

Press release



Higher Education Organisations team up to launch EU-Asia Higher Education Platform

EUA, DAAD, and Nuffic Consortium selected by Commission for multi-faceted new project

February 2008. A consortium of three major higher education organisations – the European University Association (EUA), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic) – has been selected by the European Commission to establish an *EU-Asia Higher Education Platform* for European and Asian academics and policy makers.

The Platform is part of the EU's Asia Link programme, which aims to promote cooperation in the field of higher education between Europe and developing countries in Asia. The purpose of the two-year project is to:

- Provide a means for enhancing information exchange, dialogue, and cooperation in higher education and research between the two regions,
- Develop best practices for institutional development and cooperation, and foster mobility of students and academics between the two regions,
- Draw attention to the role and situation of universities in developing countries.

Throughout the course of 2008-9, a series of workshops and round tables in Asia and Europe will be organized, targeting institutional development and cooperation issues. Amongst the themes that are expected to be covered will be higher education governance and management, decentralization, cooperation in graduate education, and interregional and inter-institutional cooperation in quality assurance.

One of the key tools in developing the Platform will be the creation of an interactive website that will act as an information and communication portal. In addition, two major-higher education fairs will be held in Asia, mirroring a successful series of EU-funded European Higher Education Fairs that have been taking place over the past 2 years.

EUA will lead the consortium which will launch its first events in autumn 2008.

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EUA

The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

DAAD

The DAAD is a joint organisation of Germany's higher education institutions and is responsible for promoting international academic relations, primarily through the exchange of students, academics and researchers. The DAAD is the agency responsible for raising the international profile of Germany's higher education institutions and simultaneously serves as a "mediating organisation" in the government's foreign, European, development and higher education policies.

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Nuffic

Nuffic is the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education. It works in line with Dutch government policy to serve students and higher education institutions in three key areas:

- Capacity Building & Scholarships: administrating international mobility programmes (scholarships) and institutional cooperation programmes;
- Communication: providing information about higher education systems in the Netherlands and in other countries; providing credential evaluation services; providing information in the Netherlands about studying abroad, and in other countries about studying in Holland; promoting Dutch higher education in other countries; encouraging international mobility;
- Knowledge & Innovation: conducting studies into international cooperation in higher education; providing information to expert groups and consultation forums; transferring our knowledge of international cooperation in higher education through courses and seminars.

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