New Strategies for Institutional Alliance: IUPUI and Sun Yat-Sen University

When universities in different countries decide to work together for the benefit of their faculty and students, the result is generally win-win. However, the strength of that victory depends on the depth of the alliance. In order to make the most of our resources, IU international units are seeking alliances that try to find ways to interact on many levels. The recent partnership between IUPUI and Sun Yat-Sen University, with its four campuses in the Guangdong province of Southern China, is built from this vision of interaction.

In forging this strategic alliance, the two universities promise to seek collaborative potential in all areas of university activity:
- Link all academic units and all campuses.
- Hold joint seminars, workshops, and conferences.
- Develop courses, videoconferences, and other learning tools that will help students, faculty, and staff deepen their understanding of each country.
- Undertake collaborative activities through joint grants and other external funding.
- Set up an administrative structure to seek and promote new kinds of linkages.

THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

The first fruit of this new partnership is the decision by the Confucius Institute to locate a site at IUPUI. Sun Yat-Sen University lobbied hard for IUPUI and won a decision in record time. The new institute at IUPUI will promote the learning of Chinese language and provide resources for a better Hoosier understanding of Chinese culture.

In return for IUPUI’s providing the venue and administrative support, the Chinese Language Council International will provide numerous resources:
- Two instructors who will teach Chinese and teach teachers of Chinese.
- 3,000 volumes of books and multimedia materials for the IUPUI library.
- Multimedia courseware and online courses.

“The Confucius Institute is a great step in connecting Indiana with China, a country whose culture, economy, and people are increasingly linked to the U.S.,” Susan Sutton explained.

Susan Sutton, Associate Vice President for International Affairs, and Chancellor’s Professor of Anthropology, IUPUI

Left to right: Joe Xu, Susan Sutton, Ni Xing, Ren Jiantao, Charles Bantz, Liang Qingyin, IUPUI Vice Chancellor Uday Sukhatme, Ma Jun, Niu Meili, Ian McIntosh, and IUPUI SPEA professor Alfred Ho.