

MEDIA RELEASE

10 years of National University Collaboration

THE Australian Technology Network's annual conference in Perth this week marks a decade of national collaboration among the five member universities.

Vice Chancellors believe the group - comprising Curtin University of Technology, the University of SA, RMIT University, the University of Technology in Sydney and the Queensland University of Technology - has had a major impact on national policy.

ATN Chair and RMIT Vice Chancellor, Professor Margaret Gardner, is particularly proud of the group's genuine ability to work co-operatively both within Australia and overseas.

"We have a distinctive profile, and that is important to us, as we are committed to the advancement of universities of technology," she said.

Professor Gardner says the ATN's strong relationships have enabled it to positively influence policy development in the national interest.

Meeting at Perth's Convention and Exhibition Centre from January 29 to 31, the group aims to build on 10 years of achievement and success.

Keynote speakers include Federal Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister, Senator Kim Carr; News Ltd's national affairs columnist Glenn Milne and British and Australian university research experts Dr Rosa Scoble and Dr Thomas Barlow.

With sessions focussed on future policy direction, skill building in partnership with industry and sustainability, Professor Gardner says the ATN is determined to maintain its enviable reputation for delivering outcomes.

These include:

- A strong focus on advances in national engineering education, which has won industry acclaim and boosted student interest
- a world's best practice project on metabolic fitness
- taking a lead role on sustainable energy, including demand management, network security, emissions management and green energy research

"We are a very proactive group that has also put in place comprehensive benchmarking," Professor Gardner admits.

“As well as building strong national relationships, the ATN has developed invaluable International linkages with other groups of universities in China, Canada and South Africa.”

Professor Gardner revealed the group’s future focus would include expanding research and teaching programs.

“We have illustrated over the past 10 years how well we can work co-operatively, and how that is in the national interest, as well as delivering more for our students and staff,” she said.

“We want to further increase the value of our collaboration over the next decade.”

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