

## Go8 GERMANY RESEARCH CO-OPERATION



Left to right: Professor Margaret Sheil (CEO, Australian Research Council), Mike Gallagher (Executive Director, Go8), Dr Ursula Toyka-Fuong (German Academic Exchange Service)

In mid April the Go8 announced a new call for applications under the Go8 Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme. Applications will be open until 30 June 2009 for exchanges beginning in 2010.

The Go8's funding partner for this scheme is the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany's national agency for the support of international academic co-operation, one of the world's largest and most respected organisations in its field.

In announcing this third call for applications, Professor Doug McEachern, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation at The University of Western Australia and Chair of the Go8 DVCs Research said "In the past two years the Go8 and the DAAD have provided a total of around AUD2 million to meet the travel and living costs of researchers to spend time at collaborating institutions in Australia or Germany."

"This call for applications will provide a further AUD1 million to foster co-operation between Australia and Germany and will again prioritise projects that involve early-career researchers.

"A growing body of evidence points to the benefits of international engagement in research including addressing global challenges, enhancing skills development, improving international relations, stimulating foreign investment flows and facilitating access to research infrastructure.

"We are confident the scheme will continue to enhance linkages between Go8 universities and German research organisations as well as facilitate the exchange of skills and knowledge of mutual benefit to both countries," said Professor McEachern.

The Go8 recently welcomed the DAAD's Dr Ursula Toyka-Fuong during her visit to Canberra to discuss a broad range of issues including the future of the Go8 DAAD co-operation and plans for a major DAAD alumni event to be held in Sydney in 2010.

Application and selection procedures and a DVD presentation about the Go8 DAAD scheme are available to download from the international section of the Go8 website. [www.go8.edu.au](http://www.go8.edu.au)

## ENGINEERING AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

In the lead up to the Federal Budget the Go8 Deans of Engineering have written to the Prime Minister and Ministers Gillard and Carr to emphasise the importance of investing in the industries driven by engineering, science and technology, especially in the current global financial downturn.

The letter highlighted the following:

- Australia has not been training enough engineers to deliver the skills needed to sustain and increase economic development
- a lack of trained engineers poses a serious threat to our wealth generating industries
- the continued need to increase the number and quality of engineering graduates to position Australia to accelerate its own economic recovery once the global recovery begins
- industry's need for new skills and new technologies to take maximum advantage of opportunities that will arise during and after global recovery
- the need for new interdisciplinary skill sets to deal with the challenges of climate change, energy and water shortages, environmentally sustainable mineral resource development, an ageing population, stem cell research and many others
- the capability of universities, particularly research-intensive universities, to provide an inter-disciplinary systems approach to solving complex problems, to drive the innovation agenda and to assist industry to retain highly skilled personnel
- the need for the full funding of research in the resource-intensive Engineering disciplines to rejuvenate the economy and sustain its further development.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR Go8 STUDENTS IN CHINA

As part of ongoing efforts to internationalise its campus, one of the leading research universities in China, Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) has offered scholarships to students of Go8 member universities to attend a week long summer school in late July this year. In order to receive the scholarship, students will need to be nominated by the institution at which he/she is currently enrolled and apply online by 30 May 2009.



Harbin Institute of Technology  
China

To apply, visit <http://cr.hit.edu.cn/hit/default.asp>. For further information contact Jane Liang in the Go8 office: [jane.liang@go8.edu.au](mailto:jane.liang@go8.edu.au).

## Go8 DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

The inaugural Go8 Directors' Conference on 28–29 May 2009 will bring together the various Go8 committees operating at director level with a view to developing shared awareness of the changing policy context in which universities operate, build new collaborations and develop cost sharing initiatives in line with the key objectives of the Go8.

Directors will be encouraged to consider and discuss how these decisions, as well as key government policy drivers such as equity, standards and graduate outcomes, research excellence (ERA) and activity based costing (linked to funding the indirect costs of research), will impact on communication and collaboration across the Go8 network.

Attendance is by invitation only. A detailed program is available to download from the events section of the Go8 website. [www.go8.edu.au](http://www.go8.edu.au)



Woodward Centre  
The University of Melbourne

## KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY CONFERENCE DISCOUNT

Staff of Go8 member universities are entitled to a 10% discount when registering for the "Developing the Knowledge Economy" conference on 4–5 August 2009 in Melbourne.

The conference, hosted by The University of Melbourne and the Business Higher Education Roundtable, aims to provide participants with:

- A global economic outlook on the knowledge economy
- International perspectives on the meaning of "third stream activities"

- Views on public policy and partnerships with government
- Sessions on successfully developing knowledge sectors through third stream activities in the current economic downturn

The Go8 discount also applies to the early bird registration which closes on 29 May.

To download the registration form designed for Go8 member staff please visit: <http://www.informa.com.au/download/Informa-DKE-P09I41G8.pdf>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Board meets on 28 May in Melbourne
- Go8 Directors' Conference on 28–29 May in Melbourne
- Go8 DVCs Research meet on 18–19 June in Adelaide
- Go8 Deans of Medicine meet on 14 July in Canberra
- Go8 Deans of Arts meet on 15 July in Canberra
- Go8 Directors International meet on 17 July in Melbourne

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Go8 update is published on-line to keep the Go8 network of committees and staff at Go8 universities informed about the organisation's activities. It is available at [www.go8.edu.au](http://www.go8.edu.au).

## CONTACT US

The Group of Eight Limited, Group of Eight House  
Level 2, 101 Northbourne Ave, Turner ACT 2612  
PO Box 6229, O'Connor ACT 2602  
Tel +61 (0)2 6239 5488 | Fax +61 (0)2 6239 5808  
[www.go8.edu.au](http://www.go8.edu.au)