Policy Research Group**

Prof Liu Yuanchun, born in 1972 in Sichuan Province, China, is now Vice President of Renmin University of China in charge of research and think tanks. Prof Liu is also a professor in the School of Economics, with his main research interests in macroeconomics and world economy.

Honors and Professional Service - Prof Liu is a doctoral supervisor, a chair professor of "Cheung Kong Scholars" program, and a member of the New Century Talents Project. Prof Liu is also a regular attendant of the country's economic situation expert panel, and an engaged expert in the Central Party Policy Research Office, the State Council Policy Research Office, and the Monetary Policy Committee. He is a contributing expert for financial TV programs in media such as CCTV and Phoenix Television. Prof Liu is also an anonymous referee of *Economic Research Journal* and *The Journal of World Economy*.

**Professor Maano Ramutsindela****Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Cape Town**

Maano Ramutsindela holds a PhD in geography from Royal Holloway, University of London. He is Professor in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Cape Town. A Fellow of the Society of South African Geographers and an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, Ramutsindela held the Distinguished Hubert H Humphrey Visiting Chair at Macalester College and the Mandela Mellon Fellow of W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University. He is the Co-Chair (with David Mickler) of the WUN Global Africa Group.

Ramutsindela uses political ecology and political geography to understand power dynamics related to the ownership, management and use of natural resources in African contexts. In the past 16 years he researched and published widely on peace parks in southern Africa. He is interested in how peace parks as a new conservation paradigm shape nature conservation policies and also create new narratives of development, co-existence and security at national and regional levels. Ramutsindela's latest publication is

“Greening Africa's borderlands: The symbiotic politics of land and borders in peace parks”, *Political Geography* 56 (2017): 106-113.

#### Session 4

#### ROUND TABLES: Strategies for WUN – key questions, knowledge gaps, engagement for impact

**Chair: Prof David Hogg, Chair WUN Academic Advisory Group**

#### **Professor David Hogg**

##### **Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Leeds; Chair WUN Academic Advisory Group**

David is internationally recognized for his work on artificial intelligence and computer vision, particularly in the areas of video analysis and activity recognition. He pioneered the use of 3D geometric models for tracking flexible structures, and contributed to establishing statistical approaches to learning of shape and motion as one of the pre-eminent paradigms in the field. His recent research is exploring the role of computer vision in relational learning and grounding of natural language. He works extensively across disciplinary boundaries, initially with the humanities and design engineering, and now extending into biology and medicine. He has been Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at Leeds, visiting professor at the MIT Media Lab, chair of the EPSRC ICT Strategic Advisory Team, chair of an international review panel for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence commissioned by EPSRC (2017), chair of the Academic Advisory Group of the Worldwide Universities Network, and chair of Iv&l Net, a major EU network on the integration of vision and language (until 2018). He is a Fellow of the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI), a Distinguished Fellow of the British Machine Vision Association, and a Fellow of the International Association for Pattern Recognition.

#### **Professor Peter M. Davies**

##### **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), UWA; Vice Chair WUN Responding to Climate Change**

Prof Peter Davies is a Professor of Freshwater Ecology. He was Foundation Professor and Director of UWA Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management- Albany (2001-2012). His current research (Total funds A\$34.2m) include: Program Leader (Water Sensitive Urbanism): CRC for Water Sensitive Cities; Project Leader: National Environment Science Program (Northern Biodiversity Hub) and Co-Chair Worldwide Universities Network Responding to Climate Change. His research interests include: assessing the ecological health of rivers and streams, particularly how to restore degraded systems in areas of intensive land use, cities and escalating climate change. Particular focus on environmental flows in developing countries and the management of competition over water. Conducted international research in island nations of the Pacific (integrated water resource management), India (management of water quality with climate change), western Africa (catchment management) and the USA (river restoration in complex socio-ecosystems). Interests in training future water managers (e.g. co-developed the International Water Centre) and Director of the AusAID Australian Water Resource Facility. As PVC, he managed the University's international research collaborations e.g. “Relative Wests” with Stanford University and with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for work in eastern Africa.

#### **Professor Ngaire Kerse, MBChB, PhD, FRNZCGP**

##### **Head of the School of Population Health, University of Auckland; Chair WUN Public Health**

Prof Ngaire Kerse is currently the Head of the School of Population Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland with a part-time general practice clinical commitment and full time academic work. Her research interests include gerontology research focusing on maintaining function and quality of life, preventing falls and ensuring evidence based delivery of primary medical care. She has been a leader in falls prevention having conducted 8 clinical trials in the area and is part of the Cochrane review group for falls prevention in residential care. She Leads the LiLACS NZ cohort studies of Maori and non-Maori octogenarians and has ongoing advisory roles with the Ministry of Health in New Zealand. She has strong Public Health interests and, with the School of Population Health, aims to assist in the international endeavour improve the health and wellbeing of all populations.

#### **Professor Caroline Dyer**

##### **Professor of Education, University of Leeds; Chair WUN Global Higher Education and Research**

Caroline Dyer is Professor of Education and International Development at the University of Leeds. Caroline took up the Chair of the WUN's Challenge Global Higher Education and Research (GHEAR) in 2017. She is Co-Director of the University of Leeds Centre for Global Development, and former Chair of the British Association for International and Comparative Education, and of the Editorial Board of the Association's



journal *Compare*. A modern linguist by training, Caroline works on education, social inclusion and social justice, particularly for mobile pastoralist communities. She has extensive experience in South Asia and the Horn of Africa of applied research, policy advice, consultancy and advocacy.

### **Dr Tore Saetersdal**

#### **Deputy Director, Section for Global Challenges, University of Bergen; Chair WUN Understanding Cultures**

Tore Saetersdal is an archaeologist with a Cand Philol and PhD in archaeology and heritage studies from the University of Bergen (UiB) specializing on Africa. He is currently deputy director and academic coordinator of the section for Global Challenges at UiB and is also attached to Makerere University in Kampala. He has been doing research in Africa since 1993 doing fieldwork in Eastern and Southern Africa. In particular he has worked extensively in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. His work has primarily been related to exploration of the Later Stone Age, including rock art, but also current use of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. He has worked on excavations, surveys, documentation and dissemination and led international projects and programmes which have also involved building and designing local museums, developing collections and teaching programmes at local universities. He has been instrumental in setting up MA programmes in heritage studies in both University of Zimbabwe and Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo.

His research in Africa has led to four documentaries on the current use and role of cultural heritage. All four have been shown, and won awards, in international film festivals, local TV networks and screened at cinemas in various countries. Since 2006 he has been in charge of large multi-partner, multi-disciplinary, projects with African and Asian partners involving disciplines from engineering to humanities and social sciences.

### **Ann Singleton**

#### **Senior Research Fellow, University of Bristol; Senior Advisor to IOM GMDAC**

Vice-Chair of WUN's Understanding Cultures Global Challenge, academic lead of the Migration, Development and Global Transformations (MDGT) network. MDGT fosters collaboration between migration scholars and the data and policy world, to develop better understanding of hidden dimensions and dynamics of migration, at global, regional, national and local levels.

Collaboration with IOM's GMDAC (an MDGT partner) resulted in the publication of many briefings and reports, including those on deaths during migration and data on migrant children. We developed guidelines for ECOWAS, to support the creation of sustainable regional migration data systems for economic and social development in West Africa. Together with UNDESA and the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) we edited the Global Migration Group's *Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development*. An internship scheme has been initiated, with a University of Bristol PhD research student visiting Berlin, to work on the development of the Migration Data Portal [https://migrationdataportal.org/?i=stock\\_abs\\_&t=2017](https://migrationdataportal.org/?i=stock_abs_&t=2017) The intention is to roll out this scheme across WUN. The first WUN-IOM Summer School on Migration Data for Policy will be held in Bristol (Jul 18).

### **Professor Saul Tendler**

#### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, The University of York**

Professor Tendler is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of York. He has responsibility for planning and resource allocation across the University and for the delivery of the University's Strategic Plan. In addition, he is the academic lead for the University's internationalization strategy; developing strong networks and appropriate partnerships to enhance the reputation of the University.

Professor Tendler joined the University of York in 2015. He gained a BSc in Pharmacy at the University of Manchester in 1982 and was awarded a PhD from the University of Aston in 1986. He was a Medical Research Council Training Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, before being appointed to a Lectureship at the University of Nottingham. He was subsequently promoted to Professor of Biophysical Chemistry in 1998. From 1999 to 2003, Professor Tendler was Dean of the University of Nottingham's Graduate School. For the next six years he headed Nottingham's School of Pharmacy before becoming a Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 2009.

Professor Tendler has significant experience of research and technology transfer. He was a founding director of Molecular Profiles Ltd and is currently the Chair of York Science Park Ltd. His research has resulted in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, the award of a DSc and has been recognized through a number of prizes. He has served on many funding council and research council boards and committees and was Chair of the MRC/BBSRC/EPSRC Discipline Hopping Panel. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and was designated a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 2000.

# **WUN Presidents Forum**

## **Global and Local: Higher Education and Research in International Policy Development**

### **The SDGs, Climate Accords, Belt and Road, Pacific Partnership**

## **Summary Statements of Presentations**

### Conference Opening Session

#### **WUN in International Policy Research Impact**

##### ***Prof John Hearn, Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network***

Global policy frameworks for 2015-2030 have developed rapidly in the past five years. They include the SDGs, Belt and Road Initiative, Paris Climate accords and regional policies in Africa and the Indo Pacific. Universities have a key role in research, education and implementation of such policies, identifying knowledge gaps, developing leaders and building international teams that can impact on global challenges. WUN has advantages in its formed communities of scholars that are committed and familiar with the complex teamwork required for success. WUN has formed a Network-wide International Policy Research Group to define key questions, find appropriate answers, and bring a global approach to the challenges beyond the capacity of individual institutions. WUN works with partners and stakeholders from universities, business, governments, international agencies and NGOs. A major theme and objective of the WUN Annual Conferences and Presidents Forum 2018 in Perth is to seek the best engagement for evidence based policy development, while attracting the best expertise and fit. The group was launched (part 1) at Renmin University in March and has its second launch (Part 2) in Perth after full participation in the WUN Global Challenge, China and Africa Group strategy meetings.

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#### **Global relevance and implications of universities' regional engagement**

##### ***Prof Martin Paul, President, Maastricht University; Chair, WUN Partnership Board***

Higher education institutions contribute to make our cities and regions healthier and wealthier, while addressing pressing global challenges our societies are faced with. In the context of an ever growing knowledge-based society, universities can optimally fulfill their third mission only by developing strong and effective partnerships with the public and private sectors, and by effectively engaging society at large. Triple-helix collaborations provide universities and academics with the ideal ecosystem to increase the regional impact of research, and the local relevance of globally-oriented educational programs. At the same time, these collaborations give other local partners access to scientific developments and expertise, and contribute to training a knowledge-workforce that can guarantee continuity and competitiveness of regional economies with a global impact.

Maastricht University profiles itself as an international university with a strong regional footprint, and its identity is also characterized by a position that is "cross-border" due to the city's proximity to other European countries, including Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. This geographic position has offered Maastricht University the ideal setting to develop fruitful triple-helix collaborations with partners in this "Euregion". Our "Brightlands" brand represents an effective model of how universities' regional

### Session 1

#### **Higher Education and Research: Global policy frameworks, synergies and opportunities.**

***Chair: Prof Dawn Freshwater, Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia***

#### **Higher Education and Research: Global policy frameworks, synergies and opportunities**

##### ***Prof Dawn Freshwater, Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia***

The active participation of universities and individual academics in policy creation, implementation, review and improvement provides policy decision makers with honest, straightforward and data-driven policy analysis.

Currently in Australia, and presumably in other countries around the world, there is a disconnect between academic research and public policy creation. Typically this is due to the fact that research and teaching have been seen as the primary academic outputs of higher education institutes. However many governments and funding bodies have recognised that a greater emphasis is needed on research impact; it

is in the public interest. This will reduce such risks as corporate policy decisions being made with little evidence base, and gaps being filled with convincing but superficial consultancy analyses.

Our role as members of the Worldwide Universities Network is to discover the synergies that lie between us locally, regionally and internationally, so that we can have the greatest impact, not only as individual universities, but as a collective network, with knowledge and insights spanning across several continents.

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### **Resourcing the Silk Road: The price of knowledge**

#### ***Prof Gerard Postiglione, The University of Hong Kong***

China has embraced a deeper level of engagement in globalization, a position strengthened not only by its massive economy but also by its emerging leadership in areas such as green technology, supercomputing, mobile payment systems, and especially artificial intelligence. Its New Silk Road initiative, known as the One Belt and One Road (OBOR), will be integrated with the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank's lending to developing countries for infrastructure to speed economic development. This raises questions about the role of universities, as well as approaches to governance and institution building in the rapidly accelerating era of data algorithms. The success of the China's universities increasingly depends on how they handle a shifting market of domestic demands from industry, the urban middle class, and the party-state. Success of China's universities will also depend upon how domestic demands are balanced with aspirations to go global, which encompasses a deepening of internationalization, a protection of Chinese educational sovereignty, and a higher degree of institutional autonomy to drive innovation. OBOR has already raised the expectations for China universities to play a key role in Asia's regional integration, as well as for the global common good in addressing sustainable development and climate change, health issues and inequality, among others SGDs.

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### **Pacific Perspectives: local and global engagement**

#### ***Prof Nigel Healey, Vice-Chancellor, Fiji National University***

The 11 Pacific Island countries of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have a combined population of about 2.3m people, spread across hundreds of islands over an area equivalent to 15% of the earth's surface. As small island economies, the Pacific Island countries face a range of challenges. They have limited natural resources and narrowly-based economies which are geographically remote from the world's major markets. They are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, notably rising sea levels and increasingly intense cyclones. At the same time, higher education in the region, notably in Fiji which is the region's most populous country, is developing very rapidly.

This presentation reviews the role of local and global partnerships in supporting the development of higher education in the Pacific, with particular reference to the role of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in the region. With more than 500 member institutions in over 50 countries, the ACU brings together some of the most long-established and well-funded universities with relatively new institutions in some of the world's poorest and smallest countries. Yet despite differences in size, resources and cultures, the common language and systems of the Commonwealth offer a considerable advantage and create unique opportunities for collaborative research and student/staff mobility. Using examples from the Pacific, this presentation will explore the ACU's wider initiatives to connect, convene, and seed change, including a new network to encourage those countries most affected by climate change to pool experience and expertise, and programmes to create new opportunities – and new dynamics – within international student mobility.

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### **Higher Education and Research: Global policy frameworks, synergies and opportunities.**

#### ***Professor Peter Mbithi, Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi (UoN)***

The Universities (Academia) in Africa are playing a pivotal role in spearheading policy development in partnership with Governments, International Development Partners, Private Sector and Non Profit Organisations which are impacting on countries' national development blue prints. For instance in Kenya, the key Universities are involved in the Presidential Big Four Agenda; Food Security and Nutrition, Job Creation and Manufacturing, Housing for All and Universal Health Care. These are the top priorities areas for the Government of Kenya for the next five years (2017-2022) where resources, expertise and policies have been devoted by The National Treasury and The Presidency in line with Kenya's Vision 2030 Blue Print. The key researchers from the Kenya's top Universities have been engaged by the Government of Kenya to

research and develop policies in line with these four key priorities. Also, the Africa's Biggest Consortium of 85 Agricultural Universities commonly referred to as RUFORUM (Regional The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture) is convening the largest gathering of Agricultural Research Oriented Universities in Nairobi Kenya in October 22-26, 2018 hosted by the University of Nairobi to discuss how to alleviate poverty and food insecurity as we accelerate the attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063.

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### **Europe as a model for a global research framework**

***Prof Andrew J Deeks, President, University College Dublin***

Despite the recent challenges, including the global economic crisis and its differential impact on member states, and the upcoming exit of the United Kingdom, the achievements of the European Union are many and varied. These achievements are built on an underpinning framework of policy and regulation adopted by all member states, and supported by funding contributions from each. From a research perspective the "Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development" guide and support research throughout the EU and beyond. The current Framework Programme is the eighth. Known as Horizon 2020, it will see 77 billion euro invested in three pillars over the period of 2014-2020. These pillars are: Excellent Science, which focuses on basic science and has a budget of 24 billion euro; Industrial Leadership, which is based on the Europe 2020 and Innovation Union strategies; and Societal Challenges, which funds potential solutions to social and economic problems. I will suggest that the EU Framework Programmes could form a model for the development of a global research framework programme, and consider what WUN could do to encourage such a development.

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### **Professor Dr Arturo Molina**

***Vice Rector for Research and Technology Transfer, Tecnológico de Monterrey***

Tecnológico de Monterrey is working with other Universities in defining public policies for presidential candidates on Science, Technology and Innovation policy. The main objective of this initiative is to make knowledge, technology and innovation a fundamental piece of sustainable growth in Mexico.

Investment in R&D is very small in Mexico as a percentage of the GDP. There are very few funding sources for research in Mexico, almost all limited to government. Therefore, it is important to influence government policy in science, technology and innovation to address important issues for Mexico development.

Tecnológico de Monterrey has defined 12 national research projects that aims to contribute to the transformation of Mexico and impact society in areas such as health, education, sustainability, development of communities under extreme poverty, nanotechnology and justice. University networks such as WUN represent an opportunity to learn from other universities experiences on these systems.

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### **Dr David H. Turpin**

***President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta***

Over at least the last two decades, universities have increasingly focused on internationalization and how it impacts all aspects of our work, from student recruitment to programming to research. We have also put a new focus on the role that universities can—and should have—on changing society for the better through the translation of knowledge into public policies that promote the health and well-being of individuals as well as the long-term sustainability of communities, cities, and nations. What have we learned over the last two decades in translating knowledge into public policy change? What strategies for engaging governments—locally, nationally, and globally—have been successful? How can we build on these successes and amplify our potential impact? President Turpin will consider these questions with particular reference to the Canadian context and the strategies that have been employed there to position university research as a critical piece in public policy development.

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### **Higher Education and Research: Global Policy Frameworks, Synergies and Opportunities**

***Prof Joseph Sung, Mok Hing Yiu Professor of Medicine, CUHK***

Few will dispute that the purposes of higher education and academic research is to improve human life. Much emphasis has been put recently on the relevance and impact of higher education and research conducted in university to our society and our nation. Most of the government's strategies public policies, have global influences: environment, healthcare, education and economics, just to name a few. As the

world is getting flatter and the global village becoming smaller, the importance of inter-national and inter-iversity collaborations cannot be over-emphasized. No meaningful climate policy can be made local. Most healthcare policies, both for communicable and non-communicable disease, have international and intercultural implications. Educational policies, particularly in this era of eLearning and internationalization, encourage exchange of ideas and knowledge.

As a result, university must not lose touch with societal needs and international affairs. Engagement of community and the people should be a major trend of most higher education institutes. University must also seek opportunities to work together finding solutions to our problems. Students should be offered opportunities to develop their global vision and widen horizon.

WUN has the edge of combining the strength of some 20 research-intensive universities from 5 Continents in research and education. Our discussion on Brexit, on the rise of India and China, on the mobility of students and faculties, on the respect of different cultures and tradition are the most appropriate steps in such directions. We should also convince our government to allow maximum flexibility and offer support in our joint effort of teaching & learning as well as research.

## Session 2

### Regional action plans and priorities for engagement in policy research

*Chair: Prof Katherine Newman, Vice President University of Massachusetts System*

#### **Norway's national leadership and teamwork to engage in the SDGs**

**Prof Dag Rune Olsen, Rector, University of Bergen**

The University of Bergen has achieved a unique national role as a leading SDG-university in Norway. This is not only a result of UiB's strategic initiatives to develop research of relevance for sustainable development, but is also the result of the way in which the university works externally. Firstly, by establishing a shared platform within the research-sector to enable a shared voice from the research community. Secondly, by inviting other sectors (civil society, policymakers, businesses and industry, etc.) to dialogue.

UiB's work towards Agenda 2030 reflects our deep commitment to groundbreaking research to find future solutions to the great societal challenges. And equally important, it reflects our commitment to contribute with contextual knowledge on social and cultural issues, and to identify key factors for sustainable development that might not have been highlighted in the goals and the sub goals. Our position as independent and autonomous research and education institutions gives us this unique platform from which we can contribute.

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#### **Regional action plans and priorities for engagement in policy research (Asia)**

**Prof Rocky Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President, CUHK**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has been projected as the Asian Century, particularly given China's rapid rise to economic, cultural and political prominence. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a foreign policy and infrastructure plan to promote regional connectivity and economic integration, among other forms of cooperation. The BRI presents ample opportunities for policy research and collaborative effort between universities and with national and international agencies. It is of strategic importance to examine China's global development in areas such as trade, economics, finance, logistics and technological infrastructure. It is also of value to investigate how other parts of the world perceive and receive this Initiative and how it would influence their policies on the relevant fronts.

Hong Kong, as a strategically located metropolis that blends the cultures of East and West with internationally compatible trade, commercial and legal systems, is well positioned to be a "super-connector" for the BRI and contribute in the form of policy research.

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**Professor L. Gordon Flake  
CEO, Perth USAsia Centre**

In an era of fiscal constraints, it is no longer sufficient for universities to frame their contributions to society solely through the prism of education. Universities have become important centres of research, exploration, and innovation and regularly partner with government, industry, and civil society across a broad spectrum of disciplines. While advancements in basic science, technological innovation, and data-driven fields readily lend themselves to such collaboration, direct connections between research and public policy are more challenging. As founding CEO of the Perth USAsia Centre at The University of Western Australia, Professor Gordon Flake will discuss how this collaborative Centre seeks to influence public policy

on a local, national, and international level with support from the Australian Federal Government, the Western Australian State Government, the University, and the private sector. In particular, Professor Flake will outline the importance of interaction with key stakeholders, particularly those in government, helps to shape the content, focus, and delivery of the Centre's research activities. Professor Flake will also address development in the non-profit policy "think-tank" community and the broader regional and global trends which set the parameters for both government policy and research priorities. Given the University of Western Australia's position in Australia's "Indian Ocean Capitol" of Perth, he will focus particularly on the emergence of an "Indo-Pacific" era and how that mega-trend shapes the Centre and the University's research as well as its efforts to build a broader strategic affairs community.

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### **Regional action plans and priorities for engagement in policy research (Africa)**

#### ***Prof Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana***

Research is key to sustainable development and research conducted by Higher Educational Institutions makes these institutions relevant to the development agenda of a nation. Universities in Africa take policy research seriously so are involved in diverse research networks and support faculty and students in this regard. Academic units are supported and encouraged to form research clusters and academic progression is significantly dependent on research output.

In our quest to become research-intensive universities, research has been identified as one of the strategic priority of majority of African universities, where we seek to create a vibrant intellectual climate that stimulates relevant cutting edge research and community engagement. It is in light of the above, that the universities have made a lot of investment into the acquisition of new equipment and other research tools including databases to strengthen research impact and improve the visibility of research output across the globe.

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### **Special Topic: New discoveries, challenges and opportunities with the SKA**

#### ***Prof Peter Quinn, Executive Director, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, UWA***

Mankind's understanding of Nature is now at a point of crisis. More than 95% of the Universe we live in is composed of mysterious stuff - matter that is hidden from the view of our telescopes and a form of energy that is tearing the Universe apart. Our two most successful theories of Nature - the theory of atoms and the theory of Gravity - cannot together describe the Big Bang which formed the Universe 13.7 billion year ago. We need a new idea, a new concept that will provide us with a consistent picture of the evolution of our Universe and its contents. New ideas flow from discoveries. Our ability to explore, and map and make discoveries within our Universe is about to be exploded by more than a factor of 3000. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope will revolutionize our view of the Universe. It will push the boundaries of our knowledge back in time to the formation of the first stars and galaxies. It will also push the boundaries of our technology and will provide new industrial, educational, scientific and technological opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Session 3**

#### **Local Policy Research Priorities for Global Challenges of the Future**

***Chair: Prof Robyn Owens, DVC Research, UWA***

### **Local Policy Research Priorities for Global Challenges of the Future**

#### ***Prof Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of Western Australia***

The UN's SDGs provide a framework for the major areas of policy development facing most countries, regions, and localities, with different goals taking on different priorities depending on local need and opportunity. In our region, Australia faces challenges around climate action, the elimination of poverty, reducing inequalities, responsible consumption and partnerships with other nations. However, each of the goals will be ranked with different priorities, depending on how urgently the world's global challenges are affecting them. For some parts of the world, climate changes are directly impacting on survival; for others, peace and justice are a matter of life or death; for yet others, education, health and infrastructure are essential to lift the local community out of poverty and hardship. The challenge for the UN is to develop a unifying narrative to ensure that the global effort in addressing these goals results in a global benefit. Local actions may improve local goals, but to the detriment of other parts of the globe.



Following on from the previous session, how would we use our regional capabilities and influence to align policy development for global benefit? What opportunities currently exist for us to collectively address local priorities in a way that will not damage, restrain, or limit other parts of the world?

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### **Globalization of Strategic Responses to Global Challenges: Local Relevance within Global Partnerships**

***Prof Fanny Cheung, Vice-President, The Chinese University of Hong Kong***

Two primary global challenges to future humanity are Sustainability and Global Citizenship. Two of the strategic research areas in CUHK's 5-year plan address these grand challenges:

Environment and sustainability covers themes on environment and climate change, agricultural biology and food security, renewable energy, smart cities, and equity in population changes. The Hong Kong chapter of the UN Sustainability Development Solutions Network is housed in CUHK to mobilize expertise and resources from academics, government, and the community to address the most pressing environmental, social and economic issues in Hong Kong and advance sustainable development in the region.

The Global China Research theme under the China Studies strategic research area demonstrates the importance of people-to-people connections, cultural understanding and international cooperation under China's Belt and Road Initiative, which offers new models for synergies between global citizenship and national interests.

To help bridge the valley of death between basic research and translation into technology and social innovations, CUHK has strengthened its knowledge transfer capacity and established a policy research platform to connect researchers with stakeholders. We are leveraging opportunities in the Belt and Road and Big Bay Area in the Pearl River Delta. Internally, we are fostering a new research culture to encourage impact development. Building research-policy collaborations and linking international policy bodies/instruments with local stakeholders while maintaining sensitivity to cultural relevance are useful strategic approaches for WUN policy partnership.

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### **The WUN Global Africa Group: intersecting local, regional and global research and development agendas**

***Dr David Mickler, Senior Lecturer, UWA; Co-Chair WUN Global Africa Group***

The WUN Global Africa Group (GAG) was established in late 2015 as a regional and cross-cutting research group within the Network. The challenge facing myself and UCT's Maano Ramutsindela as Co-Chairs was to develop and implement sound principles upon which the Group would function. Chief among these was to ensure that the Group works collaboratively at the intersection of local and regional African research and development agendas while also speaking to the global SDGs, and to ensure inclusion of existing expertise among WUN researchers. We believe that inclusive access to the setting of research and development agendas and priorities is crucial to the achievement of equitable and sustainable outcomes and we have infused this into the structure and nature of the group and its activities. A key strategy has been to centre the Group on our three African university members (UCT, Ghana and Nairobi) and to use the resources of the wider Network to support their function as regional research hubs for Southern/Western/Eastern Africa, respectively. With such hubs, our workshops and projects have attempted to marry bottom-up local expertise and priorities with wider regional and global themes. GAG is working to deepen its integration within both the wider WUN system and regional and global research, development and policy frameworks. We hope that GAG provides a useful model for pursuing equitable, productive, and sustainable research collaborations that meet the priority needs of African societies.

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### **China's Policy Research Priorities Confronting Global Challenges**

***Prof Liu Yuanchun, Vice President, RUC, Co-Chair WUN Global Policy Research Group***

As we know, China, as an ancient country which has made significant contribution to the development of mankind and the world, becomes more open, inclusive and positive in the new era. Renmin University of China (RUC) has been leading in the field of humanities and social sciences since its establishment. After joining Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), RUC has kept active communication with WUN partners and focused on academic development and policy research in global and regional challenges as well as development of society, economy and environment. In 2017, RUC proposed establishing WUN International Policy Research Network. We look forward to collaborating with WUN partners in the following areas: i) Based on SDGs, RUC has its research focused on economic policy, anti-poverty, etc. ii) Under the framework of "the Belt and Road" Initiative, RUC strives to collaborate with countries in various areas, especially in higher education research and development, talents cultivation and academic research. iii) Within WUN

and the Policy Research Network, RUC will tap its potential in higher education, public health, climate change and cultural understanding and focus on combined research between its advantageous fields like economic development, policy consulting, big data and WUN four research pillars.

#### Session 4

#### ROUND TABLES: Strategies for WUN – key questions, knowledge gaps, engagement for impact

*Chair: Prof David Hogg, Chair WUN Academic Advisory Group*

#### **Responding to Climate Change Global Challenge (RCC)**

***Prof Peter Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor UWA; Vice Chair WUN Responding to Climate Change***

The RCC has over 22 active projects which have produced over 50 publications though significant grant success. With accreditation at the COP22 meeting in Marrakesh, IPCC has appointed UWA's Petra Tschakert as Coordinating Lead Author on the next IPCC Report. Petra will author Chapter 5 on "Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequality" and a summary for Policy Makers.

The primary challenge of the RCC is being addressed with the re-focus of the RCC Challenge on 'adaptation' to climate change and is now attracting external funding for larger multi-disciplinary research. An operational challenge is making better-use of the global farm platforms of partner universities as this is a strategic advantage of the WUN network where global-scale questions can be asked.

We welcome the new WUN members and their research strengths in climate change and opportunities for linking and accessing funds for international research. Our strategy is to be pragmatic in terms of grant proposals, by mapping of potential grant opportunities and importantly eligibility, by country, and where possible where WUN may influence the eligibility guidelines (of our respective countries). It is intended the RCC will take more of a global leadership role in the area of adaptation to climate by producing high-level 'position statements' in the science literature and increasingly in the social media.

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#### **Professor Ngaire Kerse**

***Head of the School of Population Health, University of Auckland; Chair WUN Public Health***

Ngaire will form part of the Panel 1 Round Table discussion and outline the main strategies of the Public Health Steering group in addressing health improvement across the life course. Already with several years of work in 1) Health of migrants across the lifecourse, 2) The resilience of adolescents and health workers in different cultural contexts and 3) Schools as a setting for reducing risk factors associated with NCDs we add Ageing across the lifecourse to our portfolio.

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#### **Professor Caroline Dyer**

***Professor of Education, University of Leeds; Chair WUN Global Higher Education and Research***

This short reflection focuses on key priorities and challenges that lie at the core of the GHEAR commitment to promoting inclusive, high quality 21<sup>st</sup> century universities that shape and contribute to the global commitment to sustainable development. While countries with high levels of human development and post-secondary participation often struggle with how best to serve dis-enfranchised and under-represented people, such challenges are widespread in much of the 'global south', and further exacerbated in contexts of crisis and fragility. How best can the research expertise and experience of WUN direct policy engagement, and be leveraged to benefit those whose participation in higher education is constrained by the under-development of higher education systems? What opportunities and challenges for global higher education and research are stimulated by the new global focus on inclusive, lifelong quality education and reducing inequalities, and the trans-disciplinary demands of the full sustainable development goal agenda?

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#### **Dr Tore Saetersdal**

***Chair WUN Understanding Cultures; Deputy Director for Global Challenges, University of Bergen***

The WUN Understanding Cultures Global Challenge facilitates interdisciplinary research for understanding the role of culture in a rapidly changing world and its importance for sustainable development and Agenda 2030. For the first time culture is mentioned in the world sustainable development agenda as an important factor in achieving the SDG goals. At the same time we see how humanities are losing ground all over the world with some universities even closing departments and research centres.

The research agenda of the WUN Understanding Cultures Global Challenge is shaped by a concern with how profound globalization trends such as the rise of global communications and social networks,

increasing levels of population mobility, and widening social inequalities are challenging national, regional and individual cultural practices in all levels of society. Deeper understanding of these challenges for cultural changes is necessary to inform effective policy-making and implementation. A growing literature on culture and philosophy of non-European traditions is coming out of local and traditional perspectives from various areas that gives new insights and perspectives on the changes that are occurring in today's worlds and alternative ways of thinking.

The focus of the WUN Understanding Cultures Global Challenge in 2017-18 is on: Migration and Population, two-way understanding of China and Africa, the role of Culture in sustainable development (Agenda 2030) and local voices. To strengthen the network and become more influential in policy matters the UC group will build alliances and initiate dialogues with relevant organizations and institutions and seek long-term partnerships.

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**The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration: a role for WUN**  
**Ann Singleton, Senior Research Fellow, University of Bristol; Senior Advisor to IOM GMDAC**

(i) The primary challenge

Migration presents a major global policy challenge for governments and academics. However, insights of migrants and migration scholars, the human understanding and experience of realities and dynamics of migration, too often remain unheeded in global policy debates.

(ii) the main point(s) of your contribution

WUN has the potential to be a catalyst in developing a global network of migration scholars with perspectives from the Global South, to bring insights to the research and policy agendas, too often dominated by Eurocentric policy concerns and priorities. The UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the SDGs and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), provide an historical opportunity for the academic and policy worlds to collaborate. There is now an opportunity to animate, inter alia, an interdisciplinary conversation leading to a better understanding and insights into the human dimensions of migration.

(iii) your suggestions for strategic solutions.

WUN was offered an open invitation, at the 2017 AGM in New York, to contribute to the GCM discussions. This could be done by working strategically through WUN's Knowledge Partnerships and with the inter-agency Global Migration Group <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/>

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**Professor Saul Tendler**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, The University of York**

**I. Inject policy imperatives and expertise into our existing themes.** How can WUN create added value for members through policy engagement? Our view is that we should include policy questions in our global challenges, making them automatically more interdisciplinary. This will allow us to build our policy credentials based on the long history of collaborative research in the WUN's areas of global climate change, higher education, understanding cultures, and public health. It is important that whatever shape the WUN's policy engagement takes, it should be closely aligned with the network's Global Challenge Steering Groups. These groups will provide the knowledge base for policy recommendations and identify the key stakeholders for engagement.

**II. Build WUN's public profile by using policy recommendations from our research.** WUN is positioning itself as a global network with research expertise on major global challenges, especially with the decision to align the Research Development Fund with the UN SDGs. This gives us an opportunity to strongly signal the distinctiveness of WUN as a network. WUN has 20 years of research collaboration and adherence to significant global challenges, but this has rarely been exploited to enhance WUN's reputation and that of its member HEIs. Alignment with SDGs, together with the inclusion of a policy dimension in the research efforts of our global challenges, positions WUN to be on the world stage - an opportunity we should grasp. Can the Secretariat and/or the co-ordinating groups for the challenges equip themselves to consider impact, public statements, public affairs and reputation-build?

**III. Bring student voices into the policy arena and equip them to develop a global mind-set on research.**

The new commitment from WUN to include undergraduate education, signals our sustainability as we resource and support the next generation of researchers. How do we involve students in 'future leader' programmes, which harness WUN member expertise, and align with our major research themes?

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