

TRIPARTITE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
(BEIJING, CHINA)**

**UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN
(GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLAND)**

AND

**YANTAI MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT
(SHANDONG PROVINCE, CHINA)**

MARCH 25, 2015

The parties hereby enter into the agreement:

Party A: China Agricultural University (abbreviated as CAU), a university established and existing under the laws of China with its legal address at No.2, Yuanmingyuan West Road, Haidian District, Beijing, the People's Republic of China and whose legal representative is President KE Bingsheng.

Party B: University of Groningen, a university established and existing under the laws of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with its legal address at Broerstraat 5, PO Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands, and whose legal representative is President Sibrandes Poppema.

Party C: Yantai Municipal People's Government, whose legal address is Yantai City, Shandong Province, the People's Republic of China and whose legal representative is Mayor MENG Fanli.

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the Parties.

WHEREAS

China Agricultural University (CAU) was founded in 1905 and is a key university directly under the Ministry of Education and covered in the 211 Program and the 985 Program. It is the origin of modern higher education in agriculture in China, and has developed into a research-intensive university with features and strength in agriculture, life sciences and agricultural engineering. CAU has fostered a group of distinctive and complementary disciplines, such as agriculture and life science, resources and environmental science, information and computer science, agricultural engineering and automation science, economics, management and social sciences.

The University of Groningen has a rich academic tradition dating back to 1614 as one of the oldest universities in Europe. From this tradition arose many influential theories in the academic field and several Nobel Prize winners. The University of Groningen provides high quality education and research in a broad range of disciplines, is internationally oriented, works actively with international higher educational institutions, business partners, public institutions and the government and is ranked 82nd in the Academic Ranking of World Universities. Ecology, Material Science, Chemistry and Astronomy rank Top 3 among the best European research-intensive universities. Other strong research areas include Nano-science, Physics, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Medicine, Arts etc.

Yantai City, situated in the eastern part of Shandong Peninsula, is one of the first coastal open cities in China and an international harbour, business centre, and destination of tourism in the Bohai economic circle and in Northeast Asia. It is named China's top 20 economic

cities and considered an emerging city with most investment potential and development vitality.

The Parties, through friendly consultation, enter the following agreement:

I. Mission and Positioning

The Parties agree to work together to establish an innovative, research-intensive, application-oriented world-class university in Yantai with the initial working title “University of Groningen Yantai, or UGY”.

UGY will develop from the existing CAU Yantai Institute campus and draw on the distinguished and outstanding strength and experience of CAU and University of Groningen in research and education as well as the solid foundation of Yantai City in political, economic, cultural and educational development.

Through provision of a high-quality and broad based curriculum, the university will foster global talents, and enhance the level of development in educational, cultural, and economic aspects of Yantai City and Shandong Province.

II. Nature and Development

UGY will be an independent degree-awarding university with independent legal status.

Unless the inclusion of others is agreed to by both institutions, CAU and University of Groningen will be the only academic partners in the new university, with appropriate support from the Yantai Municipal People’s Government.

The Parties agree to apply best endeavour efforts and collaboration for the establishment of the new university. CAU and University of Groningen shall go through necessary legal formalities and shall actively apply for the approval from the relevant educational and regulatory authorities in their respective countries, and, subject to appropriate financial support, provide personnel and technical support for establishing the new university.

Yantai Municipal People’s Government shall provide administrative, capital, land use and personnel supports for the establishment of the new university. Yantai Municipal People’s Government shall continue to increase capital investment, in addition to the existing inputs, for the development and operation of the new university.

III. Educational Model and Scale

Immediately upon the completion of relevant legal formalities in China and The Netherlands, UGY shall start the enrolment, the date and scale of which shall be decided through a specific agreement. It is envisaged that the total student number could reach at least 10,000 within 5-7 years. All programmes will be delivered through the English language and, in

addition to meeting the requirements for the award of a University of Groningen degree, will meet the requirements necessary for recognition by the Chinese education authorities.

The educational programmes delivered by UGY shall cover bachelor, master and PhD levels, with the phasing and number of programmes delivered to be decided through a specific agreement between three parties. Qualified students will be awarded their degrees from the University of Groningen.

UGY will be a comprehensive university stressing both education and research, with particular commitment to joint scientific research cooperation with industries. The development and scope of graduate programmes shall be dependent on the scale and conditions of the new university and the policies of the Chinese education authorities.

IV. Governance

The newly established university shall be governed in strict compliance with the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China on Sino-foreign cooperation in running educational institutions, taking into account the Dutch requirements on awarding degrees.

UGY shall perform staff recruitment and appraisal on the basis of full consultation and consideration of the development needs of Yantai City, and define the development strategy in consistence with the internationalized vision for the new university. The Yantai Municipal People's Government shall provide adequate funding and policy safeguards for this strategy.

Given the ambitious goal of establishing a world-class university, with planned rapid growth in the student body, UGY will perform a detailed appraisal of the total staff complement required to deliver courses, perform research and provide non-academic support. Consistent with this, a phased staff recruitment plan will be developed that considers such issues as the balance between Chinese and International staff and the expected involvement of CAU and University of Groningen staff.

V. Miscellaneous

This Memorandum of Agreement will become effective on the date that it is signed by the Parties (the "Effective Date").

Each Party will confirm the other two Parties as the exclusive partner in China in the Sino-foreign cooperation in running educational institutions. Upon the effective date, the Parties will soon set up a working team, enter into specific agreements and implement action plans through full discussion.

The Memorandum of Agreement hereof is available in both English and Chinese in triplicate which have same force of law. There are NINE original copies of this Memorandum of Agreement. Each party has THREE original copies.

三方代表:

签字: 柯炳生

校长: 柯炳生

单位: 中国农业大学

日期: 25/03/2015

签字: Sibrandes Poppema

校长: Sibrandes Poppema

单位: 荷兰格罗宁根大学

日期: MARCH 25, 2015

签字: 孟凡利

市长: 孟凡利

单位: 烟台市人民政府

日期: 2015. 3. 25