

TEQSA legislation referred to Senate Committee

The Go8 welcomes Minister Evans' announcement that the legislation establishing the tertiary education regulator (TEQSA) introduced to Parliament in March will be referred to a senate committee inquiry.

The Go8 continues to support consistent national regulation of higher education which will guarantee public confidence in the quality of providers and uphold the integrity of degrees.

The Group of Eight will make a submission to the Senate Inquiry and looks forward to working with Government and Universities Australia to prepare amendments to the legislation that address outstanding concerns about self accreditation for universities.

Submissions to the Senate Inquiry are due by 13 April 2011.

www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/teqsa/info.htm

Go8 Directors' event

The Go8 offers a trusted network through which ideas and expertise are shared. Various committees of Go8 directors meet regularly to share information and ideas and to work jointly on projects.

The first Go8 Directors' event, held in Melbourne in May 2009, brought together the various director groups (commercialisation, human resources, international, research, data sharing and more) with a view to developing understanding, increasing operating efficiency and improving collaboration across the Go8 network.

The next event will be held at UNSW in Sydney on 25 May. Sessions on the changing operating environment for Australian universities, university/business interactions and Go8 strategic directions will include university Vice-Chancellors as well as senior representatives from government and industry.

Due to venue capacity attendance is by invitation only. The draft program is available to download: www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/events/go8-directors-event-2011

Go8 DAAD scheme call for applications

The Go8 has announced a new call for applications under its joint research exchange scheme with Germany.

Since 2007 the Go8-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme has provided around AUD4 million to support research exchange between Australia and Germany. The scheme has a particular focus on opportunities for early career researchers.

"The DAAD is one of the world's largest and most respected organisations in international academic cooperation," said Go8 Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield.

"In its first four years the scheme has provided funding for 113 projects on issues ranging from renewable energy and emissions trading to ageing and integration of migrants.

"The Go8 recognises Germany's outstanding record in research and innovation and we hope that together we will be able to generate economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for both our nations".

Applications close on 30 June 2011. Further details including application, selection procedures and a comprehensive list of projects funded since 2007 are available from the Go8 website: www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-and-fellowships-1/go8-germany-joint-research-co-operation-scheme



*John Niland Scientia Building
The University of New South Wales*

What is it that makes a community?



Dr Jaroslav Miller
Go8 European Fellow 2010

Urban historian and sociologist Jaroslav Miller came to Australia from the Czech Republic to help him find out.

"There is a rich tradition of debate on the sociology of community in Australia," said Dr Miller, who has been a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies since October 2010. His research is funded with a Group of Eight European Fellowship.

"One of the most commonly-used words in Australian newspapers is community and yet there is no consensus among historians and sociologists on what community actually is," he said.

Is the sense of community stronger in Australia because it is a relatively new and young society, compared with society in European cities?

"Perhaps so," Dr Miller said. "A lot of literature on Australian communities is related to migration. So how do we form a community, a neighbourhood, with so many different people? How do we make unity out of diversity?"

He said these were especially important questions in Australia with its multicultural society and that he hoped to find some answers here.

"A significant sideline of my research here has been an approach from Czech communities in Perth and in other parts of Australia. Most of them fled from the old Czechoslovakia in the 1940s or in the 1960s. There were two waves of political refugees.

"They would like me to do some work on the communities of Czech exiles in Australia. So I might be back," he said.

Dr Miller will return to Palacky University in Olomouc, the capital of Moravia, in April 2011.

The Go8 offers eight annual fellowships to early career researchers in Europe to work in Go8 universities for up to six months. The Fellowships are open to eligible researchers in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia. For the first time they will be open to applicants from Russia in 2011.

www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-and-fellowships-1/go8-european-fellowships

With thanks to UWA for permission to reproduce this article from the *UWA News*, 21 March 2011.

CONFERENCE SUPPORT

Staff of Go8 universities will receive a 10% discount on registration for the upcoming higher education conferences.

International Education Strategy 19-20 July in Melbourne

To register email executive.director@go8.edu.au to receive the form or register online with the code CC*GO8. www.internationaleducationstrategy.com/index.php

Measuring and Enabling University Research and Innovation Capacity 26-27 July in Sydney

Quote CC*GO8 to receive the 10% discount. www.uniresearchinnovation.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Chief Financial Officers meet in Melbourne on 1 April
- Go8 Deans of Engineering meet in Auckland on 7-8 April
- Go8 Research Directors meet in Canberra on 12-13 April
- Go8 Future Research Leaders Program workshop, 13-14 April
- Go8 DVCs Research meet in Canberra on 14 April
- Go8 Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, addresses the National Press Club in Canberra on 4 May
- Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies meet in Perth on 4 May
- Go8 Advancement Directors meet in Sydney on 24 May
- Go8 Commercialisation Directors meet in Sydney on 24 May
- Go8 Marketing Directors meet in Sydney on 24 May
- Go8 Social Inclusion Strategy Group meet in Sydney 24 May
- Go8 Directors' event in Sydney on 25 May
- Go8 Board meeting in Sydney on 26 May
- Go8 Data Sharing Network meets in Sydney on 26 May
- Go8 Human Resources Directors meet in Sydney on 26 May

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The *Go8 Update* is published online to keep the Go8 network of committees and staff at Go8 universities informed about the organisation's activities.

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