



Press Release

German Universities of Technology Strengthen International Collaboration

TU9 Delegation Explores Opportunities in Singapore and Australia

Berlin, September 14, 2023

A high-level TU9 delegation led by TU9 Co-President, Professor Angela Ittel, visited Singapore and Australia in September 2023. The visit aimed at establishing and expanding partners' networks among Universities of Technology as well as stakeholders in politics, industry, and research in both countries.

On their first stop in Singapore, the delegation members discussed future cooperation projects and the establishment of institutional ties with partners at **Nanyang Technical University**. The discussions centered around science diplomacy, scientific collaboration as well as education in entrepreneurship and lifelong learning. The delegation received a warm welcome at the **Singapore Battery Consortium**. Following fruitful discussions, the delegation was given the opportunity to witness various demonstrations in the SIMTech lab, including an innovative battery disassembly line.

During the week-long visit hosted by the **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)**, the delegates engaged in discussions on national security, equity in student success, community involvement, transfer systems, and the progress of women in STEM. Roundtable sessions with counterparts from Curtin University, Deakin University, the University of Newcastle, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), and the University of South Australia (UniSA) provided a valuable opportunity for delegates to share and learn from the successful practices of their partner institutions.

TU9 Co-President Professor Ittel emphasized that ATN and TU9 had the opportunity to create new opportunities for their partnerships at all levels and across all spheres: "The exchange between Australian and German tech universities plays a crucial role in driving innovation and technological advancement, especially in the face of the numerous global challenges. Given the global significance of the multiple crises we are experiencing it is imperative that we join forces in our academic activities. In these testing geopolitical times, establishing strong and sustainable connections with universities that uphold similar values becomes even more significant," Professor Ittel remarks.

ATN Universities Chair, Professor Harlene Hayne CNZM, said: "TU9 and ATN enjoy a long and proud history of collaboration. We are committed to building our global reach and international partnerships. This visit by our friends from Germany has been many years in the planning. I am delighted that this finally took place".

Two highlights of the visit were the **Sydney Entrepreneur Showcase at UTS** and the **Melbourne networking event co-hosted by the Victorian Government**, both crucial to building relationships across the higher education sector, industry, and government. Thus, the support of the German Embassy in Australia as well as the German Chamber of Commerce were much appreciated.

Discussions with Professor Bronwyn Fox, Chief Scientist at the **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)**, and her team included aligning CSIRO's research foci with TU9's research interests for potential cooperation.

In an interview with the [Special Broadcasting Service \(SBS\) Australia](#) Professor Angela Ittel talked about the importance of international cooperation among universities and innovation ecosystems. She also



joined ATN executive director Luke Sheehy on the latest [ATN Perspectives podcast](#) to talk about international and higher education.

In addition to Professor Angela Ittel, TU9 Co-President and President of TU Braunschweig, the delegation also included Professor Thomas Walther (Vice-President at TU Darmstadt), Professor Peter Middendorf (Vice Rector at University of Stuttgart) and Dr Nicole Saverschek (TU9 Managing Director).

About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, TUD Dresden University of Technology, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany's position as a location of science and innovation.

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