

No. 257 • November 25, 2016
V0-idw

PRESS RELEASE

PRESE-INFO

University of Giessen intensifies cooperation with strategic partners in China and Australia

JLU delegation visits China – bilateral and trilateral cooperation agreements signed

In the framework of its new Internationalisation Strategy, Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) is strengthening its ties to leading research universities in China and Australia. In the endeavour to intensify cooperation in teaching and research with renowned partners in China, a delegation of twelve from Giessen visited Jilin University in Changchun and the Sichuan University in Chengdu. Alongside JLU President Prof. Dr. Mukherjee, the Giessen delegation comprised Prof. Dr. Henning Lobin (Special Envoy for China appointed by the Executive Board of JLU), Julia Volz (Head of the International Office of JLU), and representatives from the subject areas of Climate Research, Physics and Veterinary Medicine.

The visit, which took place from 20 to 23 November 2016, culminated in the signing of an agreement between the University of Giessen, Jilin University and Macquarie University Sydney. This first institutionalisation of a trilateral cooperation between JLU and partner universities in China and Australia began with a symposium with delegations from JLU and Macquarie University Sydney at Jilin University. On the basis of the talks in China, cooperation will now be further developed in selected focus areas.

“Macquarie University is one of the most international and best research universities in Australia,” said JLU President Prof. Mukherjee. “We have been working together extremely well for over 15 years and I am very grateful to the Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, Bruce Downton, for the impetus he gave during our talks in Giessen in the summer that led to the trilateral agreement.”

JLU President Prof. Mukherjee and the Head of the International Office, Julia Volz, are both convinced that, after intensive scrutiny at the preparatory stage, excellent Chinese partner universities have been found to match JLU’s profile. “Jilin University is the largest university in China, which in itself makes it attractive as a partner. Chinese government investment in university programmes 211 and 985 is a further enhancement. Our new partner universities in China are an invaluable addition to the JLU international network,” says Volz. “We are proud to have put our regional strategy for China into practice.”

In addition to the trilateral agreement, bilateral cooperation agreements between JLU and Jilin University and JLU and Sichuan University were signed by university heads Joybrato Mukherjee and Prof. Yuanyuan Li of Jilin University and Prof. Hong Li, Executive Vice President of Sichuan University. The new agreements are the foundation for close cooperation in teaching and research and for a student exchange programme.

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Prof. Lobin also comes to a positive conclusion after the visit to China. "China is not only an important partner for Germany in economic terms, but also for academic scientific research. At both Jilin University and Sichuan University, we have met excellent scientists who are very keen to work with JLU. Our talks gave us the opportunity to discuss concrete projects and I am sure that our visit and the signing of the cooperation agreement were an excellent launch to our collaboration."

Photos



Trilateral cooperation is signed by JLU President Prof. Joybrato Mukherjee, Yuanyuan Li, President Jilin University, and Tim Beresford, Executive Vice Chancellor Macquarie University.

Photo: Jilin University



Bilateral cooperation is signed by JLU President Prof. Joybrato Mukherjee und Prof. Hong Li, Executive Vice President Sichuan University.

Photo: Sichuan University

Further Information

<http://www.uni-giessen.de/international-pages/intstrategy>

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Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU), founded in 1607, is a research university steeped in tradition. Today, it attracts more than 28,000 students. The university offers a huge spread of subjects, ranging from the traditional Sciences to Law and Economics, from Social and Educational sciences to Languages and Cultural Studies. It is unique, not only in Hesse, for the comprehensive spectrum within the life sciences – Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences, Environmental Management and Food Chemistry. JLU is famous for a long history of illustrious teachers and researchers, including Nobel Prize winners such as Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (Nobel Prize for Physics, 1901) and Wangari Maathai (Nobel Prize for Peace, 2004). Since 2006, the university has received funding in the Excellence Initiative (Excellence Cluster Cardio-Pulmonary System – ECCPS; International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture – GCSC).