

Building a World Class University from Scratch: The Case of Duke Kunshan University

Abstract:

DKU is a new greenfields Sino-foreign joint venture university project that involves a close partnership between Duke University, Wuhan University and the Kunshan municipal government. The project is distinguished by the fact that DKU is intended to become a true interdisciplinary liberal arts university; its mission is to bring to China advanced thinking and expertise about the delivery of a state of the art program in liberal arts. The DKU project offers huge opportunities for pedagogical innovation and for opening up new vistas for student learning that will better prepare DKU graduates to live and work effectively and ethically in the globalized world of the 21st century. This presentation will highlight some of the unique challenges presented since the inception of the DKU project and examine some of the ways the three way partnership is working together to ensure that DKU becomes a true world class university offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as engaging in a vibrant set of research activities.

Dr Denis Simon

Executive Vice Chancellor
Duke Kunshan University

June 17, 2016 (Friday)

12:45 – 14:00

Room 206 Runme Shaw Building, HKU

(Chair: Professor Gerard Postiglione)



Dr Denis Simon is Executive Vice Chancellor of Duke Kunshan University. He also holds a faculty appointment as Professor of China Business and Technology Affairs in the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. He received his B.A. degree in Asian Studies from the State University of New York in 1974, M.A. degree in Asian Studies in 1975 and Ph.D. in Political Science in 1980 from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr Simon previously held international affairs leadership positions and faculty appointments at several top-tier universities in the United States and China. An expert in S&T policy and innovation strategy, he also has extensive private sector experience, having held China-based leadership roles at both Monitor Consulting Group and Andersen Consulting (now Accenture). He has written and lectured widely regarding innovation, high technology development, foreign investment and corporate strategy in the Pacific-Rim and is frequently quoted in the Western and Asian business press regarding commercial and technology trends in China, Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region. In 2006, he received the China National Friendship Award from former Premier Wen Jiabao, China's highest form of recognition for foreign experts.

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For enquiries, please contact the Faculty of Education at 2857 8254.