

The 5th Eurasia-Pacific Uninet Plenary Meeting in Vienna

The International Assembly of Eurasia-Pacific Uninet at the 5th Plenary Meeting took place September 16 - 20, 2015 in Vienna, Austria

Four preceding meetings have been held in China, so EPU considered it to be a challenge to invite the participants also to Austria. As a location the so-called Billroth-House, the official convention site of the Austrian Medical Association was chosen. We considered it to be a chance to show the famous history of the so-called Viennese School of Medicine.

Long preparations from the decision to all the announcements were necessary to achieve the final meeting. A cost effective and still attractive meeting was to be met. Announcements and information were released. For the numerous participants from all our member countries invitations had to be issued. Sometimes lengthy processes were required to get permissions for a leave from the home country. The help of the Austrian authorities in Beijing for issuing the visas is highly appreciated.

The administrative work was done by the head office in Vienna and the project managers in China and Mongolia. Particular inputs came from the art section and the music universities.

The arrival of the guests was welcomed at a Get together in the Old Chapel at the Campus of Vienna University. Different glimpses are given here.

The next day so the opening of the meeting at the Billroth House. Representatives of the Ministries gave us the honour as well as the diplomatic representations from China, Russia and Austria. The OeAD was represented by its director. Vice Minister Vice Minister Mag. Barbara Weitgruber representing the Federal Ministry of Science Research and Economy honoured the activities of the network. The Chinese diplomat for research Prof Dr. Weiguo Dong as was glad to see these long lasting activities with China. As well Dr. Zotti was glad to look back at such a fruitful cooperation.



The morning was continued with a Presentation of the genesis of Eurasia Pacific Uninet 15 years ago by the long term Founder and President Prof. Brigitte Winklehner who had created this network. The current state and general activities of the projects, fellowships and summer schools was explained by Prof Rausch as the current president. Summer school activities are run by the university of Salzburg and were presented by Mag. Suchanek and Mag. Imbric.

In the afternoon the centres were presented, a concept of Eurasia-Pacific where specific universities take over the work to cultivate specific topics of cooperation in more depth. Agriculture, medical, traditional medicine, but as well technically oriented centres have been established.

Newly joined member universities presented their activities and interests in network cooperation. Shortly list a few if not too long.

The evening ended with a family get together at a typical Austrian Heurigen, a place where the Viennese believe most decisions are made. Certainly it offered a great chance to meet old and make new friends.

The next morning was met with general concepts how to continue cooperations. In general a role of all the partners was underlined. Particularly the great potential lying on the Chinese side to support scientific and academic cooperations with Europe was discussed.

The afternoon was given to discussion groups split into: Working Sessions in Natural Sciences, Technical Sciences, Group, Economics, Law, Health and Medicine and Social Sciences and Humanities and Culture and Music. The results of these groups were integrated into a final conclusion. The Farewell Dinner took place at the Palais Lobkowitz. A gala dinner was surrounded by artistic presentations of Viennese music arias presented by the leader of the Summer school events Mag. Suchanek and a renowned music group.

The historic background being the place where at the turn to the 19th century was a guest to this palais and his famous Eroica is actually dedicated to Franz Joseph Maximilian von Lobkowitz, a famous patron of the musician. Exactly this Eroica hall formed the background of our Farewell meeting. The world-renowned Wiener Musikverein also started off from exactly this palace.

Though some participants had to leave after the presentations room was given to getting together and discussing further steps by presenting the Vienna University, with its famous library, the Hall of Fame and an excursion to the Burgenland country side. The final day was dedicated to Austrian culture. Next to visiting the Wachau, a baroque jewel along the Danube river, universities in Krems were visited. The Monastery of Göttweig helped to understand the importance of the Church and religious life to shape Austrian education and culture. Passing by Dürnstein and other scenic places in the Wachau, the visit and the meeting ended with the baroque Melk Abbey a spiritual and cultural centre, which can look back at thousand years of Austrian history, both by the Babenberg and Habsburg families.

The participants departed for their home countries, looking forward to another plenary meeting in 2018, though with ongoing intense cooperations in between within the Eurasia-Pacific Network.







