

## ANNEXURE 20 (4)

### GLOBAL UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR INNOVATION (GUNI)

**Copy of email received on 12 February 2007:**

Dear sir/ madam,

We came to you through Prof. Bikas C. Sanyal, GUNI academic advisor, who kindly inform us about your interest in joining the network. Hereby, we are pleased to inform you about GUNI. Please find enclosed the application form, together with the model of application letter that you should send to GUNI Secretariat in case you would seriously consider the option of applying for GUNI membership. As soon as we receive your application form appropriately fulfilled we will contact to the GUNI representatives in your region. If no objections are presented the institution you represent will be considered provisional member of GUNI until the approval of membership at the next executive committee meeting of GUNI.

The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) is a global network made up of over one hundred members from the five continents. These members include UNESCO higher education chairs, educational establishments and research institutes that are committed to innovation, quality and social commitment within higher education. GUNI was set up in 1999 by UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the Technical University of Catalonia (TUC), where the GUNI Secretariat is based.

GUNI's mission is to contribute to the strengthening of higher education throughout the world by advocating the application of the decisions taken at UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE), which was held in Paris in 1998. Through its lines of action, GUNI promotes and reflects on innovation, universities' social commitment and how to improve the quality of higher education.

The main objectives of GUNI are:

- To contribute to the application of the WCHE's Declaration and Framework for Priority Action, whose aim is to narrow the differences in higher education between developed and developing countries.
- To act as a UNESCO/UNU international forum for discussing the challenges that higher education faces.
- To contribute to the reform and renewal of higher education policies across the world.

- To contribute to research on higher education and to ensure that progress is made, particularly in developing countries.
- To favor cooperation between higher education institutions and society.

GUNI is divided into five regional networks that represent Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Arab nations, Europe and the United States. It has an Executive Committee made up of representatives of the founding institutions, UNESCO, the UNU and the UPC, whose Rector is the Network's president. The presidents of each of the regional networks are also members of the Executive Committee. There is likewise a Plenary Council, which comprises all of the Network's members. An annual meeting is held for the Council to be informed of and discuss results and the following year's work plan.

GUNI works on several projects exposed below:

- ***Report Higher Education in the World***

*Higher Education in the World* is published as part of the GUNI Series on the Social Commitment of Universities. The Report is the result of an overall analysis of higher education in the world. A specific subject is chosen for each edition. The Report reflects on the key issues and challenges facing higher education and its institutions in the twenty-first century. A Delphi survey is conducted for the Report to gauge the opinion of over 100 experts, politicians, civil society members and professionals on the way they view the challenges facing higher education and how to overcome them. Statistics, analytic maps and detailed bibliography round off the publication.

- ***International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education***

The Conference is an international forum for debate on the challenges facing higher education in the twenty-first century. The Conference is held every year in Barcelona and is attended by distinguished experts, scholars, university managers, administrators and politicians from all over the world, who discuss innovative proposals and the results of the latest research. Every year, GUNI presents the World Report on Higher Education within the framework of the International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education.

- ***Universities and Social Commitment Observatory***

The Observatory detects and disseminates good practices in its endeavor to serve as a meeting point between universities. Its purpose is to facilitate the transfer of good practices and to bring about change within higher education institutions. In order to disseminate practices among institutions and broaden their role in the construction of harmonious societies, the Observatory also

acts a resource centre, using the common goal of social commitment as its underlying premise.

- *Research Projects*

GUNI undertakes research projects on higher education for public and private not-for-profit institutions. To do so, it has a group of researchers who apply GUNI's mission to practical realities.

Furthermore, GUNI Secretariat is actively working towards reinforcing and expanding the Network by implementing a membership policy that encourages members' involvement in GUNI's mission and goals. Because of the network nature of GUNI and its desire for innovation and commitment to the ethical application of new information and knowledge technologies, its online presence is essential to building up relations and participation. The content portal and the monthly electronic newsletter are tools that help make this possible.

Further information can be found at the official web page: <http://www.guni-rmies.net>

Do not hesitate contacting us for further information.

Sincerely,

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