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Strengthening global university museum collaboration in China

China is well known for the current dynamism of its museums.

The nation's higher education sector also grows in strength as leading Chinese universities climb the global rankings. There is strong investment in the cultural infrastructure of Chinese universities in many quarters.

UMAC, ICOM's international committee for university museums and collections, has been working in partnership with the **Qian Xuesen Library and Museum of Shanghai Jiao Tong University** since 2016. The development of University Museum Training Week (UMTWS), an annual program for university museum personnel is one outcome. But partnerships always generate other partnerships. Thanks to contacts established during previous UMTWS, UMAC's relationship with China is about to take a quantum leap forward.

UMAC President, Marta Lourenco, today signed two significant agreements in Shanghai.

The **first** is for the development of a university museum app for iOS and Android.

This is a partnership with The Electronic Science and Technology Museum (ESTM) of the University Electronic Science and Technology (UESTC) in Chengdu. This is a university museum, and the first comprehensive electronic science and technology museum in China.

UMAC President Marta Lourenco says "We are committed to increasing the visibility of university museums and collections worldwide. With the ubiquity of hand held devices these days, this development will make UMAC's world-wide database* more accessible to a broader global audience."

"We believe China's Electronic Science and Technology Museum, as a university museum are excellent partners for this enterprise. We are delighted to be working with them. It will bring data about university museums to everyone's phone."

The **second** is the translation of Journal editions into Chinese.

This is an agreement with Shanghai University Museum. UMAC has been publishing a journal since 2001**. This agreement will make the University Museums and Collections Journal (UMACJ) available to a new and large sector of museum practitioners and university administrators.

UMACJ Editor Andrew Simpson says “We are working towards making UMACJ the primary academic source for the emerging speciality of university museum work. This agreement will engage Chinese university museum curators and scholars in the work of UMAC”

Both of these new exciting projects have resulted from UMAC’s partnership with the Qian Xuesen Library and Museum. Representatives of the Electronic Science and Technology Museum and Shanghai University Museum have both participated in previous University Museum Training Weeks where expansive thinking about collaboration and the potential of university museums is fostered.

* An open source database of information about university museums and collections developed in 2001 (<http://university-museums-and-collections.net/>)

** An open source journal, see <http://umac.icom.museum/umac-journal/>

Marta C. Lourenço, University of Lisbon
UMAC-ICOM President
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