

Communique

Inaugural Brazil - Australia Higher Education Forum

Brasilia, 9-10 June 2015

- The first Brazil - Australia Higher Education Forum took place in Brasilia on 9-10 June 2015. The Forum was a joint initiative of the Brazilian Council of Chancellors and Universities Australia, supported by the Education Office at the Australian Embassy in Brazil.
- The Forum brought together representatives from 10 Brazilian universities and 12 Australian universities, as well as representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Education, CAPES, CNPq, FAUBAI, the National Association of Catholic Education, VALE, the Australian Department of Education and Training, the Australian Trade Commission and CSIRO.
- The Forum was convened to explore opportunities to further advance and deepen, higher education and research engagement between Brazil and Australia. It was developed in recognition of the low levels of formal engagement between the two countries, acknowledging the considerable potential for collaboration in areas of joint and complementary strength and interest.
- The Forum provided a vehicle for participants to explore opportunities for institutional cooperation; collaborative research projects; and student, academic and staff exchanges. Discussions focused on three main themes; Mobility, Industry Engagement, and Research and Research Training.
- The Forum facilitated a number of institution to institution initiatives including the announcement by Macquarie University of five cotutelle and joint Phd scholarships annually for Brazilian partners.
- Discussions were wide-ranging and the participation enthusiastic. The momentum generated will drive further engagement between universities, peak bodies and governments of both countries.
- The Forum agreed a number of actions to further the bi-lateral higher education and research relationship:
 - mapping current bi-lateral research and education activity including co-authored publications;

- mapping joint strategic research priorities and capability including areas of existing and potential or emerging research alignment;
 - producing guides for developing models for joint degrees;
 - supporting the development of key strategic partnerships;
 - identifying and providing information about support mechanisms for bi-lateral collaboration; and
 - hosting a second forum in 2016.
- These actions will be reflected in a joint work plan and Memorandum of Understanding to be developed between the Brazilian Council of Chancellors and Universities Australia.
 - The outcomes of the Forum will be summarised in an outcomes report, to be produced in English and Portuguese.

Brasilia, 10 June 2015