

MEDIA RELEASE



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DEAKIN PRIME – LEIGHTON INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Deakin University to support Leighton Professional Trainee Program

Deakin Prime, the corporate education arm of Deakin University, and Leighton International, one of the leading contractors and project developers in Asia and the Gulf region, today announced a partnership to implement a Leighton Professional Trainee Program in a collaboration between Deakin University, 'Leighton University' and Indian Universities. Deakin Prime will design, develop and manage the program to deliver post-graduate education in construction management to Leighton students in India.

Deakin Prime CEO Kean Selway said, "This is an excellent example of Deakin being responsive, innovative and relevant as it delivers effective partnerships with industry. Under this project, third year Leighton graduate students will complete, over three semesters, two units towards a post-graduate Certificate in Construction Management, awarded by Deakin University. The content and workshops as well as a train-the-trainer program and overall assessment will be provided by Deakin University. Leighton staff will deliver the content in Indian Universities."

"A pilot program for 27 students began in the first semester 2008 and two new groups of 25 each are enrolling for a July 2008 start. By June 2009 there will be 300 participants enrolled", Selway said.

Leighton International is rapidly growing across Asia and the Gulf Region. The strategic initiative by Leighton to work with Deakin University is designed to develop sufficient numbers of young construction professionals throughout its Asian and Middle Eastern footprint (initially from India) to ensure a continuing supply of "Leighton-ready" professionals to support and manage its projects. The aim is to have at least 300 students at any one time enrolled in the program, and add a Quantity Surveying stream in the near future.

Tom McGuire, who will lead the Leighton program under a 'Leighton University' label, said "We were impressed with Deakin's response to our needs. It has developed an excellent program as a true partner, demonstrated by the success of the pilot program and subsequent enrolments. Leighton's corporate growth will require a capable and flexible work force. The Leighton Professional Trainee Program in partnership with Deakin Prime and Deakin University is designed to support and develop a strong performance culture in that work force."

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