

UCI signs MOU with École Polytechnique to strengthen research collaborations

On September 12, 2014, UCI Provost Howard Gillman hosted delegates from the École Polytechnique (France), including President Jacques Biot, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two universities. The MOU will strengthen and formalize ties between the two universities and explore related research collaborations and student exchanges.

For some time, there have been informal collaborations between several faculty members at UCI and École Polytechnique, explains Professor Toshi Tajima who is Rostoker Chair of Applied Physics. Tajima is also co-founder and deputy director of the International Center for Zetta-Exawatt Science and Technology (IZEST), which is located at École Polytechnique. Under this MOU, UCI has become a hub (a second headquarter) of IZEST, leading the North American efforts in the high intensity frontier of laser and its applications such as to medicine and accelerators.

Following the MOU signing, the group discussed facilitating student exchanges and research initiatives in the areas of LASIK, synthetic chemistry, environmental studies, and mathematics amongst others in addition to the above mentioned IZEST activities. The last UCI stop for the delegates was the Beckman Laser Institute. The delegates were impressed with UCI's entrepreneurial spirit.