

The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge is a global initiative with the aim of widening the understanding of systems and structures of higher education, research and knowledge, and focussing particularly on developing countries. The objective is to identify, gather, analyse, disseminate and promote research. The Forum provides a platform for researchers, policy-makers and experts to engage critically with research issues and findings.

EDITORIAL REMARKS

Warm greetings to all the Forum's colleagues, friends and partners. We trust that the year has begun well for everyone. Certainly 2009 is a period of major events for UNESCO.

Following the announcement by Sida/Sweden of a special extension to the current phase of the project from April 2008 to July 2009, the Forum Secretariat has been engaged in a busy schedule of activities for this period. Increasingly, the UNESCO Forum is invited to take part in special activities of its many partners, thus attesting to the recognition of its important role in the global debate concerning the diverse challenges faced by the Knowledge Society.

As many of you will know, Professor Berit Olsson retired as director of Sarec/Sida, in June 2008. The tributes to her vision of research and its place in the development process, as well as her energetic promotion of the UNESCO Forum and its mission, have been numerous. Professor Olsson will remain active in the research environment where her expertise will continue to be great demand. She will also be involved in the Forum during 2009.

UNESCO is now engaged in the planning process for the Programme and Budget for 2010-11 (the Draft 35C/5). Following

a round of meetings with National Commissions in all regions (Belgium and the Netherlands, the Philippines, Kuwait, Benin and Panama) in May-June 2008, the Executive Board then examined the initial proposals at its 178th session in September 2008. These will be further studied at the 179th and 180th sessions before final approval at the 35th session of the General Conference in October 2009. This will coincide with the election of UNESCO's new Director-General who will serve a first term from 2010 - 2014.

*This year will also mark the tenth anniversary of the **World Conference on Higher Education** (Paris, July 2009), and of the **World Conference on Science** (Budapest, November 2009). The UNESCO Forum, through its ongoing promotion of knowledge and research since 2001, is scheduled to play a central role in the preparation and holding of these initiatives. In this regard, the Forum will compile and publish a special Research Report to present its output over nearly a decade of activity. The Forum Secretariat thanks the many contributors to the Forum over this period and expresses special appreciation to Professors Lynn Meek, Australia, and Ulrich Teichler, Germany, for their admirable editing of this volume.*

The UNESCO Forum Secretariat

Editorial Remarks

Global Research Seminar (UNESCO, Paris, 28 - 29 November 2008)

The UNESCO Forum Research Report (2001-2009)

Preparations for Special Experts Workshops of the UNESCO Forum

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Special UNESCO Forum Experts Workshops

Trends in Public and Private Higher Education

Leader: Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, Chief, Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality, Division of Higher Education

Since 1980, there has been a significant shift in the financing of higher education, from governments to students and their families, partly due the increased demand for higher education. The cost-sharing occurs through various forms, including: (a) introduction of tuition fees, (b) increases in ancillary services, (c) reduction in government financial aid, and (d) encouragement of private universities to meet the excess demand. The workshop will examine findings from selected case studies from different regions which will explore:

- ▶ The typology of private higher education providers ranging from not for profit (philanthropic; denominational; family enterprises) to for-profit. This will also touch upon the blurring of borders between not-for profit institutions who make a profit operating abroad;
- ▶ An overview of country cases with a view to missions, disciplines, research areas, student populations etc.;
- ▶ Public perceptions of private higher education institutions and target audiences;
- ▶ Contribution of private higher education to widening access to quality higher education;
- ▶ Regulation of private higher education, with a particular focus on quality assurance, accreditation and licensing.

Innovation for Development: Converting Knowledge to Value

Leader: Tony Marjoram, Capacity-building and Science and Engineering Education Section, Natural Sciences Sector

How developing countries use existing and new knowledge to create value effectively will be the objective of this debate, which follows from the 2008 seminar on *Science, Engineering and Innovation for Development*, held at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIIR). Discussion will focus on the identification of best practices needed to improve capacity which can absorb, combine and apply knowledge from different sources. Practical understanding of this crucial topic will benefit middle and low income countries and also donors, IGOs and NGOs active in this area. The

THE UNESCO FORUM RESEARCH REPORT 2008 - 9

Research and Social Development: Systemic Challenges and Issues

The Research Report analyses the main findings and outcomes of the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge from 2001-2008 and tables the main challenges for these fields in the coming decades.

Edited by Lynn Meek, professor and Director of the V.H.Martin Institute of Higher Education, Melbourne, Australia and Ulrich Teichler, professor and immediate past director of the International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER), Kassel University, Germany, the Contents are as follows:

I. The Research Mission in the 21st Century: Serving Sustainable Development

Thandika Mkandawire, Director, UNRISD and Berit Olsson, former Director Sida/Sarec

II. Issues and Challenges

Lynn Meek and Ulrich Teichler

- ▶ *Institutional settings in Higher Education and Research*
- ▶ *Knowledge and people dimensions*

III. The Forum Special Initiative: Mapping National Research Systems

Johann Mouton, CREST, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa and Roland Waast, Institut pour la Recherche sur le Développement (IRD), France

IV. Evidence-based Policymaking: The Role of Research

Ernesto Fernande-Polcuch, UNESCO/Windhoek Simon Ellis and Rohan Pathirage, UNESCO Institute of Statistics, Montreal, Canada

The Forum Research Report, based on the many and varied contributions by experts on research over nearly a decade, will present a stocktaking of the present situation and suggest the main challenges to be addressed in the years ahead. It will be launched at three events in 2009: the Social Sciences Forum (Bergen, Norway, May), the World Conference on Higher Education (Paris, 6 - 8 July) and the World Conference on Science (Budapest, November).

THE UNESCO FORUM GLOBAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

*This activity was held at UNESCO from 28 - 29 November 2008 on the theme of **Sharing Research Agendas on Knowledge Systems** attracting some 180 participants from over 60 countries. The seminar aimed to contribute to mapping ongoing research on knowledge systems in all regions, help identify research gaps and priorities, define new research agendas, and promote networking amongst research organizations and researchers.*

*The researchers and research organizations attending were actively engaged in studying knowledge systems in key fields such as **higher education, science technology and innovation, social sciences, health and agriculture.***

The seminar deliberations focused on three main areas:

- ▶ *Methodologies for the study of research systems*

- ▶ *Innovative case studies in this area*
- ▶ *Specific dimensions of systems (such as governance issues, funding, human resources and the special challenges for research in certain contexts).*

Special opening keynote presentations were made by experts from the World Health Organization and the OECD.

The seminar yielded an initial inventory of researchers and their investigations with regard to areas of research systems. Other experts, research organizations and their findings can be added to this base to increase up to date information about national scientific communities worldwide.

The Proceedings from this seminar will appear in the coming months.

NEWS FROM THE INTERIM SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (ISAB)

A special one-year extension of the current phase of the project has been approved by the donor, Sida/Sweden for the period March 2008 to July 2009. An Interim Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) met at UNESCO in June and December 2008 to study and orient a programme of activities for this period. ISAB members are:

Thandika Mkandawire (Chair, Director UNRISD, Switzerland), Hebe Vessuri (Vice Chair,

Venezuela), Munir Bashshur (Lebanon), Rose Marie Salazar-Clemeña (The Philippines), Saran Kaur Gill (Malaysia), Merle Jacob (Trinidad and Tobago), Philippe Kuhutama Mawoko (NEPAD, South Africa), Bengt-Åke Lundvall (Sweden), Miguel Nussbaum (Chile), Berit Olsson (former Director Sarec/Sweden), Ulrich Teichler (Germany), Albert Sasson (Morocco/France).

THE UNESCO FORUM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

World Social Sciences Forum 2nd Edition

(Bergen, Norway 10 -12 May 2009)

Entitled **One Planet–Worlds Apart**, this event will offer a broad programme of social science issues in both plenary and parallel sessions. Keynote speakers include the Harvard economist, Amartya Sen, Norway's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Store, and Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

WCHE UNESCO, Paris (6 - 9 July 2009)

"The New Dynamics of Higher Education"

To what extent is higher education today a driver for sustainable development in the national and international context? Does the sector live up to the expectations placed in it to induce change and progress in society and to act as one of the key factors for building knowledge-based societies? How does higher education contribute to the development of the education system as a whole? What are the most significant trends that will shape the new higher education and research spaces? How are learners and learning changing? What are the new challenges for "quality" and "equity"?

The conference will take stock of changes in higher education since the World Conference on Higher Education of 1998 and will deal with the new dynamics that are likely to shape the strategic agenda for the development of higher education policies and institutions in the foreseeable future. The higher education policy agenda has considerably evolved since 1998 and the sector is more than ever a priority for tomorrow. Higher education faces many challenges –recurrent and more recent ones– whose in-depth understanding will help to shape

action at the global, regional, national and institutional level. The 2009 WCHE will provide a global platform for forward-looking thinking and debate on the rapidly changing higher education and research spaces and will identify concrete actions aimed at ensuring that the sector meets both national development objectives and individual aspirations.

Regional conferences will be organized to bring specific concerns, expectations and proposals to the 2009 World Conference. Venues are Cartagena, Macao, Beirut, Dakar and Bucharest. Updates on this activity can be consulted on: <http://www.unesco.org/education/hed/2009-worldconference>.

WCS Budapest, Hungary (November 2009)

The fourth World Science Forum (Budapest, November 2009) - will bring together key stakeholders for a new commitment to the development of science at the service of society. Advances in high level science, technology and innovation have accelerated in the past decade and the relevance of these areas in elaborating national sustainable development policies is a given. Finding long term solutions for the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without recourse to sound research capacity in STI domains. However, the imbalance in access to this knowledge has reached critical proportions. Middle and low income countries are particularly at risk in this regard. As a result, it is essential that each and every country builds the capacity to ensure ownership of its policies. Since national research systems play a vital role to underpin sustainable growth, the work of the UNESCO Forum to promote systemic capacity will make a significant contribution to the debate.

(Innovation for Development: Converting Knowledge to Value)

innovation process itself needs to be promoted, measured and assessed so as to ensure that optimal outcomes are understood and shared. In this way, government policy approaches become more coherent, innovation practices can be targeted to meet global and local challenges (such as climate change, sustainable agriculture, health, economic growth, good governance and technology transfer) and the human capital necessary for this action can be strengthened in middle and low income countries. Partners in this workshop include the OECD and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Research in Diverse Social Contexts: Tensions, Dynamics and Challenges

Leader: Christina von Furstenberg, Chief, Policy and Cooperation in Social Sciences Section, Sector for Social and Human Sciences

This workshop proposes an analysis of the diversity of research contexts across all regions and the implications of these for generating a sustainable knowledge base which can both underpin national policy-making for development and link into international research networks to keep abreast of new discoveries. The theme is inspired by the final indicator in the Template resulting from the Special Initiative to map and analyse research systems, which is entitled tensions, dynamics and challenges.

The various dimensions of context to be examined are: governance trends, levels of socio-economic development including the existence of a robust private sector, multiculturalism, demographic issues and IT connectivity.

Social science knowledge is often dismissed as "soft" in character and of lesser significance. However, it is critical to address common scepticism about the validity of social knowledge notably its substance, the gaps that limit its usefulness, the scientific mechanisms to present and model its findings for further applications and the safeguards to prevent its counter-productive misapplication.

The debate will involve international experts in social science research from academia and policy research bodies.

The UNESCO Forum and Special Activities

Over recent months, the UNESCO Forum has taken part in a number of major events in all regions:

- ▶ *IBM Academic Days*
22 - 23 May 2008, Zurich, Switzerland
Panel: *Research, Technology and Social Progress*
- ▶ *IAU: 13th General Conference of the International Association of Universities*
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 15 - 18 July 2008
Panel: *The Future of Research in Higher Education*
- ▶ *South East Europe Science, Higher Education and Innovation Policy Forum*
1 - 3 July Budva, Montenegro
- ▶ *WCHE+10 Sub-Regional Preparatory Conference for Asia and the Pacific*
Macao, 24 - 26 September 2008
Facing Global and Local Challenges: The New Dynamics of Higher Education
- ▶ *ASHE: 33rd Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education*
Jacksonville, Florida, USA, 5 - 8 November 2008
Keynote Address: UNESCO Forum Secretariat
Challenges for Research Systems in the Knowledge Society
- ▶ *WCHE+10 Sub-Regional Preparatory Conference for Africa*
Dakar, Senegal, 10 - 13 November 2008
Panel Discussion: Research and Social Development
- ▶ *WHO: 2008 Bamako Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health*
Bamako, Mali 17 - 20 November 2008
Partners: The World Bank, the Council for Research on Health for Development, the Global Forum for Health Research, Mali, UNESCO, and the UNESCO Forum
Support to reporting by UNESCO Forum
- ▶ *The Higher Education Academy (UK), The Quality Assurance Agency (UK) and the UK Council for Graduate Education: 2020 Vision - The Changing UK Doctorate*
London, UK, 24 November 2008
Keynote Address: UNESCO Forum Secretariat
Global Trends in Doctoral Education and Research

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

- ▶ *Competition, Collaboration and Change in the Academic Profession: Shaping Higher Education's Contribution to Knowledge and Research. Selected papers from the 2007 Asia Pacific Regional Research Seminar.*
Editors: Rose-Marie Salazar-Clemena and V.Lynn Meek, Libro Amigo Publishers, Manila, 2008
- ▶ *Communiqué of the Expert Workshop on Science, Technology and Development*
Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIIR), February 2008
- ▶ *Summary Reports of the 2007 Regional Research Seminars*
UNESCO, Paris, May 2008
- ▶ *Trends and Issues in Postgraduate Education: Challenges for Research*
Report of the International Experts' Workshop, Dublin City University, Dublin, 2008
- ▶ *Report of the Global Research Seminar, "Sharing Research Agendas on Knowledge Systems" including an Inventory of Research Summaries and Researcher Profiles*
UNESCO, Paris February 2009
- ▶ *Reports of the Experts' Workshops led by Higher Education, Science and Social and Human Sciences*
UNESCO, Paris May - July 2009
- ▶ *The UNESCO Forum Research Report (1st Edition)*
Research and Social Development: Systemic Challenges and Issues
Editors: Lynn Meek and Ulrich Teichler
INCHER, Kassel University May 2009

ACTIVITIES

MAY 2008 - JULY 2009

Global Research Seminar

27 - 29 November 2008, UNESCO, Paris

Forum Interim Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB): 2nd meeting

1 December 2008, UNESCO, Paris

Global Experts' Meetings

Science 28 - 30 January 2009,

the Social and Human Sciences 19 - 21 March 2009,

and Higher Education 6 - 8 July 2009

during the WCHE programme

World Conference on Higher Education

5 - 8 July 2009, UNESCO, Paris

World Conference on Science

November 2009, UNESCO, Paris

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