



# ATN in PROFILE

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## Building partnerships and connecting continents

Representatives from each ATN university joined over 3600 participants from 80 countries at this year's EAIE conference in Madrid for a week of networking and professional development.

With the theme "Connecting Continents" this year's event included workshops and seminars on research in internationalisation of higher education, the next decade of the Bologna process and, developing employability skills through international workplaces to name a few.

And it was on this theme of international education and its importance in ensuring that Australia is "globally connected" that Australia's Ambassador to Spain, Noel Campbell, spoke to representatives of Australian universities at an informal welcome event he hosted prior to the conference opening.

With exports of \$15.5 billion, international education is now our third-largest export industry, with higher education recording in August this year a growth of 13.2 per cent in enrolments and 18 per cent in commencements on YTD August 2008 figures.

In addition to having a number of senior ATN staff present at the conference, the ATN again staged a presence in the exhibition hall.

The European Association for International Education (EAIE) is a non-profit organisation whose main aim is to stimulate and facilitate the internationalisation of higher education in Europe and around the world, and to meet



ATN staff at the EAIE booth in the exhibition hall at Madrid.

the professional needs of individuals active in international education.

A member-led organisation, it has a committed membership of more than 1800 international education professionals – from rectors to professors to international exchange coordinators.

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### member universities

- University of South Australia
- Curtin University of Technology
- RMIT University
- University of Technology, Sydney
- Queensland University of Technology



**AUSTRALIAN  
TECHNOLOGY  
NETWORK**  
OF UNIVERSITIES

## MOU forged with Ontario university

The ATN has signed an MOU with the University of Waterloo for Educational and Scientific Cooperation.

The Ontario-based University of Waterloo runs the world's largest undergraduate industry placement program.

It is also a leading research university in the areas of Health promotion and Disease Prevention, Bioinformatics and Biotechnology, Automotive Research and Sustainable Energy.

Under the agreement the ATN and the University of Waterloo will work towards joint research activities in these areas as well as nanotechnology and creative industries. In addition to the MOU,



■ Professor George Dixon, Vice President (Research), Professor David Johnston, President UoW and ATN Executive Director Vicki Thomson.

the ATN has also signed an ATN/ UoW Researcher Exchange Program Agreement.

This agreement will provide researchers across both the ATN and the University of Waterloo with incentives to build collaboration.

The agreements were formalised in Canada recently with the Vice President of the UoW, Professor David Johnston and ATN Executive Director, Vicki Thomson.

## Insight into costing model

An ATN delegation recently met with universities in the United Kingdom exploring their experiences with transparent costing of research.

Under the revised research funding model announced by the Federal Government, Australian universities will be required to adopt transparent costing of research as a condition of funding under SRE.

Ahead of the Minister's forthcoming visit to the UK, the insights gained will serve to inform the ATN's strategy in preparation for the introduction of a transparent costing model.

# ATN recommends review into services for overseas students

AS part of the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) amendment, the ATN has recommended a review of Federal and State roles and responsibilities as part of the mandate of the new Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency.

While supporting the intent of the amended Bill and recognising that generally the Australian higher education sector provides a quality, safe experience for international students, the ATN is concerned that the growth of the international student education market across all sectors has resulted in an inconsistent approach to policing standards of quality assurance, particularly in relation to private providers.

To put this in some context, between 2005 and 2008 international enrolments at private providers increased by 195% (50,022 to 147,531) and accounted for 84% of all international VET enrolments.

International higher education enrolments grew by only 12% over the same period. (Indian student enrolments in private VET providers grew by 1724% (from 2,605 to 47,512) between 2005 and 2008 (AEI, 2008).

With this in mind, the ATN is of the view that any changes to the Bill as proposed be made on the basis of a clear understanding

of the differences between public VET providers, private VET providers and higher education providers.

Currently for self accrediting institutions, there is no accreditation of wholly-owned subsidiaries that offer education in their name.

Accreditation of other providers varies in its intensity and scrutiny by State.

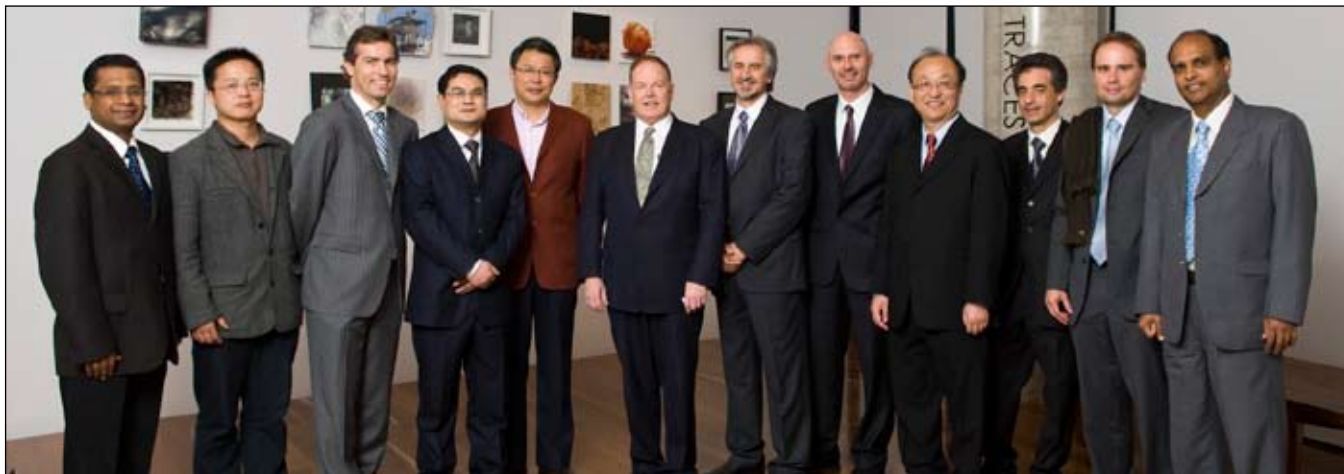
Given the diversity in the sector and the scale of international higher education, it is important that there is national certainty about the capacity of the sector in order to ensure a world class system.

To this end, it is imperative that the independent national accreditation authority announced by the Government in March is able to provide oversight for all types of institutions to validate capacity to offer particular levels of education, and assures the quality of offering.

We see this as a possible role for the new Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

In addition, Government must provide a national policy and legislative framework that addresses student welfare that includes attention to quality assurance.

To that end, we are seeking a review of Federal and State roles and responsibilities as part of the mandate of TEQSA to secure Australia's reputation internationally.



■ Pictured are (from left) Dr Vipul Bansal (Australian Research Council APD Fellow & RMIT Tenure Track Fellow, RMIT); Dr Xin Chen (Associate Professor, School of Biological Science and Medical Engineering, Southeast University); Prof Peter Høj (Vice Chancellor, University of South Australia); Mr Jide Zhang (Second Secretary (Education), Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia); Professor Ning Gu (Dean, Department of Biological Science and Medical Engineering, Southeast University, Nanjing); Prof Ross Milbourne (Chair ATN, Vice Chancellor UTS); Dr Dusan Losic (Senior Research Fellow (ARF), Ian Wark Research Institute, UniSA); Dr Bill Richmond (Senior Lecturer, Nanochemistry Research Institute, Curtin); Dr Huai Zhu (Associate Professor, School of Physical & Chemical Sciences, QUT); Dr Eric Waclawik (Senior Lecturer, School of Physical & Chemical Sciences, QUT); Dr Benjamin Thierry (Research Fellow, Ian Wark Research Institute, UniSA); and Dr Rahul Gupta (Research Academic, RMIT).

# International NanoNetwork launched

The ATN has joined with key partners in China to launch an international research network that aims to examine some of the significant research questions of our time, by using nanoscience and the myriad capabilities it brings.

The Australia-China NanoNetwork is an initiative of the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) in partnership with the China based International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA) – a coalition of 24 universities that includes six of the top seven universities in China.

This collaboration between the ATN and ISTA networks will investigate the ways that nanoscience can provide advances in key areas such as the environment, health and energy.

It embraces the multicultural, multidisciplinary and holistic approaches that can lead to significant outcomes, particularly around complex issues such as climate change that require a broad approach.

ATN Chair, Professor Ross Milbourne, said the research questions that we faced in the 21st century were not the kind that would be solved by academics working in isolation.

“Climate change and the new technologies we will need to adapt to its effects – reliable and efficient fresh water supply for communities across the globe; next-generation energy that is both environmentally friendly and renewable; the big questions in health – the solutions to these problems are by no means simple and it is through cooperation between researchers from diverse backgrounds that they will be found,” he said.



■ Prof Ross Milbourne (Chair ATN, Vice Chancellor UTS) shaking hands with Mr Jide Zhang (Second Secretary (Education), Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia)

“The NanoNetwork elevates the ATN’s existing collaborative reach to a new level, drawing together researchers from university networks in two countries, greatly expanding the expertise base and giving its activities a healthy international perspective.

“It will take advantage of ATN and ISTA networking and in turn, enable research teams to tackle those research questions of significance and relevance to our national research agenda.

“A key advantage of the network will be its capacity to bring together researchers with the complementary skills and interests necessary to tackle research questions of substance.”

Establishing long-lasting researcher networks lays down the groundwork for such cooperation. To encourage that goal, Professor Ning Gu and Drs Jianfei Sun and Xin Chen from the Research Centre for Nanoscale Science and Technology at Southeast University, Nanjing recently visited ATN

universities to undertake “proof of concept” experiments in water quality and renewable energy.

During their visit, the researchers also participated in the network’s Nanomedicine Workshop, at which Professor Gu, one of the foremost nanoscientists in China in the area of functional nanoparticles, was the keynote speaker.

The network is designed to engage researchers at all stages in their careers, from prominent researchers, to “emerging” researchers in nanotechnology fields, to PhD students. All of these will have the opportunity to undertake research at multiple partner universities in the other country.



■ Dr Xin Chen (Associate Professor, School of Biological Science and Medical Engineering, Southeast University), Emeritus Professor Neil Furlong (ATN Project Manager – Research), and Professor Ning Gu (Dean, Department of Biological Science and Medical Engineering, Southeast University, Nanjing) in Australia.

# A slow revolution: Maternity leave, women and work

## 2009 dates and venues

### PERTH

Friday 16 October – 12pm to 2.30pm  
 Parmelia Hilton, Perth  
 Hosted by Curtin University  
 Contact [Janice Burmaz](#) Ph: 08 9266 3980

### MELBOURNE

Monday 19 October 2009 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm  
[Storey Hall](#), Building 16, 336-342 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
 Hosted by RMIT University  
 Contact [Amy Love](#) Ph: 03 9925 0710

### SYDNEY

Thursday 22 October - 5.30pm to 7.30pm  
 The Chancellery, Level 4, [UTS Tower Building 1](#), Broadway  
 Hosted by the University of Technology Sydney  
 Contact [Joanna Leonard](#)  
 Ph: 02 9514 1274

### ADELAIDE

Tuesday 10 November – 5.30pm to 7.30pm  
 Bradley Forum, Level 5, [Hawke Building](#), City West Campus, 50 North Terrace Adelaide  
 Hosted by the University of South Australia  
 Contact [Justene Knight](#)  
 Ph: 08 8302 1729



■ Dr Marian Bird

### CANBERRA

Monday 26 October – 12.30pm to 1.30pm  
 Lecture Theatre 1, Hedley Bull Centre, Building 130, Garran Road, Australian National University  
 Hosted by the University of Canberra and Australian National University  
 Contact [Celeste Ecuier](#)  
 Ph: 02 6125 4144

### BRISBANE

Friday 23 October – 12pm to 2pm  
[Gardens Theatre Foyer](#), Gardens Point Campus  
 Hosted by the Queensland University of Technology  
 Contact [Kym Mayers](#)  
 Ph: 07 3138 4174/1729

Why has it taken so long for women in Australia to achieve paid maternity leave – and what happens next? The 2009 Clare Burton lecture analyses changes in Australia's attitudes to working women by examining maternity leave policies from 1979, when the first unpaid maternity leave decision of the Industrial Relations Commission was made, to the Government's announcement of a national system of paid parental leave on Mother's Day, 2009.

From 1 January 2010, working parents will also have the right to request an additional 12 months of unpaid parental leave and the right to request flexible working arrangements. These are significant, even revolutionary, policy changes in Australia.

What will be the implications of these changes, for employers and for working parents, particularly women?

### THE SPEAKER

Marian Baird is Associate Professor in Work and Organisational Studies at the University of Sydney and Director of the Women and Work Research Group.

Her research has focussed on the impact of regulatory and policy environments on women's working lives and conditions.

Based on her research, Dr Baird has most recently been a key advocate of paid maternity leave in Australia. She has also published on the impact of regulation on low paid women and the changes to Australia's industrial relations regime.

This is the 11th Clare Burton Memorial Lecture which commemorates Dr Clare Burton, who passed away suddenly in August 1998. Clare was a leading researcher, public sector administrator, academic, consultant, and writer on employment equity.

The lectures are hosted by the ATN. A lecture will also be held in Canberra under the joint sponsorship of the Australian National University and the University of Canberra.

This year's lecture will also include the launch of the book, *The Promise and the Price – Ten Years of the Clare Burton Memorial Lectures*, which brings together the past 10 lectures in the Clare Burton Lecture series.

## New alliance to boost development of procurement roles

The ATN and the Australian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC) have formed an alliance to offer innovative professional development for procurement practitioners and those in related professional roles. The APCC and the ATN collaboration will deliver world-class postgraduate programs that recognise the critical contribution of procurement to the strategic needs of private and public sector organisations and the future provision of qualified professionals in this discipline.

Procurement is said to be the

fastest growing field in business today, employing 50,000 personnel nationally in public and private sector roles.

APCC Chief Executive Jane Montgomery-Hribar said procurement officers traditionally advanced their careers via vocational training programs.

More recently, procurement positions had been filled using lateral recruitment from other disciplines including engineering and accounting.

"The need for professional development opportunities a

the postgraduate level has never been more urgent with increasing numbers of procurement officers managing extraordinary complex and long-term projects and managing commercial and technical risks within a challenging business and political context."

Developed by expert industry and university staff, the collaborative programs are open to practitioners who are currently employed in, or who seek to work in procurement.

This initiative builds upon the existing strong history of programs in the procurement discipline across the ATN.

The five Masters by coursework programs are offered at each of the five ATN universities.

The ATN will provide full credit transfer across the programs for those students who move states during their enrolment. Organisations can invest in the programs to develop the skills of their staff, especially those identified as procurement industry leaders.

By supporting the programs, employers are investing in the long-term sustainability, performance and competitiveness of their organisation.

# UPCOMING CONFERENCES

## Inaugural Social Inclusion in Education Conference

22 - 23 October 2009 – Star City Hotel, Sydney

Social inclusion is now understood as vital to Australian society in ensuring the participation of all Australians in developing skills and understandings that will enable them to contribute to the nation's competitiveness in the knowledge economy.

We also know that education is central to the well-being of Australians, as the vehicle through which they are able to contribute to the social and cultural fabric of the nation as well as benefit from all that this has to offer.

The recent Review of Australian Higher Education commented that "Social inclusion must be a core responsibility for all institutions that accept public funding, irrespective of history and circumstances" (Bradley et al. 2008: 33). It

is a view that has been endorsed by the Australian Government and emphasised by the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, for all institutions in Australia's education sectors. Social inclusion is now understood as everyone's business and education as a major site for its achievement.

This conference brings together educators and administrators from all education sectors and has been specifically designed to be of value to senior managers in higher education, vocational education and training, and schooling as well as relevant officers and managers in state and federal government departments.

ATN members are entitled to a 10% discount on registration, by using the registration form at the [ATN website](#).

## 2nd Annual Higher Education Information Technology Summit

28 - 29 October 2009 – Sydney Harbour Marriott

The 2nd annual Higher Education Information Technology Summit will be focusing on the challenges currently facing IT in higher education. It will be looking at some of the developments that will revolutionise the application of IT in learning facilities. The program will also cover on issues such as:

- Governance and regulation
- Staffing – finding and keeping the right people
- Long and short term program strategy
- Realigning the imbalance between reduced budgets and increased expectations

ATN members are entitled to a 15 per cent discount on registration, by using the registration form at the [ATN website](#).

## Financial Review Higher Education Conference – Special Update

9 November 2009 – Sydney Harbour Marriott, Sydney

In the 2009 Budget, the Federal Government committed to \$2.1 billion over five years for education and \$2.7 billion for tertiary education, research and innovation, which falls short of the \$6 billion called for by The Bradley Review of higher education last year. This one-day conference will discuss the budget and whether it meets national needs. Sessions will include alternative ways of generating revenue to sustain research and teaching programs and ways of meeting the sector's infrastructure demand.

Attend the conference to gain updates on the 2009-10 Higher Education Budget projects focused on universities and research, the second funding round of the Education Investment Fund and hear eminent higher education leaders respond to the government's changes.

ATN members are entitled to a 10 per cent discount when registering. To register or for more information, please visit the [Financial Review website](#).

## ATN Assessment Conference 2009 - Assessment in Different Dimensions

19 - 20 November 2009 – RMIT University, Melbourne

The ATN Assessment Conference 2009 is exploring different dimensions of assessment – different needs and objectives, contexts and approaches, practices and tools of assessment.

Conference keynote speakers will be posing challenges and offering ideas for practice and policy associated with the key themes. Keynote speakers include Dr Chris Rust, Oxford Brookes University; Professor Geoffrey Crisp, University of Adelaide; and Professor Jan Herrington, Murdoch University. Other recently announced features of

the conference include:

a workshop on assessment led by Professor David Boud of University of Technology Sydney

an ALTC Forum on the conference themes chaired by Associate Professor Peter Hutchings of ALTC

a roundtable on moderation for fair assessment in transnational higher education - organised by Associate Professor Gavin Sanderson of University of South Australia

Early bird registration closes on 5 October! To register or for more information, please visit [this website](#).

## University Relations in the Asia Pacific

19 - 20 November 2009 – Shangi-La Hotel, Cairns

This inaugural event is about bringing Asian Pacific institutions together to network and to discuss: the big challenges and to strengthen regional ties through partnerships. The Summit seeks to develop organisational and cultural understanding and will look at how countries and institutions can extend their presence and influence within their neighbouring countries.

Topics will cover research cooperation; support for international students; student and staff mobility; the shared regional challenges we face; the internationalisation of curriculum; organisation cultural; International agreements; governance issues; regional visions and strategies for institutions; and opportunity snap-shots for partnerships.

ATN members are entitled to a 10 per cent discount on registration, by using the registration form at the [ATN website](#).

## Innovative Financing for Higher Education

26 - 27 November – Vibe Savoy Hotel, Melbourne

In an era when investment in knowledge and skills is one of the ultimate determinates of national and individual prosperity, Australia is losing ground against international competitors.

This year's 2nd annual Innovative Financing for Higher Education forum will not only be focusing on the challenges currently facing university financing but also it will be looking at some of the developments – both in the immediate and long term future – that will revolutionise funding procedures for higher education institutions. The program will also focus on issues such as the repercussions of the Bradley Review; how to create and sustain a philanthropic alumnus; removing the government funding stigma attached to university financing; and the impact of international investment.

ATN members are entitled to a 15 per cent discount on registration, by using the registration form at the [ATN website](#).

# Research breakthrough

Australian researchers have found that some types of dietary fats damage a very important membrane barrier that keeps the brain isolated from general circulation.

The blood-brain-barrier, as it is commonly known, critically regulates what is normally allowed in and out of brain, like important nutrients that nourish the brain.

Professor John Mamo, National Director of the Australian Technology Network's Centre for Metabolic Fitness led the research, based out of Curtin University, that is soon to be published in the British Journal of Nutrition.

Professor Mamo said Alzheimer's disease was characterised by the deposits of a protein in the brain called amyloid, which subsequently caused inflammation and cell death.

Stopping amyloid deposits from forming is considered the key to slowing or preventing Alzheimer's disease. In the Australian study, Professor Mamo's group found that some types of dietary fats cause an increase in amyloid delivery from the blood into the brain. They go on to suggest that this dietary effect results in a "brain overload" of amyloid, which may then become deposited.

"There are several fundamentally

important aspects of this study. Firstly, the study provides an explanation for population studies that have shown an association between Alzheimer's disease and saturated fat intake," Professor Mamo said.

"But more importantly, understanding the mechanisms of how components of diet regulate blood-brain-barrier integrity might lead to novel intervention strategies.

"If the causes of damage and inflammation to the blood-brain-barrier are identified and stopped early, it may be possible to reverse this devastating disease."

The ATN Centre for Metabolic Fitness is dedicated to undertaking research that will provide scientific evidence about what to eat and how to exercise to stay fit and healthy. In an age when people often feel overloaded with dietary and health advice, the Centre is working to give the community comprehensive information based on detailed research on what to eat and how to exercise to optimise their health.

It is a unique research alliance of more than 30 multi-disciplinary teams from the ATN's five universities, all committed to understanding how our living environment influences human health and wellbeing.

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

## FINDING SOLUTIONS



THE Australian Technology Network brings together five of the most innovative and enterprising universities in the nation.

We are committed to forging partnerships with industry and government to deliver practical results through focused research.

We educate graduates who are ready to enter their chosen profession, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and eager to claim a stake in building sustainable societies of the future.

ATN universities teach around 180,000 students, or almost 20 % of Australia's student population. With 1 in 4 international students choosing to study at an ATN university, we are also the largest provider of international education, both with our onshore and offshore students.

The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, and contribute to its social and economic wealth, while championing the principles of access and equity that have ensured its members are the universities of first choice for more students.

■ For more information about the ATN, our organisation and activities, please visit our web site at [www.atn.edu.au](http://www.atn.edu.au)



## member universities

University of South Australia

Curtin University of Technology

RMIT University

University of Technology, Sydney

Queensland University of Technology

[www.atn.edu.au](http://www.atn.edu.au)

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