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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Embassy of France in Australia

Developing cooperation between France and Australia is an essential aim of the Embassy. In this context, the French embassy is pleased to announce two important new initiatives and their official launch :

Tuesday, 6th October at 4:00pm
Residence of the Embassy of France,
6 Perth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT 2600

After an extensive process involving French and Australian higher education institutions, as well as Universities Australia and the French Embassy, an agreement of mutual recognition of qualifications has been agreed upon. This agreement, the first of its kind in Australia, will make it easier for Australian students to pursue further study in France and vice versa, thanks to a framework outlining the equivalency of degrees.

This agreement will be signed in Paris shortly by representatives of French universities, the French Vice-Chancellors' Committee (*CPU*) and the French Engineering Schools Directors' Committee (*CDEFI*). The agreement will then be signed by the Chair of Universities Australia on the 6th of October at the French Embassy in Canberra. This initiative is essential as it permits greater student mobility between our two countries.

In addition, we are happy to announce the launch of a new program developed by the Embassy that aims to strengthen ties between Australian universities and French businesses who have operations in Australia. This program consists of organising internships for Australian students in French businesses, with half of the internship taking place in Australia, and the other half taking place in France at either the company's headquarters or other branches.

This program will give Australian students the opportunity to gain an international experience in France, enabling them to both improve their French language skills and to garner first-hand knowledge of the economic and social situation in France. It will also allow companies to identify potential future managers who have a good knowledge of France. Ten French companies and four Australian universities are already partners in this program which will debut next January 2010. Several memoranda of understanding will be signed during the reception on October the 6th by representatives from both Australian universities and French companies.

This ceremony will mark a decisive stage in strengthening the cooperation between France and Australia.