

Global Network of Research Centers for Theology, Religious and Christian Studies

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

On the occasion of the conference

“The Future Potential of the Global Network of Research Centers for Theology, Religious and Christian Studies”

April 30th May 2nd meeting at the IWH Heidelberg

Martien E. Brinkman and Cornelis van der Kooi, VU University, Amsterdam
Fei Wu, Peking University (Beida), Beijing
Pia Søltoft, University of Copenhagen
Paul Foster, University of Edinburgh
Peter Lampe, Klaus Tanner and Michael Welker, University of Heidelberg
Eeva Heiskanen, University of Helsinki
Guy G. Stroumsa, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Yuri Zudov, St. Tikhon's Orthodox University, Moscow
Jan-Olav Henriksen, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
Andries Du Plooy, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa
Wilhelm Wachholz, Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo, Brazil
Dirkie Smit, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Jing-Jong Luh, Chung Yuan Christian University, Chung Li, Taiwan
Yang-En Cheng, Taiwan Theological College and Seminary, Taipei
Erhard Blum, University of Tübingen
Christopher Beeley, Yale University
Konrad Schmid, University of Zurich

The above mentioned partners engage together with other affiliated colleagues mentioned on the website and in conversations with their institutions in cooperative educational and research activities, for the mutual benefit. They agreed about the following:

1. To encourage visits by faculty for the purpose of engaging in research and educational activities
2. To support the exchange of doctoral students as research fellows
3. To foster the exchange of academic publications and scholarly information
4. To develop joint research activities and to promote other academic activities which enhance the above mentioned goals.

The terms of cooperation for each activity implemented under this agreement shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon by the partners on a case by case basis.

Each partner will be responsible for seeking funds to support the involvement in the cooperative activities contemplated under this agreement, and all such activities will be dependent upon the budgetary appropriations of the parties.

Ad 1:
Faculty Exchange

The partners involved recognize the benefit derived from the exchange of academic staff members. The terms of cooperation for each activity implemented under Faculty Exchange shall be mutually discussed. The host seeks that the exchanged faculty member is provided with proper research facilities, access to the university libraries at the host institution and other assistance necessary for his/her conducting research under favorable conditions and if desired academic status. The exchange would not impose any financial obligation upon the host university. The exchange of research materials, publications and information is encouraged.

Ad 2:
Doctoral students or highly qualified master students exchange

Selection of Participants: Prospective students will be selected for the exchange by the affiliated faculty members. The host institution will reserve the right to make the final decision regarding the admission of each student nominated for the exchange. Selection for participation in the exchange does not confer the right to pursue a degree at the host institution.

Language ability: Students must possess language ability necessary to fulfill their workplan.

Finance: As a rule exchange students shall be responsible for their own expenses including accommodation costs, food, travel expenses, textbooks and other personal expenses such as medical bills, medical insurance and other insurances.

Accommodation: The host university will assist the exchange students in finding suitable accommodation.

Heidelberg, May 1, 2009

The agreement was unanimously accepted by all members.