

## **RENKEI Intercultural workshop at UCL in London**

**<Renaissance Entrepreneurship: Shaping the future of demographic change>**

**(Sunday 2nd - Thursday 13th August 2015)**

Renaissance entrepreneurialism is the process of developing innovative ways of combining many channels of knowledge, from the arts and sciences, cultures and histories, thoughts and technologies to create a way of resolving a current challenge.

Demographic change is affecting every country in the world. In some cases this creates a dynamic opportunity, but in others it presents a difficult economic challenge. This RENKEI workshop will bring together ideas from different cultures and intellectual disciplines to create collaborative solutions that are more creative than those currently being discussed in the political realm. Participants will also create the processes for implementing their ideas. This first workshop is linked to a second one, to be held in Osaka University in 2016, in which the ideas will be developed further.

**Date:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Place:** University College London

### **Style of the workshop:**

The workshop will be facilitated in a way that will stimulate and encourage creative thinking. The group will be divided into teams. Each team will co-create a proposal for an innovative intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages in an era of rapid demographic change. Thought-provoking provocations will be provided by various contributors.

Teams will also visit a variety of social enterprises in London to see how they create and implement solutions. These social enterprises will range from the very small community-based organisation, to a large company operating as a social enterprise in a commercial market, so that the group will be able to see what different opportunities might be available to them in terms of business structure.

The workshop also affords a great opportunity to explore the cultural wealth of London. We are organising a variety of activities to take advantage of this opportunity, but participants will also be encouraged to make their own exploration of the city and bring their discoveries to the workshop.

After the workshop, the teams will continue to collaborate in developing their solution so that a comprehensive presentation can be delivered during the following year. There will be a second workshop, to be held in Osaka in 2016, and one possibility would be to make the presentations at the start of that workshop.

### **Who should attend this workshop:**

- tackling global social issues The workshop is intended for students and early-career researchers at the RENKEI member universities who have strong interest in: related to demographic change through dialogues across disciplines, universities, sectors, cultures and countries

- starting up a social enterprise
- acquiring skills and knowledge to be a future leader who can facilitate social innovation
- studying in the UK in the near future

There will be 2 representatives from each RENKEI university. Participants are welcome from any discipline – a major benefit of the RENKEI workshop is to mix disciplines as well as cultures – and they can be undergraduate or postgraduate students or early-career researchers.

There will be an opportunity for the participants to attend the following workshop, which will take place in Osaka in 2016.

**Cost:**

The cost of the workshop is covered through the RENKEI programme. However, travel, accommodation and meal costs are expected to be covered by each RENKEI member university. Student accommodation at UCL will be provided for participants at a reasonable cost.

**Criteria for participating in this programme:**

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a student or early-career researcher at one of the 12 participating universities.
- Applicants must be enthusiastic about collaborative and interdisciplinary work, as well as having a keen interest in developing links with industry.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their academic interests could contribute to the theme of the workshop.
- Applicants must be able to participate in pre-learning online activities.
- Applicants must be able to commit fully to the 2-week programme at UCL and must be able to travel to the UK without a problem.
- As the programme will be conducted in English, applicants must be able to communicate in English, although competency in written English is less important.
- Applicants must be able to contribute to disseminating the outcome of the workshop to wider audiences in cooperation with RENKEI member universities and the British Council which is the secretariat of the RENKEI initiative.

**How to apply:**

If you are interested in taking part in this programme, please fill in the application form and send it to your institutional contact by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015**. If you don't know your institutional contact, please send the form directly to [renkei@britishcouncil.or.jp](mailto:renkei@britishcouncil.or.jp). Applicants will be informed of the result of the selection process within 1 week after the application deadline.

**About RENKEI:**

RENKEI (Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives) is an international platform consisting of 6 Japanese universities (Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Osaka University, Ritsumeikan University, Tohoku University) and 6 UK universities (University of Bristol, University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, Newcastle University, University of Southampton, UCL). It aims to create new forms of university-industry collaboration which benefit each sector as well as society as a whole and to promote the development of innovative solutions to challenges facing

knowledge-based economies by bringing together talented individuals from the respective nations.

[www.britishcouncil.or.jp/renkei](http://www.britishcouncil.or.jp/renkei)