China Programme, final report for projects 2014-2016

SUMMARY REPORT FOR PUBLICATION

Name of the project
Future – Fudan-Turku Rethinking Engineering Education

Coordinating Institution
University of Turku

Objectives of the project (as indicated in the project proposal)

The Future project’s objective is to establish a long-term research and education cooperation between Fudan University, Shanghai, China and the University of Turku, Turku, Finland. The emphasis of the programme is innovative, interdisciplinary engineering education that utilises the strengths of both multidisciplinary universities. The premise for the project is a double Master’s degree programme in ICT that was established in 2012. The aim is to develop further the programme and extend it to other disciplines. One of the key elements in the programme is a Capstone project, in which engineering students learn to work in an international, interdisciplinary teams solving real-life problems.

Achieved results and outcomes

The Future project established a firm premise for a long term cooperation between Fudan University and the University of Turku. The number of students has grown yearly. In 2016, totally 31 students commenced their studies in the programme. The students were from 5 countries: China, Montenegro, Spain, Pakistan and Finland. With the increasing number of students, the number of Master’s degrees in Technology conferred increased as well. The Capstone course has also established its position in the programme. Especially the commitment of faculty at both universities has been a key element for the success of the programme. This has also resulted in new research cooperation.

We have taken the first steps in extending the cooperation to other disciplines. In Fall 2016, we started a Pilot programme between nursing science and information technology involving both Fudan University and the University of Turku. The Pilot programme will end in spring 2017.

Activities carried out during the project
Several faculty members have paid visits to the partner university in the project. During the visits, faculty members have participated research activities and lectured yearly. Also, invited lectures were given for Bachelor level students at Fudan university.

Future developments

In the future, the programme will be further developed towards education export. The first international students (non-Chinese, non-Finnish) has been selected to the programme, but the portion of international students will be increased. To increase the portion of international students, we need further streamline the programme and its goals. Finding ways to extend the cooperation to other sciences will also be one of the development areas.

Other remarks

Without the support of CIMO, we would not reach the level where we are now in cooperation education-wise and research-wise.