Event: Launch of JRC for Advanced Manufacturing
Date: 19 March 2018
Arrival time: 9.45am
Speaking time: 10.38am (5 minutes plus translation)
Location: Weihai, Shandong

Speech notes
Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson AO
[Introduced by MC, Mr Zhiquiang Yu/ Professor Alan Lau]

**Acknowledge VIPs**

- Mr Liang Wang, Executive Vice Mayor of the Weihai Municipal Government and Municipal Standing Committee Member of the CPC Weihai Committee;
- Mr Zhang Zhuxiu, Director of the Shandong Provincial Bureau of Foreign Experts
- Professor Liu Jianva, Vice President, Shandong University
- Mr Tim Dillon, Commissioner for Victoria to China
- Mr Dan Tebbutt, Senior Trade Commissioner for North China and Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) for Beijing
- Roger Li, Chief Executive Officer of AEMG

Friends and colleagues, thank you for joining us today for the launch of the Joint Research Center in Advanced Manufacturing here in Weihai, Shandong, on the shores of the Yellow Sea.

This center is a true collaboration between ourselves at Swinburne and our friends at Shandong University Weihai, the Weihai Economic and Technological Development Zone and the Australian Education and Management Group.

Located here, in the heart of Weihai’s industrial technology zone, this facility will bring together experts from across the region to collaborate on projects and research that are critical to the future of manufacturing.
With a broad focus on the next industrial revolution - Industry 4.0, this centre will concentrate on key advanced manufacturing technologies.

These include 3D printing, industrial automation and robotics, advance material processing, digitization across the value chain and supply chain innovation.

It is anticipated that we will recruit 100 PhD research students within five years, all working on high impact projects involving a wide range of international companies from across our region and the United States. In fact, we have already recruited our first cohort of PhD students, working with industry partners on developing their projects.

We expect Industry 4.0 – the new era of manufacturing connectivity and interaction among parts, machines and humans - will see enormous production and efficiency gains.

It also brings challenges as we experience a fundamental transformation.

At Swinburne, we are placing ourselves at the leading edge of research in this new era of manufacturing connectivity and digitization.

We forged new ground when we launched our Manufacturing Futures Research Institute, where Swinburne researchers partner with industry to create, develop and produce new concepts and products based on Industry 4.0.
Recently, as part of our groundbreaking research into digital manufacturing processes, we established the world’s first operational Industry 4.0 Testlab for carbon composite manufacturing.

The centerpiece of this new testlab will be the world’s first industrial scale 3D printing machine for carbon fibre manufacturing.

This technology will be able to produce commercial parts out of carbon fibre at a cheaper cost, with minimal waste and improved production capability.

In another world first, we at Swinburne will create a graphene certification center to develop graphene – the revolutionary new material – to the point where it can meet quality assurances and be adopted in large-scale manufacturing.

The joint research centre that we officially launch today is central to our commitment to the future of advanced manufacturing.

I am particularly pleased to see our partner, the CSIRO, is here with us.

Only two months ago, Swinburne and the CSIRO launched a new partnership in Silicon Valley earlier this year as part of a strategic move to increase Australian-US research, innovation and commercialization.

We were the first university to partner with the CSIRO in its newly-established office in Northern California.
And here today, we are pleased to share another first – the first Australian university to establish a presence in this industrial technology zone.

Thank you again for your partnership, your support, your friendship - enabling this important step in our journey.