News Release

First North American liaison office for Chiba University

Stratford, ON (January 6, 2011) – An agreement for academic exchange and cooperation has been signed between the University of Waterloo Stratford Campus and Chiba University in Japan. Both universities have agreed to establish liaison offices at each campus next year. The Waterloo Stratford Campus, a new digital media campus in Stratford, is the first university in North America to establish an overseas office for Chiba University.

Paul Doherty, Director of International Entrepreneurship for the Waterloo Stratford Campus says, “Japan is often ahead of us in developing new innovations, so this is an excellent opportunity for us. In Japan, this is a government funded program and will allow for a more robust exchange system for students, faculty and ideas.”

The agreement allows the two universities to cooperate in promoting both academic research and enhancing educational opportunities for post-doctoral and doctoral students. The collaboration could include everything from the exchange of faculty members, researchers and students, joint research projects and conferences and meetings. The agreement also includes the exchange of information and publications.

The partnership gives students the opportunity to go abroad to learn and experience digital media in a more global sense. Several CHIBA students have already visited the region as part of an exchange. Collaboration between the universities will help each to learn how to foster entrepreneurial job growth and innovation. Chiba University's Multi-Career Training Program encourages graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to innovatively manage businesses from a broad international perspective.

“The University of Waterloo is known for having the largest cooperative education program in the world and for having many spin off companies, says Masani Gomita, Director of International Affairs Division, Chiba University. “Therefore the Multi-Career Training Program will send post doc and graduate students for internships at the University of Waterloo and to nearby companies.”

Chiba University has an agreement with Seinajoki University of Applied Sciences in Finland which established an International Exchange Center (IEC) at both universities. Currently, Chiba has 45 sister universities in Europe and 22 in North America, most of which provide academic and student exchanges in order to increase international cooperation. The University of Waterloo and Chiba University first partnered in a symposium at Chiba in May 2010: First International Symposium on Entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Science and Technology Agency. Doherty spoke at symposium and says, "We will definitely see more international agreements like this moving forward."

The agreement was signed in September of 2010 for a period of five years, with an option to extend.

About Waterloo Stratford Campus
The University of Waterloo Stratford Campus is focused on undergraduate, graduate and executive education programs, research, commercialization and community outreach. This collaborative, strategic partnership between the City of Stratford and the University of Waterloo will bring students, leading researchers, businesses and entrepreneurs together to create, examine and commercialize opportunities in the digital media space. The campus will lead an evolution in learning and career preparation. Students will be immersed in a rich, technology-driven
environment where theory and practice, science and commerce, creativity and innovation merge to forward digital media. www.stratfordcampus.uwaterloo.ca

**About Chiba University**
Chiba University was founded about 130 years ago, and has been taking great effort to provide the best curriculums and environment, as well as conducting world level research in upgrading the university status. Based on the University Charter, "Always Aim Higher", Chiba University will foster human resources with the knowledge of liberal arts, specialized subjects, professional skills, and the ability of solving problems.

Chiba University has 9 faculties with approximately 10,000 students and 11 graduate schools with approximately 3,000 students.

Chiba University has 205 sister universities in 39 countries, conducting about 293 international joint research projects in 41 countries, and accepting more than 1,000 international students annually.

Chiba University is constantly developing education and research programs, expanding various international activities all over the world, aiming to become a world class university.
http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/e/

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