New Strategic Alliance of Chinese and European Schools

On the 31st of May 2013 in Angers, France, ESSCA School of Management inaugurated the new Alliance of Chinese and European Business Schools (ACE). Twenty universities and colleges are the founding members of the alliance, which is under the patronage of EFMD.

Already since 2012, Wei Shen (Associate Dean for China at ESSCA) and Chong Li (Director EFMD Asia) have been combining efforts to create this important project.

“The sharing of experiences and exchanges around the internationalisation and the future development of teaching and research are the keystones,” says Catherine Leblanc, Director General of ESSCA Group.

On May 31st, the inaugural ceremony was held in the presence of

- Yansheng Ma, Minister Counsellor for Education, Chinese Embassy in Paris
- Stéphane Chipponi, Sous-Préfet of Maine et Loire
- Professor Cheng Siwei, Dean of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Management School (former Vice-President of the National People’s Congress of China)
- Prof. Eric Cornuel CEO & Director General of EFMD

"For over 40 years EFMD has been involved in raising the standards of management education around the globe. Through accreditation, conferences, seminars and research EFMD has been a key element in the internationalisation of business education. All of the ACE Alliance partners are active members of EFMD and we wholeheartedly support this initiative and give it our full support," said Prof. Eric Cornuel, CEO & Director General of EFMD.

ACE will focus on academic excellence and the synergy between research and education in order to better prepare the next generation of executives. High-level representatives of
the 20 schools finalised the ACE consortium agreement in parallel Deans’ forum discussions. Planned activities include the establishment of a joint programme under the ACE label, exchanges of professors and students, projects and research conferences and the development of international skills modules. The initiative is closely linked to EFMD activities, whilst the commitment to quality improvement is assured. Already in the first year, ACE will provide a symposium on research and will lay the foundations for the first batch of students for a joint programme.

The ACE Founding Members are, under the patronage of EFMD:

- Antwerp Management School (Belgium),
- Beijing Jiao Tong University (China),
- Chinese Academy of Sciences (China),
- EBS Business School (Germany),
- ESSCA School of Management (France),
- Gothenburg University (Sweden),
- Harbin Institute of Technology (China),
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong),
- Leeds University (UK),
- National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan),
- Northwestern Polytechnic University (China),
- MIP Politecnico di Milano (Italy),
- Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University (Netherlands),
- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (China),
- Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (China),
- Universidade Catolica Lisbon (Portugal),
- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia),
- University of Macau (Macau),
- VSE University of Economics Prague (Czech Republic),
- Xiamen University (China).
PolyU Hosts Alliance of Chinese and European Business School (ACE)
Deans Forum 2014

The Alliance of Chinese and European Business Schools (ACE) was officially inaugurated in May 2013. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), a founding member of the Alliance, hosted the 2014 Deans Forum in Hong Kong on 11 to 12 July.

In his address, Professor Edwin Cheng, Dean of PolyU’s Faculty of Business, said it was a good time for the members to sit together again after ACE’s inaugural meeting a year ago. “This is also an ideal opportunity for us to go over with each other what we have done since we first met, to see if we are going in the right direction, to evaluate our progress, to decide on refinements, and to plan for the future.” He added.

Professor Wei Shen, founding co-chair and convenor of the ACE Alliance and Associate Dean of ESSCA’s School of Management, remarked that it was a perfect occasion for members to move forward, to get more involved and realise concrete projects. He said that commitment and input from each member would be valuable at this stage and encouraged participants to voice their comments, obstacles and limitations.

Professor Christian Delporte, Senior Advisor on Business School Services & Quality Services of EFMD, was pleased to see the establishment of ACE which deepens
relationships of the 20 member schools and realisation of the Alliance’s mission – excellence in management education. He also commented on benefits of Alliance activities including joint student exchange programmes, collaborative research initiatives and institutional networking.

ACE focuses on academic excellence and the synergy between research and education to better prepare the next generation of executives for future challenges. Deans at the forum reviewed ongoing activities and explored internal governance, cross-school research collaboration, joint academic program, brand identity and future direction. They also agreed to pursue joint projects and set new priorities.

During this forum, a steering committee was set up.

ACE members attending the Deans Forum
ACE Steering Committee members

* The newly set up steering committee is made up of:

**Chairman** – Professor Edwin Cheng, Dean of PolyU’s Faculty of Business

**Vice Chairman** – Professor Andrea Sianesi, Associate Dean for Internationalisation of MIP - Politecnico di Milano

**Elected Member** – Professor Dan Yang, Vice-President of Southwestern University of Finance and Economics

**Treasurer** – Ms Xue Liping, Associate Dean of the College of Business, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

**Secretary** – Dr Alison E. Lloyd, Associate Dean (External Relations and Development) of PolyU’s Faculty of Business

**Founding Co – Chair and Convenor of the ACE Alliance** – Professor Wei Shen, Associate Dean of ESSCA’s School of Management

**EFMD Representative** – Professor Christian Delporte, Senior Advisor on Business School Services & Quality Services of EFMD
ACE Deans’ meeting  
17 – 18 July 2015

Meeting organized by Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

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<td>Qiusheng Zhang</td>
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<td>Alma Elezovič</td>
<td>Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana</td>
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Friday, 17 July 2015

9.00am – 10.30pm  Working session 1:

Welcome by Prof Edwin Cheng and Prof Metka Tekavčič
Moderator: Prof Wei Shen

- ACE update – Prof Wei Shen  Faculty of Economics
- EFMD update – Prof Christian Delporte
- Implementation of ACE mission, vision and values -
  Prof Edwin Cheng
- ACE Secretariat – Prof Shilei Yang

10.30am  Coffee break

11.00am – 13.00om  Working session:

- Proposal for quality charter and its implementation -
  Chaired by Mrs Danijela Voljč & Ms Alm Elezović
- ACE membership and maintaining the quality
  Chaired by Prof Andrea Sianesi

13.00pm – 14.00pm  Lunch

14.00pm – 16.00pm  Working session 2:

Chair: Prof Metka Tekavčič, and Prof Qiusheng Zhang

- Financial management  Faculty of Economics
- ACE Network attributes: website, visibility – e.g.
  EAIE 2015, APAIE 2016 etc., projects development

19.00pm  Networking evening/ Taste of Slovenia

Atrium of Faculty of Economics or Ljubljana castle
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| 9.00am – 10.30pm | **Working session 3:**  
  *Chair: Prof Wei Shen*  
  *ACE Master Programme and working plan 2016*  
  *Faculty of Economics* |                    |
| 10.30 – 10.45 | Coffee break                                                       |                    |
| 10.45 – 12.15 | **Working session 4:**  
  *Chair: Prof Edwin Cheng and Prof Andrea Sianesi*  
  *factors impacting on future of alliance: personal and institutional commitment, size, roles and functions, management structure, vision* |                    |
| 12.15pm – 13.00pm | Break with refreshments                                          | *Faculty of Economics* |
| 13.00pm      | Trip to Bled                                                       |                    |
| 19.00pm      | **Farewell dinner**  
  *Hosted by Prof Metka Tekavčič* | *Vila Podvin / Bled* |
ACE Deans Meeting 2016 Held in Beijing Jiaotong University

6-8 June 2016

Wednesday 6 June
Register

Wednesday 7 June

9:30 Working Session 1 – Introduction and Annual Review Introduction - Prof Edwin Cheng, Hong Kong PolyU EFMD Update – Prof Christian Delporte, EFMD Chair: Prof Qiusheng Zhang, BJTU

10:00 Coffee Break

10:15 Working Session 2 – ACE Master Chaired by Prof Andrea Sianesi, MIP Milan
   Structure of the program
   Cooperation mechanism
   Marketing and recruitment
   Actions for 1st intake of students

12:45 Lunch

14:00 Working Session 3 – Financial Management and Marketing Chaired by Prof Liping Xue, SUFE and Prof Pamsy Hui, PolyU
   Membership fees report by FELU
   Revision of membership (non-active members)
   Presentation of ACE website by BJTU
   Proposal for marketing and branding strategy

15:00 Tea/Coffee Break

16-17:00 Lecture on China’s One Belt One Road Strategy and Opportunities for Business/International Cooperation Prof WU Jianhong, Beijing Jiaotong University

17-17:30 Experiences on EU funding on academic/research cooperation Prof Metka Tekavčič, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Ljubljana

Wednesday 8 June

09:00 Working Session 4 – Organisational Matters Chaired by Prof Edwin Cheng, PolyU
Roles of ACE Secretariat
Steering Committee process
Future Development
Internal communication

10:00 Tea/Coffee Break

10:15 Working Session 5 – Planning and Action for 2016/2017 Chaired by Prof Wei Shen, ESSCA / ACE
Nomination of new Steering Committee
Nomination of host member for 2017 Deans’ Meeting
Research Conference/Meetings
ACE Summer School
ACE Week
Any other business

11:45 Transfer to Beijing Jiaotong University

12:45 Lunch at Uplace Café

14:00 BJTU 120th Anniversary and ACE Special Event: EU-China Research Partnership Forum Welcome Remarks by Prof Ning Bing, President of BJTU and Prof Wei Shen, Jean Monnet Chair in EU-China Relations

14:10 Keynote Address on Horizon 2020 and Co-funding Mechanism Dr Laurent Bochereau, Science Counsellor EU Delegation to China and Mongolia

14:30 Researchers’ Mobility: Erasmus+, MSCA and ERC Alexandra Lehmann, Attaché EU Delegation to China and Mongolia

14:45 EURAXESS: Your Gateway to European Research Andrea Střelcová, EURAXESS China Country Representative

15:00 Photo-session and Tea/coffee break

15:30 Beijing Jiaotong University’s success with EU 7th Framework

15:45 ERC Success Story - “Trade Networks, Consumption and Cultural Exchanges in Macau and Marseille, 1680-1840” Dr Manuel Peréz, ERC Starting Grant Holder

16:00 The Evaluator’s Perspective on Europe-China Research Funding Prof Wei Shen, Jean Monnet Chair in EU-China Relations

16:10 Q&A
16:30 Closure of EU-China Research Partnership Forum and 2016 ACE Deans’ Meeting, Prof Qiusheng Zhang, BJTU and incoming President of ACE Steering Committee
2ACE Dean Meeting
11th of June 2017

Host: Rotterdam School of Management

Attending: Mr. Wei Shen (chair, ESSCA – School of Management),
Mr. Steef van de Velde (Erasmus University Rotterdam – School of Management),
Mr. Paul MatthysSENS (Antwerp Management School),
Ms. Dorinela Munteanu (Antwerp Management School),
Ms. Ellen Wang (University of Leeds Business School),
Mr. Andrea Sianesi (MIP Politecnico de Milano – Graduate School of Business),
Mr. Chao-Hsi Huang (National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan) – College of Technology Management),
Mr. Che Ada (Northwestern Polytechnical University – School of Management),
Mr. Christian Delporte (EFMD),
Mr. Guowei Hua (Beijing Jiaotong University – School of Economics and Management),
Mr. Jaohet Law (EFMD Global Network Asia),
Mr. Jiafel JIN (Harbin Institute of Technology – School of Management),
Mr. Keqin Wang (Northwestern Polytechnical University – School of Management),
Mr. Olof Johansson-Stenman (University of Gothenburg – School of Business, Economics and Law),
Mr. Peter Moizer (University of Leeds Business School),
Mr. Qiang YE (Harbin Institute of Technology – School of Management),
Mr. Qiusheng Zhang (Beijing Jiaotong University – School of Economics and Management),
Mr. Ricardo Reis (Universidade Catolica Portuguesa – School of Business and Economics),
Mr. Stephan Muller (University of Economics Prague – Faculty of International Relations),
Mr. Yang Wang (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics – School of Business Administration),
Mr. Ye Jianming (Xiamen University – School of Management),
Mr. Yi Lao (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics – School of Business),
Ms. Aisha de Valk (Erasmus University Rotterdam – Rotterdam School of Management),
Ms. Delia Olivetto (MIP Politecnico de Milano – Graduate School of Business),
Ms. Metka Tekavčič (University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Economics),
Ms. Muriel Jacquelin (ESSCA – School of Management),
Ms. Pamsy Hui (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University – Faculty of Business),
Ms. Xi Chen (Shanghai University of Finance and Economics – College of Business),
Ms. Ying Zhang (Erasmus University Rotterdam – Rotterdam School of Management),
Ms. Chang Zhu (Free University of Brussels)

1. Opening and welcome
Mr. Van de Velde welcomed all those present and opened the meeting.

2. Members and EFMD Update

3. ACE Programmes Developments

4. ACE students (MIP)

5. ACE Bachelor: Muriel Jacquelin

6. EU funded projects

7. New members

8. ACE Finance

9. ACE Communication plan

10. Task Force Updates

11. Closing

Next meetings

North Western Xian will organise the next Deans’ conference from 1 to 3 June 2018. The steering committee is invited to Xiamen in the winter of 2018. The exact dates will be announced soon. The EFMD meeting will be held from 6 to 8 June 2018 in Copenhagen.

Mr. Sianesi closed the meeting.
2018 Dean’s Meeting of ACE held successfully in NPU

From 2nd June to 3rd June, 2018, the Dean’s Meeting of ACE (Alliance of Chinese and European Business Schools) was held in Northwestern Polytechnical University, and supported by the school of management. More than 20 representatives from business schools of 17 famous universities in China and Europe, including the Dean or relevant person in charge, as well as the senior consultant of European Foundation for Management and Development (EFMD) participated in it. Deputy director of the international cooperation office of NPU, Zhang Fuli, the dean of the school of management, Che Ada, party secretary Li Xiaocong, deputy Dean Liu Chenguang and other officials attended the meeting.

During the two-days’ conference, participants had in-depth discussions on the (one-year work of ACE?), joint application for EU projects, co-selection of alliance members, as well as further promotion of exchanges and cooperation student program between Chinese and European business schools.

At the opening ceremony on the morning of 2nd June, Dean Che delivered the opening speech firstly, briefly introduced the development of the school and college and showed a warm welcome to the guests from home and abroad who gathered in Xi’an. Professor Andrea Sianesi, President of the alliance and Dean of the business school from MIP, reported the work of membership fee payment, membership change and joint application for EU projects in the past years, and had in-depth discussions with the participants.

On the afternoon of, members discussed and adopted the criteria and procedures for the selection of new members, discussed the cooperation project to be carried out with the European Foundation for Management and Development (EFMD) and the exchange
and cooperation project between the members of ACE and formed the work plan guidance for the next year. They also elected a new leadership team, Dean of Beijing Jiaotong University, and Zhang Qiu sheng was elected to be the new President of the alliance.

On 3rd June, the participants had an in-depth discussion on the cooperation and promotion of business school alliance under the theme of "The One Belt and One Road Initiative". The person in charge of the online education smart tree project introduced the MOOC project.

Zhang Fuli, deputy director of the international cooperation office of NPU attended the welcome dinner and introduced the construction and development of our university, especially the development of internationalization. He expected that through the alliance platform, the communication and cooperation between China and EU business schools could be further promoted and the cooperation could be extended to the in-depth cooperation between universities.

Representatives from home and abroad spoke highly of the success of this year’s meeting. They thanked the school of management for its careful preparation and organization, appreciated the international achievements of the school of management and expressed their willingness to promote and deepen cooperation with the school.

ACE is composed of the management Schools (Business Schools) of top 10 universities in the mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and 10 famous Business Schools in Europe. It is the first Business school Alliance established between China and Europe in the world. ACE aims to build an extensive cooperation platform for teacher exchange, scientific research cooperation, student leadership training and bilateral or multilateral cooperation among its members through the joint efforts of the two sides and resource sharing. The members of the alliance can use this platform to share educational experience, cooperate in the case of development and data collection, jointly study topics that have a significant impact on business practices, share teaching
materials, promote mutual visits of teachers and student exchanges, and further improve the teaching quality and scientific research level of business schools in China and Europe.