Combining Pragmatism & Passion: Singapore & France internationalise their research

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Main points

- Lessons learned from a French-Singaporean university research venture
- International research collaborations increases competitiveness
- How this FR-SG partnership is tackling the challenges of the 4th industrial revolution
USPC a university consortium of 9 institutions

- Université Paris Descartes (medicine & social sciences)
- Université Paris Diderot (comprehensive)
- IPGP (Earth physics)
- EHESP School of Public Health
- Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (FMSH)
- Inalco (Oriental languages & civilisations)
- Sorbonne Nouvelle (humanities)
- Sciences Po (social sciences)
- Université Paris 13 (comprehensive)

40% of researchers in the Greater Paris area
USPC-NUS 2014-2017

3 yearly calls for proposals
89 proposals
46 Projects supported

2 world-class institutions

USPC

#1 French cluster in Health sciences
#17 in the world for Geosciences
#4 in Politics & international Studies (Sciences Po)

NUS

#1 in Asia
#24 worldwide
World’s top 10 for 8 subjects
A solid partnership

54 academic publications
26 articles in peer-reviewed journals
28 other publications

USPC-NUS international exposure
21 scientific events organised
110 conference papers

2 double degrees,
Student and Faculty Exchange

*HALL : Humanities, Arts, Language, Literature
International University Research Ventures (IURV)
Shapira, P. et al. (2017)

- Not an individual joint research project
- Formal university initiative to establish long-term research presence overseas
- Institutional (or departmental) support & recognition
- Not an inter-governmental research cooperation
- Emphasis on research activities including joint research and development activities
The value of International Research Collaborations
“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

African proverb
International Cooperation Increases Impact

Average Relative Citations (ARC) of Publications by type of co-operation, 2010

Source: DG Research and Innovation - Unit for the Analysis and Monitoring of National Research Policies
Data: Science-Metrix (Canada), based on Scopus database
OPEN COUNTRIES HAVE IMPACT

Nations with more scientists coming in and going out produce papers that are more highly cited (all figures are for 2013).

Singapore: 37% of papers internationally co-authored

South Korea: 15% of papers internationally co-authored

*Based on field-weighted citations; †Determined by numbers of scientists emigrating from, immigrating to and returning to a country, plus international co-authorships; ‡Publications are assigned to a country according to the proportion of co-authors based there.
OPEN IMPACT
The European Union, where governments have emphasized collaboration and mobility, has retained citation strength in the face of competition.

- European Research Area launches; gradual reinforcement of EU funding programmes to promote integration
- >2% GDP spent on R&D
- <1% GDP spent on R&D

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The Fourth Industrial Revolution
Massively interconnected objects, systems and people.

They can learn from the environment and become more and more autonomous.

It is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres.
data
What is worst? (or best)

A robot that behaves like a human
Or humans who behave like robots?
How should university research respond to the 4th Industrial Revolution?
What can we learn from a joint FR-SG venture like USPC-NUS?
DS4TOX

Université Paris Descartes + ALSET, NUS

ALSET = Institute for Application of Learning Science & Educational Technology
Learn to learn (better)

How does technology impact education?
Les fumées de bitume peuvent contenir :

- Des hydrocarbures polycycliques aromatiques (HAP)
- Des produits soufrés
- De l’oxyde de fer
What are the lessons learned to build an IURV?
Ingredients for a successful partnership

• A mix of BOTTOM-UP & TOP-DOWN approaches
• A whole PEOPLE PERSON
• Huge amount of TRUST
• Unlimited load of ENERGY & PATIENCE
IN CONCLUSION

KEEP THE PASSION

AND GET RESULTS
THANK YOU

MERCI

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