01 Meetings, changes and the IEAA
Since the last TNE newsletter, my work at RMIT has included travelling overseas to meet some of the University’s established TNE partners. This provided a good opportunity for me to meet our partners in Singapore and Hong Kong and to renew connections and build on these relationships. The visits also gave me the chance to further explore RMIT’s work and future challenges in this area. In the near future I look forward to meeting more of our valued TNE partners around the globe.

One change since the last newsletter is my title, which has changed from Pro Vice-Chancellor, International and Development, to Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, International and Development. The review and implementation of new titles for senior executives at RMIT has happened across the University and not just for the International and Development Portfolio.

My title may have changed but my commitment to internationalisation at RMIT and working with you to determine the shape of our future international profile has not. I am committed to working with all our partners to build strong and lasting relationships.

As well as my role at RMIT, I am also currently President of the International Education Association Australia (IEAA). The IEAA is Australia’s leading international education professional organisation. It is made up of individuals from all education sectors – university, vocational education, schools and English language – as well as individuals in government and the corporate/business sector concerned with international education.

The IEAA aims to work in close collaboration with governments and their instrumentalities, industry peak bodies, corporate and commercial interests. Its work is intended to complement the work of other groups within the International Education field in Australia to further enhance Australia’s reputation in International Education.

Previously based at Swinburne University, when I worked there, the IEAA is now based at RMIT’s city campus. To find out more please refer to the IEAA website at www.ieaa.org.au

I look forward to meeting up with more TNE partners shortly.

Best regards
Stephen Connelly
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President
International and Development

02 Introduction of myRMIT
In the March 2010 edition of the TNE Newsletter partners were advised of the move to myRMIT which gives students access to key information and resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week. RMIT University students can now access myRMIT at www.rmit.edu.au/myrmitstudies

Through myRMIT we welcome students to the RMIT student community wherever in the world they might be studying. Once logged in with their RMIT username and password, students will have access to:

» course and program information
» online learning and study tools (through Blackboard)
» RMIT student email account
» library resources
» Enrolment Online for your results
» Student Information Guide
» RMIT forms for students.

myRMIT replaces the Learning Hub for learning materials. Students are urged to bookmark myRMIT as their number one point of access to study resources.
03 Vocational Training Council (VTC) Delegation

RMIT has been delivering engineering programs in partnership with VTC’s School for Higher and Professional Education in Hong Kong since 2005. From 12–14 May 2010 RMIT hosted a delegation of senior executive and academic staff from VTC to explore opportunities for further collaboration on new higher education programs, student articulation into degree programs in Melbourne, research linkages and staff professional development.

The RMIT-VTC engineering programs have recently been awarded full accreditation by both Engineers Australia and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE). RMIT’s engineering degree is to date the only foreign university engineering degree to be accorded this status by the HKIE.

Members of the VTC delegation visiting one of the Engineering labs on campus:
Dr Lam TS, RMIT BEng (Electrical Engineering) Program Coordinator; Dr. Lawrence Chan, Principal and Academic Director of Engineering; Mr Joseph Lee; Associate Academic Director of Engineering Discipline and Head, Department of Construction; Mr Chan Chi Ming, Head, Department of Construction. Also in the photograph are staff from RMIT’s School of Electrical and Computer Engineering including Dr. Thurai Vinay, Program Director; Hong Kong, Prof Ian Burnett, Head of School and Prof Roy Ferguson, Associate Head, Teaching and Learning.

04 Symposium on Singapore’s Enhanced Registration Framework

On 20 May 2010 the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) – Australia’s peak body for professionals working in international education – held a half day symposium in Melbourne to discuss Singapore’s new Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF). The symposium provided information on the new regulatory environment in Singapore, and its effect on the delivery of transnational education programs, by sharing the experiences of Singaporean private education institutions and Australian universities that have been involved in the early registration submissions and audits.

Around 30 representatives from Australian institutions in Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria attended a very informative afternoon. Representatives from Singaporean private education institutions were unable to attend, but feedback on their experiences was obtained and presented. Thank you to RMIT’s partner institutions in Singapore who were able to provide feedback on their experiences with the new framework. Particular thanks to Richard Soh, from SMa Institute for Higher Learning, for sharing a PowerPoint presentation that provided some very useful background information for attendees.

05 Application to Graduate online

All students studying with our offshore partners are now able to apply to graduate online by going to the RMIT graduation website at www.rmit.edu.au/graduation and logging into the graduation database. The website has a range of useful information including details about the graduation process, key cut off dates for online application, and the dates of graduation ceremonies both on and offshore.

06 New special consideration process for students

Students are now able to apply for special consideration for their academic assessment online at www.rmit.edu.au/students/specialconsideration

This new online application process gives students the flexibility to apply for special consideration on or off-campus, and the ability to submit their entire application from anywhere with internet access.

The benefits of the new special consideration online application process include:
- time savings for students with the ability to apply anywhere with internet access
- enhanced options with students able to submit an entire application, including supporting documentation, online
- ability for students to upload their supporting documentation in a later session to their online application
- improved administrative functions and response times by requiring students to submit their application once all mandatory assessment fields have been completed.

If necessary, students will still be able to apply for special consideration using the paper-based process and submit it via email or fax.

There are no changes to the current special consideration criteria, timelines or special consideration policy.

Relevant RMIT partner staff can be copied on acknowledgement and outcome emails related to online applications for special consideration. Please provide your email contact details to the relevant school in Melbourne if you wish to be copied on these.

For more information about special consideration and the online application process, please refer students to the special consideration web page.