

Media release

[Embargoed to 6.00pm, Wednesday 19 March]

Outward Bound enters MOU with innovative global leadership initiative planned for NZ

The New Zealand United World College Trust has signed a memorandum of understanding with Outward Bound NZ, linking two programmes dedicated to developing human potential.

The agreement was signed last night (March 19) at the Wellington launch of the NZ United World College project, where Air New Zealand and Contact Energy each announced contributions of \$100,000 as founding corporate sponsors.

“This partnership with Outward Bound underscores our commitment that a New Zealand United World College will impart to tomorrow’s leaders this nation’s close relationship with the outdoors and our dedication to preservation of the environment”, the Rt Hon Jim Bolger, founder patron of the trust, said during launch ceremonies.

“We are thrilled to be partners in the education of young people who will play leading roles in addressing the challenges of the 21st century,” Outward Bound President Dynes Fulton said. “Outward Bound’s vision calls for helping create better people, better communities and a better world. This is another important step in that direction.”

The agreement calls for development and operation of some joint programmes. United World College students would participate in Outward Bound activities as part of the curriculum. Outward Bound would have access to campus facilities to coordinate delivery of its programmes to all New Zealanders.

United World Colleges and Outward Bound share a common heritage. Both international movements were founded by German education visionary Kurt Hahn, who once said, “We are all better than we know. If only we can come to discover this, we may never again settle for anything less.”

There are 12 United World Colleges across the globe. They offer Rhodes Scholarship-style financial grants to talented young people to study for two years in a pre-university curriculum that stresses academic excellence, personal challenge, global perspective and an ethos of service to society. The New Zealand campus would accommodate about 240 students drawn from 85 countries.

The not-for-profit New Zealand United World College Trust is seeking financing from a family of corporate sponsors to help fund the \$750,000 second phase of the project, which will select a campus site and subject it to rigorous feasibility studies.



The search for the best site has fanned out nationwide from an initial five possible locations in Queenstown. A decision on site selection is expected by mid-2008.

Support for the NZ United World College project is accelerating among corporate and government leaders, community organizations and private individuals. Seven distinguished business professionals sit as trust board members, led by Chairman Tony Baldwin. More than a dozen companies are donating staff time and resources to assist the project start-up.

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For more information:

John Hilhorst, Project Director: +64 3 442 2306 [john.hilhorst@uwc.org.nz]

www.uwc.org.nz

Background on New Zealand United World College

United World Colleges seek to educate the leaders of tomorrow by identifying talented youth between the ages of 16 and 19 who possess a passion to make a difference. Successful candidates are granted two-year scholarships to study in an inspirational setting under a curriculum that fosters curiosity, teamwork, intellectual rigor, creativity, understanding of complex global issues and diversity of cultures.

The first United World College was established in Wales in 1962 by German education pioneer Kurt Hahn, who also founded the Outward Bound movement. There are currently 12 United World Colleges, with Nelson Mandela as the honorary international president.

United World College enrollment cuts across economic, religious, ethnic and political divides. The New Zealand campus will accommodate about 240 students drawn from 85 countries. A key component of the curriculum is an emphasis on service to society.

New Zealand United World College is a not-for-profit group. The project depends on the generosity of corporate and private donors. It is seeking to raise \$750,000 for Stage Two feasibility studies. A tentative site for the campus is expected to be announced by mid-2008 after a nationwide search.

A successful feasibility phase will allow the project to be marketed to international philanthropic organisations and private donors, with the goal of opening the campus by 2012.