JOINT MEDIA RELEASE
UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 5:00PM, 24 March 2011

Sydney welcomes global scholars

Sydney will highlight its status as an international hub for higher learning with a formal reception this evening for more than 900 commencing international students, hosted by Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Marcelle Hoff, in the Centennial Hall of Sydney Town Hall.

The reception, which will be attended by the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Technology Sydney, Professor Ross Milbourne; Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of Sydney, Dr Michael Spence; and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Richard Henry AM, from the University of New South Wales, will include a musical performance and presentations by a Student Ambassador from each of the Universities.

In partnership with Sydney city’s three major universities, the Sydney City Council is celebrating the contribution international students make to the city’s rich life and diversity with a reception at the Sydney Town Hall.

University of Technology Sydney Ambassador, Mr. Abhineet Gupta from Fiji is studying his Bachelor of Forensic Biology in Biomedical Sciences and is an AusAID scholarship recipient. Abhineet an active member of the UTS community and provides support and assistance to students through his role as a residential networker in UTS Housing, the UTS Peer Network and the UTS peer tutoring program, U:PASS.

The University of Sydney’s Student Ambassador, Ms Munira Nasser Al-Dossari of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is currently completing her PhD, focusing on Biomedical Sciences, at the Sydney Medical School. She has previously completed a Masters degree in Australia, and is currently working towards publishing her fourth academic paper. At the request of her supervisor, she is considering teaching at the University of Sydney. Munira greatly enjoys studying, and living in Sydney.

The University of NSW’s Student Ambassador, Ms Jess Dang, from the PR China, is studying her Juris Doctor at the UNSW Faculty of Law. Jess came to Sydney in 2007 to initially complete her Masters in Professional Accounting. She is now in her second year of the Juris Doctor degree. Jess is an active member of the UNSW community and provides assistance to new international students as a Peer Mentor through the Student Development/International Peer Mentoring Program.

Professor Richard Henry AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), UNSW, said, “We have 60 years of evidence that international students help make our University campus a more vibrant and exciting place to study. We have all benefitted from this diversity and engagement of students.”

Professor Ross Milbourne, Vice-Chancellor and President, UTS, said, “International students make a valuable contribution to the diversity and culture of Sydney. They play a very important role in the vibrancy of university life at their respective universities.”

Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of Sydney, said, “International students are a welcome and integral part of our universities and our city. We all benefit from the fact that students from over 130 different countries each year choose to study in Sydney.”

What: Lord Mayor’s Welcome Reception for International Students
Where: Sydney Town Hall
When: Thursday, 24 March 2011, 5:30-7:30PM

For further information contact Denise Knight, Senior Communications Adviser, UNSW, on 9385 8920 (W) or 0405 207 685 (M), Robert Button, Media Communication Manager, UTS, on 9514 1734 (W), or Andrew Potter, Director, Corporate Media Relations, Office of the Vice-Chancellor & Principal, The University of Sydney on 9351 4138 (W) or 0414 998 521 (M).

Note to Editors: Sydney city and neighbouring suburbs are home to more than 30,000 international students each academic year.