

**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**

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Exciting Opportunities for the University of Gibraltar following meetings in Oxford, Singapore and Hong Kong

The Minister for Education, Gilbert Licudi QC, last week held meetings in Oxford, Singapore and Hong Kong as part of the continuing preparation for the opening of the University in September. Mr Licudi described these meetings as extremely productive and said they opened up fantastic opportunities for the development and expansion of the University.

Mr Licudi, who was accompanied by Dr Darren Fa, the University's Director of Academic Programmes and Research, met at Oxford Brookes University with Donald Sloan, the Head of the Oxford School of Hospitality Management and Chair of Oxford Gastronomica and with Laurie Tebbutt, the Head of Commercial Services at the University's Faculty of Business. The meeting served to consolidate the existing relationship with Oxford Brookes University and to discuss plans for further collaboration between the two Universities, specifically in the field of hospitality and tourism education. Mr Licudi said that the Oxford School of Hospitality Management is a market leader in educating students for management and leadership roles and the project team at the University of Gibraltar are very excited about an association with Oxford Brookes in this field.

In Singapore, the Gibraltar delegation met with senior management at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM). SIM has a number of strands including SIM University, SIM Professional Development and SIM Global Education. SIM is an Affiliate Centre of the University of London and has over 9,000 students enrolled in the University of London International Programmes. The discussion at SIM focused primarily on these programmes and the methods used by SIM to deliver them to their students.

In an intensive and packed programme, further meetings were held with the President of the Hong Kong University, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Vice-President of International Affairs at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University as well as with Hong Kong University's Swire Institute for Marine Science.

Mr Licudi said:

“Universities throughout the world, no matter how well established, work on the basis that global opportunities, through student exchanges and joint programmes, are a necessary part of the higher education offering. All of these universities have a vast array of partnerships and collaborations. It is vital for the University of Gibraltar to establish these links not just for the programmes we will deliver at the outset but to guarantee the development and expansion of the University in the future. We are extremely satisfied by the reception we are getting. Explaining our plans to seasoned professionals in higher education and getting positive feedback from them is invaluable.”

In addition, meetings were held in Hong Kong with a travel operator and a provider of education for health care professionals.

Mr Licudi added:

“These two meetings have opened up significant and exciting opportunities for the University of Gibraltar. The travel operator we met specializes in education tours to Europe by secondary school and university students. These tours combine English classes with a cultural experience in the country visited. We have agreed to put together a programme for these students in Gibraltar which would provide English tuition at the University of Gibraltar’s language centre as well as cultural tours in Gibraltar and, possibly, Spain and Morocco.

On the health care side, the provider we met has over 14,000 nurses in their books which they train and supply to local hospitals and care homes. They are interested in collaboration with the University of Gibraltar for the delivery in Hong Kong of professional development courses for their nurses.

Our visit to South East Asia has exceeded our expectations in the links and opportunities that have been presented to us. All our meetings in Hong Kong were organised by the Gibraltar office led by Jason Cruz. This has shown the value of having an office in such a thriving market and I have no doubt that this will bring Gibraltar generally and the University in particular many benefits and rewards.”