

## **SPEAKING POINTS**

- Acknowledgements:
  - Prof Tom Calma, Chancellor, University of Canberra
  - Mr Rongyu Li, Vice President, Global, University of Canberra
  - Mr Rahul Gandhi, AAERI President
  - AAERI Executives
  - Australian University Representatives

## **Messages**

- International education provides significant economic benefits for Australia. It is both a major export industry and a source of domestic economic growth.
- However, international education is much more than a business. The relationships formed through international education underpin Australia's engagement with the world and help sustain goodwill, trade and investment.
- They are the basis of future research collaboration. They make Australia's creative and intellectual assets more visible to other countries. They improve our reputation internationally as a centre for learning, research and innovation.
- Furthermore, international students bring diverse experiences and perspectives and make it possible for universities to offer a much wider range of study programs, thus enriching the educational experience for all students and staff.
- The growth in the number of international students has been accompanied by an increase in the number of education agents and consultants who provide services to them.
- Education agents and consultants are integral and important stakeholders in international education and the Australian Government acknowledges the important role education agents play in counselling and referring international students to Australian Education providers

- Much of the success of Australia as a preferred destination for students across the globe has relied on a professional network of in-country agents acting as the ambassadors for various educational offerings.
- Education agents and consultants are therefore integral and important stakeholders in international education.
- AAERI has had a continuous and valued relationship with the Australian High Commission since 1996. This night is about celebrating the successes of AAERI and its contribution to Australian international education.
- I am sure AAERI will see ongoing education of members in terms of maintaining high standards of professional practice among Australian Education representatives in India as a high priority.
- The strength of an association such as AAERI is best seen I think in its ability to represent the views of its members to both the Australian High Commission and the Australian Government.
- I am pleased to note, the Australian Government has welcomed the ability to communicate with education agents through the AAERI organisation.
- I am very pleased that this evening, Prof Tom Calma, the first Education Counsellor at the Australian High Commission and was integral to the establishment of AAERI is here tonight.
- In many ways, AAERI is now a bench-mark in terms of raising the professionalism of the services provided to students, the self-regulation of its members and the ability to voice the concerns of its members.
- I congratulate the AAERI Executive on your commitment to offer and ensure mandatory Education Agent Training Course (EATC) online training for all its members is undertaken.
- As AAERI has evolved and the international education market has grown since 1996, the adoption of principles

and ethical standards is important to the success of education agents and the host institutions and countries.

- I am pleased to note that AAERI has adopted the London Statement of principles which promotes and encourages good practices that we expect to see from the education agent community.
- It is important that the reputation and integrity of international education continues to be held in high regard and that accurate and honest information is provided to prospective students so they can make informed choices.
- This high quality advice will enable students to have high quality educational experiences
- Finally, I thank AAERI for inviting me today and congratulate them for completing 20 years!