

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University of Tasmania strengthening China relationship

More than 380 University of Tasmania students will graduate in the coming days, claiming their hard-earned degrees in ceremonies in Shanghai and Hangzhou, China.

The ceremonies will be held **tomorrow (Saturday, 5 July)** and **Tuesday (8 July)** for students who have completed Bachelors of Information Systems, Business, Management and Computing through joint degree programs run by the University of Tasmania and institutes in China.

The programs, run in partnership with the Shanghai Ocean University (SOU) and the Zhejiang University of Technology (ZUT) in Hangzhou, have been operating successfully since 2002.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said Tasmania's economic and cultural relationship with China was crucial for the State's future and would only become more so in the future.

"The University has a key role to play in continuing to strengthen that relationship and it is a role to which we are firmly committed," Professor Rathjen said.

"Throughout history, universities have been centres of learning that bring scholars together from all corners of the globe.

"It is wonderful that in addition to attracting international scholars to study, teach and carry out research at home in Tasmania, our University is also reaching out to teach students in institutions overseas."

Professor Rathjen said the ceremonies would be the culmination of a great deal of hard work for the graduates.

"Our graduates go on to bright futures. They have excellent English and very high employment outcomes - many graduates, thanks to the quality of the teaching in these collaborative programs, have gone on to work with international companies or further their education at leading universities around the world, including Tasmania."

The first graduation ceremony will take place tomorrow at the Pingfeng Campus of ZUT. Eighty-three graduates will receive their Bachelor of Computing degree from both the University of Tasmania and ZUT.

On Tuesday, 300 students will graduate from the AIEN Institute at the Shanghai Ocean University with degrees from SOU and the University of Tasmania in the Bachelor of Information Systems, Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Management.

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