



Center for World-Class Universities
Graduate School of Education
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Shanghai, China

4th International Conference on World-Class Universities (WCU-4)

October 30 - November 2, 2011
Shanghai, China

(First Circular)

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Sponsored by



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Introduction

In the past decade, the term “world-class university” has become a catchphrase. Not simply because it represents excellence in teaching and research, but more importantly because it also signifies university’s capacity to compete in the age of global higher education marketplace. Consequently, many national governments have developed policies and special initiatives to promote and support the creation of “world-class university”, and an increasing number of universities have included becoming “world-class” in their mission statements and have begun implementing various measures.

It is in the above mentioned context that the 1st International Conference on World-Class Universities (WCU-1) was initiated and organized in June 2005 by the Center for World-Class Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Subsequently, the 2nd and 3rd International Conference on World-Class Universities (WCU-2 and WCU-3) were convened in 2007 and 2009 respectively. These conferences have attracted hundreds of participants, including university presidents, government officials, top scholars and policy researchers, from more than 40 countries.

Contributions to previous WCU conferences are indexed in Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Social Science and Humanities (CPCI-SSH) by *Web of Science*. Three volumes of WCU conferences proceedings are:

WCU-1: *The World-Class University and Ranking: Aiming beyond Status.*

WCU-2: *The World-Class University as Part of a New Higher Education Paradigm: From Institutional Qualities to Systemic Excellence.*

WCU-3: *Paths to a World-Class University.*

The Center for World-Class Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University is pleased to announce that **the 4th International Conference on World-Class Universities (WCU-4) will be held from October 30 to November 2, 2011 in Shanghai, China** [arrival on October 30 and recommended departure on November 2]. The conference will again bring together researchers, university leaders, policy makers and other stake-holders from various regions to discuss major developments related directly and indirectly to world-class universities.

Themes

The theme of WCU-4 is “**Different Approaches to a Shared Goal**”. The conference sessions will address the issues concerning World-Class Universities from national perspective, institutional perspective and ranking perspective. More specifically, the WCU-4 will address, but will not be limited to, the following topics:

From National Perspective:

- The latest national policies and initiatives to promote universities excellence
- The contribution of WCU to their national development and welfare
- The benefits and challenges of building WCU in developing countries

From Institutional Perspective:

- Successful experiences in pursuing WCU status
- Forming and sustaining win-win relationships with potential rivals
- Overcoming financial challenges in managing WCU

From Ranking Perspective:

- Elements of WCU as reflected in ranking indicators
- The impact of global rankings on national policies and institutional practice
- The rational and constructive use of rankings

Call for Papers

Participants interested in presenting a contribution in one of above-mentioned areas are kindly asked to submit an abstract of up to 2,000 words by April 1, 2011. The Program Committee of WCU-4 will make selection of received proposals to be presented at the conference.

The author[s] of selected papers will be informed by June 1, 2011 through email and are kindly requested to submit the full text of the respective paper by September 1, 2011 so that drafts of selected papers can be distributed during the conference.

Registration

Registration for WCU-4 will open by March 30, 2011. The full registration fee for each participant will be US\$1,000, early registration fee [before August 1, 2011] will be US\$800. Included in the registration fee are conference reader, lunches and coffee-breaks, reception and official dinner of the conference, souvenirs, and sightseeing.

Venue and Accommodation

The conference venue and hotels for conference participants will be announced soon on the WCU-4 conference website (<http://gse.sjtu.edu.cn/WCU/WCU-4.htm>).

Working Language

English is the language of the conference.

Contacts

For up-to-date information, please visit the conference website at:
<http://gse.sjtu.edu.cn/WCU/WCU-4.htm>

For additional information please contact:

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