



Alliance of
Guangzhou International
Sister-City Universities



SEASON'S
GREETINGS

An Ideal Model of International Collaboration Among Universities Serving their Communities



GISU and Historical Overview

The city of Guangzhou has forged sister-city and friendly-city ties with 87 cities throughout the world. Over the years, the higher education sector of the Guangzhou Municipality has drawn tremendous support from these international friendships. These efforts have resulted in numerous exchanges and close cooperation. Guangzhou University, as the flagship university of Guangzhou, is proud to have formed strong partnerships with many of these international sister-city universities.

This international network in December 2018 took a new and exciting step with the formation of the GISU which attracts and leverages the academic resources of its members in close coordination for the sustainable development of its cities. In so doing, GISU will fulfill its mission of enhancing mutual understanding between Guangzhou and its friendship cities. GISU will encourage friendly inter-city visits which promote educational development and cultural exchanges between institutions of higher education in Guangzhou and those in its sister cities which foster mutual-benefits and promote cooperation and development. GISU has seven original members which included Guangzhou University, Linköping University, University of Coimbra, University of Padua, University of Quebec in Montreal, University of Tampere and Western Sydney University. GISU's current 13 member universities represent 12 countries and a total population of over 34 million people in the sister cities. With a combined student enrollment of almost 400,000 and 36,000 faculty and academic staff, GISU's great diversity of academic programs and research capacity represent the best of the world.

On the occasion of the celebrations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the friendship between Guangzhou and its international sister cities last October, Guangzhou University hosted the 2019 annual conference of GISU. At the same time, three international academic conferences were hosted to include the China-Canada Seminar on Culture, Tourism and Innovation: The Integration of Tourism and Heritage, the China-Sweden Urban Sustainable Development Seminar and the China-Italy Seminar on Protection of Cultural Heritage. The Inauguration Ceremony of the International Institute for the Study of Tourism and Culture Synergies, Innovation and Development and the China-Italy International Research Center for Protection of Historical Architectures and Cultural Relics were also presented. The members participating in the 2019 annual conference voted for the membership of Guangzhou Medical University, Middle East Technical University, Incheon National University and the University of the West of England in GISU. Members participating in the 2020 conference voted for the membership of the Ukrainian National University of Science and Technology and the Durban University of Technology. Members also celebrated the winners of the first consortium-wide Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition and approved two new exciting projects – a Digital Academy and Entrepreneurship Non-credit Capstone Course and Certificate.

Benefits of GISU include providing think-tank support for the development of its sister-cities; building a multilateral platform for friendly exchanges and cooperation among scholars of its sister-city universities; providing college students with more opportunities for international understanding, learning and exchanges; and creating opportunities among sister-city universities which facilitate credit recognition and transfer, strengthening interdisciplinary curriculum exchanges and promoting joint training efforts.

Challenged In 2020 by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping throughout the world, the member universities extended greetings and provided timely assistance to each other. Against the backdrop, and thanks to efforts put in place by every member university, the work of GISU has been carried out smoothly and friendship between the members have been strengthened in the joint fight against the epidemic. All members are committed to building GISU into an example of international university cooperation and exchange which serve the sustainable development of the cities and build a community with a shared future for mankind.





Be More Inclusive and Open While Seeking Further Cooperation and Development

Welcome and GISU Progress Report
at the Council Meeting of the Alliance 2020

(Guangzhou, December 2, 2020)
President Wei Minghai



Honorable council members, presidents, distinguished guests, colleagues and friends,

Good Afternoon! In this golden autumn and harvest season, on this beautiful campus of Guangzhou University located in Guangzhou, the Flower City of China, I would like to extend my warm greetings to all the guests attending the meeting.

On behalf of Guangzhou University, I would like to express my congratulations on the opening of this Council Meeting and extend my sincere welcome to all the council members, presidents, guests and friends. Welcome is also extended to the representatives from National Technical University of Ukraine and Durban University of Technology that would like to join our Alliance today.

I will now report to you on the work of the GISU Alliance.

1. Stand together to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and build the community of a shared future for mankind

The 2020 Council Meeting is convened under special circumstances while the Covid-19 pandemic is still raging throughout the world where it has brought suffering to people from different countries. During the most critical moment of China's prevention and control of this pandemic, we received letters of solidarity from our member universities such as Incheon National University, University of Padua and Western Sydney University. While the situation in China greatly improved but the virus spread rapidly globally, Guangzhou University arranged to quickly ship masks and other protective equipment to our sister-city universities. "A friend in need is a friend indeed" and our friendship has been enhanced in our cooperation to combat the pandemic.

2. Jointly organize the competition and forge new paths for student exchanges among Alliance members

As an important task of the Alliance in 2020, the first Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition has received positive feedback and active participation from our member universities. Against the backdrop of the prevention and control of the pandemic, we took the occasion of the competition to explore and forge a new way to promote youth exchanges among member universities and among Guangzhou International Sister Cities.

I am pleased to announce that after over four months of preliminaries and semi-finals, ten teams from four member universities, including Tampere University, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou Medical University and Incheon National University, entered into our final. In the online final competition yesterday afternoon, the Medified team from Tampere University won the gold award and five other teams from Guangzhou University and Tampere University won the silver and bronze awards. We would like to congratulate these excellent students and show our appreciation for their creativity and innovation!



3. Overcome difficulties and promote cooperation to seek common sustainable development

In 2020, we have implemented fruitful joint training of students and scientific collaboration among our member universities. Guangzhou University and the University of Padua have admitted a total of 39 students in the joint PhD training program since 2016. According to our latest statistics, nearly 570 scientific research articles have been jointly published by scholars with their counterparts from the GISU member universities in 2020. Among them, scholars from the University of Padua have collaborated with their counterparts of GISU member universities as co-authors of 201 articles, Middle East Technical University as co-authors of 135 articles, University of Coimbra as co-authors of 63 articles, Linköping University as co-authors of 45 articles and Guangzhou University as co-authors of 38 articles. In addition, scholars from Guangzhou University and the University of Padua have won funding from the European Union for two scientific research projects, funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Italian Ministry of Culture and Heritage for three collaborative projects.

In general, despite the pandemic over the past year, the work of the Alliance has proceeded as scheduled and reached our expected goals with the joint efforts and active cooperation among our GISU member universities.

On November 23, 2020, Guangzhou University celebrated the 20th anniversary of its merger. We have successively received more than 100 congratulatory letters and videos from both domestic and international universities including the GISU member universities which recognized the progress Guangzhou University has made over the past 20 years and extended best wishes for its future development. On behalf of Guangzhou University, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you.

"Opening-up in running a school" is an important education philosophy of Guangzhou University. At a new starting point of 20 years since its merger, Guangzhou University will accelerate its pace of in-depth opening-up. In the face of the pandemic, universities must shoulder their responsibilities to not only overcome difficulties and cultivate people but to also implement scientific research to combat the pandemic and promote global exchange and cooperation with a spirit of openness and inclusiveness.

In the post-pandemic era, universities should be more open, inclusive and cooperative. We are pleased to see our colleagues from the University of Padua, University of Tampere, University of Western Sydney and Guangzhou University have jointly proposed initiatives of collaboration in intelligent manufacturing, digital economy, entrepreneurship courses and other areas which will definitely deepen the cooperation among GISU Alliance members. The Ukrainian National University of Science and Technology and Durban University of Technology would like to join the Alliance this year and, with the participation of more like-minded friends, we are even more confident in fulfilling our due responsibilities and following the development of win-win cooperation.

Dear Council members, presidents, guests, friends, let's remain committed to the principles of openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and collaboration. Let us build the GISU Alliance into an outstanding example of exchange and collaboration among international universities which will further contribute to the sustainable development of our cities and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Finally, I wish all council members, leaders, guests and friends good health and all the best.

Thank you all!



Smart Solution

Treatment Data → Cloud (MEDIC) → Smart Solution

Native Mobile app for Mental Health Patients

- Support personal recovery planning
- Activate patients in self-recovery process
- Capture and communicate daily well-being

Cloud-based Monitoring Software for Healthcare Professionals

- Valuable clinical insight from low recovery
- Tool to measure productivity and impact
- Enable digital remote healthcare services

Douhuiwanjia 惠万家

The pioneer of non-transgenic high oleic acid soybean in China

Solution: High oleic acid soybean varieties were successfully cultivated

Douhuiwanjia team developed the first non-GMO high oleic acid soybean **Douzhong 202**

The oleic acid content increased from **20% to 75%**, reaching the quality standard of high-quality olive oil

Problem

We live in a constantly changing world. Migration is growing every day. The great diversity of subgroups leads to social polarization and a lack of culture, leading to anger, misunderstanding or worsening issues.

Solution

Increasing better communication and exchange among enterprises. Our goal is to connect locals with immigrants, understand the culture, and create a bond and respect for both of the target groups.

Guangzhou Five or Six Points Education Information Technology Co., Ltd. BP

Three core systems, empowering traditional care institutions to realize intelligent upgrade!

- Intelligent tutoring system**
- Smart marketing system**
- Smart management system**

Jingcui Education

Gathering program for small and micro art training institutions

Aggregation, empowerment and multiplication

Guangzhou Jingcui Education Technology Co., Ltd.

Small and micro arts training enterprise service provider

- Event management
- Products service
- Quality management
- Recruit management

Yachen Culture

CROSS PLATFORM E-COMMERCE PRIVATE DOMAIN TRAFFIC AGGREGATOR

Aggregator of platforms non-headset private domain traffic:

- Authoritative endorsement of Government Equipment
- Way to a Yachen Culture
- University cooperation and support
- Private domain traffic science management solution
- Our private domain traffic/customer resources

To make waste a resource

INOBUS goal: To enable proper separation and discharge from public places.

3.3 billion plastic cups generated annually, only 5% are recycled

The main causes of urban environmental pollution

Atrial Fibrillation Health Management Program

Popularize the knowledge of atrial fibrillation and improve the ability of diagnosis and management of medical team

Nordic Superblock

The Nordic Superblock is a reproducible learning unit for sustainable cities, consisting of multiple traditional urban blocks. It has the main planning principle of creating a pleasant walkable urban environment through innovative urban structures and high-quality urban spaces, such as centrally dimensional spaces, squares and a green corridor. The model also offers structure and access to green environment also generates the highest possible walkable urban. The Nordic Superblock is a platform for implementing versus sustainable urban solutions.

Asquared - a new type of quick setting material activated by waste materials

Environmental protection high performance building materials leader

Project highlights We are the first team in China to transform alkali-activated technology into pavement repair materials and successfully apply them

product formation and mechanism

Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship Final Competition

Congratulations to each of our ten finalist teams for competing in our first consortium-wide Innovation and Entrepreneurship competition. Representing Tampere University, Incheon National University, Guangzhou Medical University and Guangzhou University, these projects were impressive.

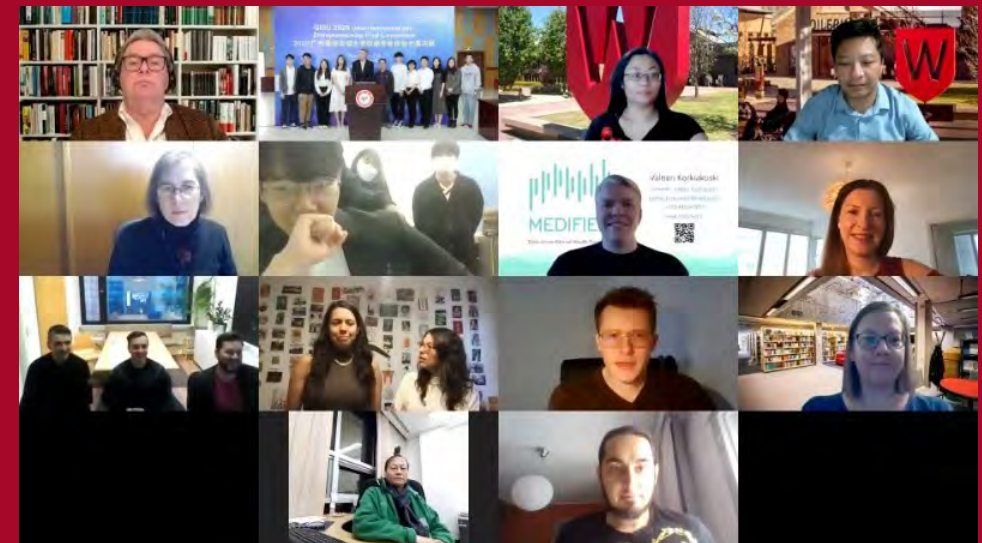
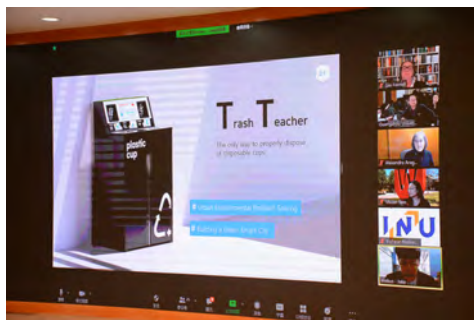
The theme for this year's competition was Promoting Sustainable Urban Development with Scientific and Technological Innovation. Projects proposed included developing a mobile app which connects locals with immigrants considering the values and needs that are important for both of the target groups; high oleic acid soybean varieties, a Nordic Superblock system which creates a reproducible planning unit for sustainable cities, a new type of quick setting material activated by waste materials; a program which popularizes the knowledge of atrial fibrillation and improve the ability of diagnosis and management of the medical team; a cross-platform of E-commerce private domain traffic aggregator; a treatment system of data from patients and monitoring software for professionals; an education information system which includes intelligent tutoring, smart marketing and smart management systems; a program which makes waste a resource through proper separation and discharge from public areas; and a gathering program for small and micro art training institutions



Final projects were scored in the areas of innovation, team, commerciality and social benefits and winners were awarded 260,000 RMB in prize money to invest into their projects. Special congratulations to our Gold Award winner Medified, our two Silver Award winners Asquared and ESC, and our three Bronze Award winners Yachen Culture, Guangzhou Five or Six Points and Douhuiwanjia. Congratulations again to these six teams which also received the outstanding mentor awards and AsOne for winning the outstanding presentation award.

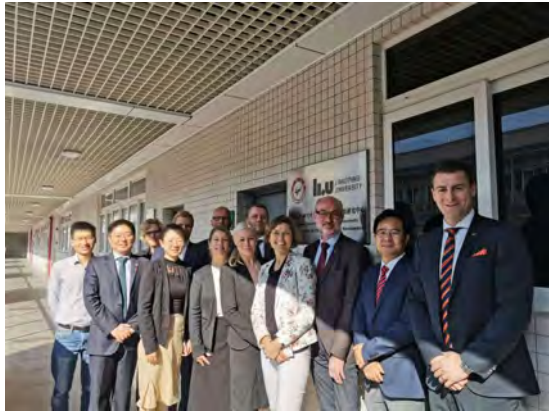
This competition would not have been possible without the help of our great judging panel. These members which included Professor Gio Fornell from Linkoping University, Professor Alexandra Aragao from the University of Coimbra, Professor Choi Juneyoung from Incheon National University, Professor Fabrizio Dughiero from the University of Padova, Dr. Taru Pilvi from Tampere University, Professor Lei Zhao from Guangzhou Medical University, Professor Wang Mansi from Guangzhou University, Professor Ricky Shi-wei Lee from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Professor Vivian Tam from Western Sydney University.

This year's competition represents the first of many Alliance-wide competitions planned in the future. Finalists established an impressive beginning and a high bar of standard. The Alliance wishes each of them the greatest of success and looks forward to the further development of their projects and their positive impact in the sustainable urban development of our cities.



2020 Competition Judges

- ◆ Professor Gio Fornell from Linkoping University
- ◆ Professor Alexandra Aragao from the University of Coimbra
- ◆ Professor Choi Juneyoung from Incheon National University
- ◆ Professor Fabrizio Dughiero from the University of Padova
- ◆ Dr. Taru Pilvi from Tampere University
- ◆ Professor Lei Zhao from Guangzhou Medical University
- ◆ Professor Wang Mansi from Guangzhou University
- ◆ Professor Vivian Tam from Western Sydney University
- ◆ Professor Ricky Shi-wei Lee from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Future Plans

Focus on Four Major Areas:

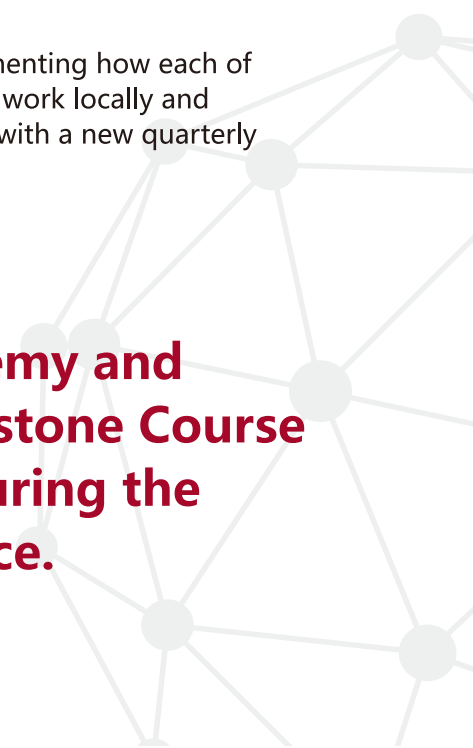
Joint Research – further identifying and implementing specific research areas based upon areas of greatest mutual interest. These efforts are dedicated to economic and social development of their local communities, regions and countries.

Entrepreneurship – further identifying and implementing specific youth entrepreneurial programs of greatest mutual interest. This will include consortium-wide forums and competitions on Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Collaborative Agreements – further identifying and implementing various articulation and faculty and student exchange agreements of mutual interest.

Public Relations and Communication – identifying and implementing how each of our member institutions and the Alliance can best publicize our work locally and internationally. Enhancements to the GISU website are planned with a new quarterly newsletter to be published in January, April, July and October.

Two new projects, a Digital Academy and Entrepreneurship Non-credit Capstone Course and Certificate, were approved during the December 2020 Annual Conference.





Digital Academy

Concept:

The Digital Academy will provide a valuable online non-credit training resource for upper-level management. Able to leverage world-wide Alliance member faculty expertise in different and unique geographic markets, the Digital Academy provides a new and valuable lifelong training alternative. Sponsored by the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities, invited faculty from participating universities could teach specific classes in the initial subjects of Interfacing Machines, Artificial Intelligence/Big Data, Smart Production and State of the Art Technologies.

Background:

In recognition of its role in promoting China's people-to-people and cultural exchanges through international academic collaboration, Guangzhou University in April 2020 was nominated to become a national base for fostering personnel and international talent exchanges in the field of Smart Manufacturing by China's Ministry of Education of China. Under this national initiative, Guangzhou University looking forward to working with the University of Padova and other interested Alliance members on the Digital Academy project.

The Italian Ministry of Economic Development is promoting collaboration of industries, business companies, research institutes and universities with the aim of building eight Competence Centers in Italy. These centers are grouped geographically with the common theme of Industry 4.0 in accordance with the National Industry 4.0 Plan (Impresa 4.0). Active since the beginning of 2019, these Competence Centers form a network and independently develop different aspects of Industry 4.0.

SMACT, the Competence Center led by the University of Padova, focuses on Smart Manufacturing and the transition toward Industry 4.0. The mission of the SMACT is "to make each enterprise an innovation lab and make each innovation lab an enterprise". The acronym of SMACT stands for S (Social networks), M (Mobile platforms), A (advanced Analytics and big data), C (Cloud) and T (internet of Things). SMACT, in addition to the University of Padova as the leading institution, includes seven other universities in North-East Italy (Trento, Bolzano, Verona, Udine, SISSA in Trieste, Ca' Foscari in Venice and IUAV in Venice), research institutes (the National Institute for Nuclear Physics and the Foundation Bruno Kessler), the Chamber of Commerce of Padova, Intesa San Paolo (the largest banking group in Italy by market capitalization) and a long list of enterprises active in many different fields from software, to home appliances, industrial mechanics and electronics.

Internationalization of Competence Centers is highly sought-after by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is a key component in safeguarding the values of multilateral and was a major topic of discussion in recent meeting between Chinese Minister Wang Yi and his Italian counterpart Luigi Di Maio.



GISU Entrepreneurship Capstone Course and Certificate

This capstone course and certificate will be offered in partnership with (1) international industries representing each of the sister cities, (2) established industries seeking foreign expertise or investment and (3) local governments and agencies to serve as a complimentary additional resource helping recruit, facilitate and develop more international investment among the industries of our sister-cities. Given the various academic approvals and time required to offer a credit capstone course by each of our members, this idea will first begin with a simple certificate program awarded by the Alliance. Each member can independently decide what academic requirements they might add to eventually offer this certificate as a capstone course which provides credit to their students.

Special government, industry and academic experts will be invited to offer lectures on how to attract international industry and offer an environment for success. To better facilitate our efforts, the Alliance plans to create an Industry and Government Advisory Board which represents key industry and government officials from each of our represented sister-cities. This capstone course and certificate can also be associated with the Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship member-wide competition.

Further Information

To learn more about GISU, please visit our website at <http://gisu.gzhu.edu.cn> or contact Steve Farr, Director of International Projects for the Secretariat Office of GISU, at steve.farr@gzhu.edu.cn

