

# RUC's Strategy for China 2009

- A sub-strategy of *RUC 2020* to support RUC's general internationalisation strategy.

## Background

China is increasingly coming into focus, both in relation to Denmark in China, the Region Zealand in China, and RUC in China. This requires a strategy for RUC operations for the coming period. This strategy sets the outline for 2009 to ensure that RUC optimises its efforts in relation to dealings with China in order to get maximum output, well-functioning elite agreements and increased external funding.

RUC has been very active in cooperation with China for many years now. Collaboration agreements have been reached with several top Chinese universities and RUC has recently established good contacts with the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), creating excellent opportunities for RUC's researchers to cooperate with the best scientists in China.

In 2007, the Danish Government published its Asia Strategy "Denmark in Asia – Opportunities for the Future", which constitutes the Government's proposals for prioritisation of cooperation with Asian countries, esp. China, Japan, India, etc. Environment, energy, education and research are among the priority areas for mutual cooperation. Following the Government's Asia Strategy, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation launched its China Strategy – knowledge-based collaboration between Denmark and China, in order to strengthen Sino-Danish collaboration in education and research. One result of this strategy is the attempt in 2008 to establish a Sino-Danish Centre for Advanced Education and Research in China through a consortium of Danish Universities. A decision is expected August 2008.

## RUC in China – Priority Areas

Priority in 2009 will be given to cooperation with a few selected elite partners in China, where RUC already has established connections and where RUC, according to a mapping survey, has committed activities and strong personal networks. In addition, during the period 1 – 2 more elite partner institutions can be added upon agreement. This priority list does not exclude either existing or new general bilateral agreements with Chinese universities that RUC's departments find relevant to collaborate with. The priority list means that resources (human and financial) will be specially allocated to ensure that these partnerships develop and move into new phases of collaboration that will benefit RUC research and education as well as opportunities for external funding.

### Elite partner institutions and focus subject areas

1. *Environment, Energy and Climate Changes*  
**Shanghai Jiao Tong University**, Centre for Renewable Energy  
**Chinese Academy of Science**: Geographic Science and Natural Resources Institute
2. *Marine Science*  
**Ocean University of China**  
**CAS**: Institute of Oceanography

3. *Educational science and life long learning*  
**East China Normal University** in Shanghai (985-programme, Sino-Danish Comm. of Science and Technology)  
**Zhejiang University** / Region Zealand
4. *Humanities / Cultural Encounters*  
**China Three Gorges University**  
**Sichuan University**  
**Shantou University**
5. *Natural Science (Natural Products and Herbal Medicine)*  
**Ocean University**  
**Shandong Academy of Science**  
**CAS: Institute of Materia Medica**
6. *Social Science (Public Administration, Global Studies)*  
**Zhejiang University**

**During 2009, RUC will prioritise its general activities in relation to:**

**Denmark in China/VTU China Strategy:**

Monitor VTU China strategy initiatives and prepare applications for the earmarked funds 2009-12. In particular RUC will focus on strengthening collaboration at Ph.D. level / doctoral schools and building networks of excellence.

Following the August 2008 decision by Danish Universities, negotiations will be initiated with Graduate University of CAS regarding the establishment of a Sino-Danish Centre for Research and Education in China. RUC will prioritise its activities and synergies in relation to GUCAS. Fall 2008, RUC appoints President of GUCAS and Executive Vice President of CAS, Prof. Chunli Bai as Honorary Academic Fellow of RUC to support the relations with CAS.

A separate budget will have to be negotiated for participation in a Sino-Danish Centre and a decision on selected programme areas.

**Region Zealand:** RUC will focus on developing synergy activities in relation to the MoU signed by Region Zealand and Zhejiang Province in 2007. Priority is given to collaboration with Zhejiang University.

**Ph. D. collaboration/ admission of Ph.D. students from lead partners (CSC scholarships).** This strategy will be combined with the RUC Ph.D scholarship strategy approved 2008 to support admission of international Ph.D. students.

**Student mobility.** Focus on increasing the exchange possibilities for RUC students to China at bachelor's and master's level as demand is rising.

**Chinese Academy of Sciences:** The relationship with CAS is embryonic with many development possibilities for RUC. RUC will monitor these possibilities at the same time being aware that they may require a different effort to succeed.

## **Finances**

### **1) Internal funding budget 2009 – strategic China funds**

To support the priority list activities, RUC decides to allocate a “China budget” from the “development pool” 2009 (omstillingspuljen) in the amount of **DKK 500.000** as seed money to support the nurturing and development of priority list activities (preparatory visits/travel expenses, travel scholarships, teaching sabbaticals/short term teaching commitments, workshops, development of joint courses/programmes, etc.). Applications for these funds are forwarded through the International Office to the Executive Management for priority setting (Direktionen) to ensure coordination with the RUC China strategy.

### **2) External funding 2009**

RUC will be monitoring calls for external financing regarding collaboration with China and should as minimum be prepared to file applications for funds from:

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology: earmarked fund for cooperation with China (2009-2012) – Globalisation Funds
- b) Joint programme of Danish Strategic Research Foundation & Chinese Natural Science Foundation
- c) Vækstforum of Region Zealand
- d) EU FP7

## **Expected gains and outcome of strategy**

- RUC an attractive partner of choice for Chinese elite institutions
- increased traffic, networking and partnership activities with Chinese elite universities
- large-scale cutting-edge research cooperation
- increased external funding for education and research activities
- increased intake of qualified Chinese Master's and Ph.D students to RUC
- facilitates increased intake of good quality students into undergraduate programmes
- increased mobility of students, teachers and researchers
- increased training and life long learning activities
- increased RUC visibility in China also to Danish companies

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**Decision on RUC's Strategy for China taken by RUC Executive Management on 28 August, 2008, pending approval of 2009 budget.**

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