Establishment of BKCnet, academic year 2012-2013

The first steps in establishing BKCnet include setting up the two main antennae in China and Brazil. In addition, a secondary antenna is planned for the United States of America.

CHINA:

The BKC currently has an office in the centre of Shanghai, on the Siping Campus of Tongji University. Building work has finished on the office that will serve to welcome BKC students and staff and those from other Spanish universities, and to promote and provide information for Chinese students, lecturers and researchers who want to come to Spain. Since May 2013, Sergio Zlotnik, a UPC lecturer, has been living in Shanghai and working as an academic representative at the Sino-Spanish Campus, Tongji University (SSC@TU).

As a result of the SSC@TU launch, an annual exchange programme between Spain and China has been created for twenty bachelor’s degree and master’s degree students. Exchanges are for 6-month to 2-year periods (for the double master’s degree in Civil Engineering). The first group of double degree students has completed the period in China and returned to Spain. There are currently 9 Spanish students in Tongji and 12 Chinese students at the BKC.

In September 2013, a new office will be opened on the outskirts of Shanghai, on the Jiading Campus of the Tongji University, which is the home of the schools of information technology and electronics. A third office will be opened in Beijing, to be shared with the International Center for Numerical Methods in Engineering (CIMNE), which is part of the BKC. This office will be used as a platform for establishing relationships with various institutions in the city (Tsinghua University, the Chinese Academic of Science, etc.).

Student exchange

- Shorter-period exchange activities. In 2012, the “Shanghai Summer School” on architecture and urban planning was attended by several UPC students. The SSC@TU organized the 2013 edition of the event, which was attended by 10 Spanish students.
- The Confucius Institute, on whose board the BKC participates through the UB, has awarded Confucius Institute 2013 grants for studying master’s degrees in Chinese as a foreign language at Chinese universities.

Double degrees

- Master’s degree in Civil Engineering
- Two programmes are currently being configured (the master’s degree in Architecture with the University of Tongji, and the master’s degree in Numerical Methods with Tsinghua University).
Staff exchange
- Academic year 2012-2013: Two lecturers from the UPC’s Vallès School of Architecture were invited to carry out 9-week placements in Tongji.
- Academic year 2013-2014: The results of a selection process for visiting lecturers at Tongji University have been announced. A total of 42 lecturers applied, out of which 6 were selected (2 lecturers in architecture, 1 in civil engineering, 1 in telecommunications and 2 in aerospace engineering).

Research
- The first civil engineering workshop, with lecturers from the UPC, the UPM and Tongji University, was held in April 2013 (Shanghai). In 2013, two joint research projects were presented by groups from the UPC and Tongji University, both of which received funding from Chinese organizations:
  - Project in the area of Smart Cities. Partners: UPC, Tongji, KU Leuven, funding of €374,000 provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China.
  - Project in the area of telecommunications. Partners: UPC, Tongji, funding of €50,000 provided by Shanghai City Council.
- In the design and architecture sector, a Chinese-Spanish Institute of Design in Shanghai is being planned and has a high likelihood of obtaining funding. A Spanish architecture conference is being organized for next October, which is expected to be attended by around 100 Spanish architects.

Cultural activities
- The SSC@TU first anniversary celebrations included a series of talks and a round table on architecture and sustainability. A range of social activities were organized to present various aspect of Spanish and Chinese culture:
  - Spanish language courses for Chinese students, in collaboration with the School of Languages of Tongji and the Cervantes Institute in Shanghai.
  - Photography exhibition “Impressions of Spain”, opened in May 2013 on the Siping Campus.
  - Activities by/for students: Global Village - International students at Tongji University spoke about various aspects of their countries and cultures. The Spanish stand was the main prize-winner.
  - Tongji World Cup: a football tournament was organized by the SSC@TU for teams of students from different countries. The African team won.
  - A Spanish film series will be held at the new office on the Jiading Campus during the second semester of 2013.

Work meetings
- The BKC has received 12 Chinese delegations from different institutions, including the Young Chinese Leaders, the Hangzhou Institute of Petroleum Geology, and the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange.
- The BKC sent delegations to a variety of fairs and events in China to attract new students. Specifically, delegates attended the China Scholarship Council in October 2012, and the European Higher Education Fair in Hong Kong in February 2013.
- Open Days for the Chinese Community were held in May 2013 to provide information about the BKC for the Chinese community of Barcelona.

Collaboration agreements
- An agreement was signed between a consortium of 11 Chinese institutions and 5 Spanish institutions, including the UB and the UPC.
Over 25 agreements were signed with partners, including Beihang University, the Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing Jiatong University, China Scholarship Council, China University of Petroleum, the Institute of Mechanics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and East China Normal University, to establish a framework for bachelor’s degree and master’s degree exchange placements, mobility options for teaching and research staff, and the offer of joint degrees.

An agreement was made with the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and the European Engineering Education Cluster.

The UB remains a signatory to eight framework agreements and four specific mobility agreements with Chinese universities. Two Erasmus Mundus master’s programmes are currently taught: Master in Quality in Analytical Laboratories (EMQAL) I & II, which brings together several European and Asian universities.

**BRAZIL:**

The objective is to establish a BK*C*net antenna in São Paulo, along the lines of the successful model used for the launch in China. The first step was to carry out a study on UB and UPC activities in Brazil.

**Sites**

- The locations of the offices have been established, and a framework agreement signed. In turn, areas of the BKC have been prepared for the Brazilian antenna.

**Exchanges**

The BKC aims to promote the development of collaborative research projects involving the BKC, the University of São Paulo (USP) and companies or institutions in Brazil and Spain; to encourage the inclusion of the BKC in consortia for coordinated international projects; to promote technologies developed at the BKC and transfer them to Brazilian companies; to start to exchange technologies between BKC groups and the University of São Paulo to boost the development of projects that add value to research results; to foster the marketing and licensing of patents for UB and UPC technologies to Brazilian companies, to facilitate the entry into the Brazilian market of technology-based companies arising from the BKC, and finally to increase the amount of training and technical consultancy provided on knowledge transfer, technology and innovation. As a result, the first exchanges have been in the context of transfer and entrepreneurship.

- As part of the Red Emprendia programme, an entrepreneur from the USP spent May and June 2013 at the BKC, working with a BKC spin-off. The work plan focused on providing innovative technological solutions within the emerging sector of Smart Cities and Smart Spaces.
- An expert from the USP came to the BKC from 15 February to 15 May 2013. The visit was funded by the USP Agency’s Programme of international exchange grants, Grant for entrepreneurship/technological innovation, and by the Red Emprendia. The aim was to develop and exchange knowledge on innovation, the exploitation of campus technologies, the search for companies interested in licensing technologies, and the revision of licence contracts and contracts for industrial and intellectual property.
In the academic area:

- The BKC (UPC) is currently signatory to 3 agreements with the University of São Paulo (USP): a framework agreement and two specific agreements, with the Department of Geography and the School of Arts, Science and Humanities (EACH). The BKC (UB) has nine framework agreements and six postgraduate and doctorate agreements with universities in Brazil. The BKC (UB) has also been selected to participate in three Erasmus Mundus master’s degrees: Master in Work, Organizational, and Personnel Psychology (WOP-P), Master in Learning and Teaching of Spanish in Multilingual and International Contexts (MULTI-ELE) and Master in Quality in Analytical Laboratories (EMQAL). Recently, the UB’s Faculty of Medicine signed a bilateral agreement with the USP on student and teacher mobility funded by the two universities.

UNITED STATES:

The creation of a secondary BKCnet antenna at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Florida, is being finalized and the definitive draft of the specific collaboration agreement is being completed. The increase in BKC activities in the USA has been facilitated by the existing relationship between the UB and NSU. The two universities have offered a double degree in law – the only course of its kind in Spain – for almost twenty years. The Fort Lauderdale (Florida) antenna will help to extend BKC activities into other fields, such as space science and technology through the SATLANTIS Initiative carried out in collaboration with the University of Florida in Gainesville, and the promotion of projects as part of the Erasmus+ programmes, organized by the European Union’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

The agreement specifies the following:

- The antenna will be situated on the Davie Campus of the NSU (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and one of its main activities will be to boost the number of BKC-NSU exchanges.
- The antenna will enable collaboration with other fields of knowledge, help to deepen existing relationships in other areas of science and culture, and increase the scope of knowledge transfer and entrepreneurial activities.
- A cooperation office at the NSU will be made available to the BKC. The office is around 70 m² and situated next to the library of the Shepard Broad Law Center. In addition, another 70 m² area within the same library, and a 50 m² section of the Office of International Programs will be used by the BKC.
- Among other functions, the office will serve to welcome BKC students and staff and to provide interdisciplinary information for students and teaching staff. An area has been created in the BKC’s South Campus to meet the needs of the reciprocal BKCnet antenna in Barcelona.

The UB has been selected by the EACEA to coordinate Erasmus Mundus Action 2 with the United States and Canada: NOVA DOMUS (NetwOrk Of America and Europe for DOctoral Mobility at UniversitieS - of clustered areas related to Chemistry, medical science and photonics).