

UNESCO FORUM

on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge

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

Greetings to all our colleagues and readers and we trust that 2007 is proving to be successful for your many activities.

2006 was indeed a very productive year and we are now hard to work on the final stage of the current phase of the Forum which will end in late 2007. Some 10 meetings and 20 publications are scheduled for this busy period. In addition, discussions are continuing on the optimal approaches for the next phase of the Forum within the framework of UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy for 2008-13. This document will be noted by the Member States of UNESCO at the 34th General Conference in autumn 2007.

As readers may recall, the Global Colloquium (29 November - 1 December 2006) was

attended by over 700 participants from all regions. The very wide and positive response to this important conference has clearly indicated the relevance of the Forum and its role as an international arena for debate and analysis both on the state of research production and management in the world and also on the need to provide Member States with the latest policy advice in this domain. The rich expertise which is mobilized through the Forum's numerous activities at national, regional and international levels can assure an informed and forward-looking response to this challenge.

In close cooperation with the Forum Committees and our many partners, we look forward to a busy and fruitful period of action.

The UNESCO Forum Secretariat

PRIORITIES FOR UNESCO'S PROGRAMME PLANNING 2008-13

Following the Director-General's regional consultations with UNESCO's National Commissions from May to July 2006 in Angola, Jamaica, the UAE, Greece and Vietnam, a number of key orientations emerged for the Medium Term Strategy. Sectoral priorities will be: attaining quality education for all; contribution to sustainable development through the mobilization of science; tackling emerging social and ethical challenges in UNESCO's domains;

fostering cultural diversity, dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, and a culture of peace; building inclusive knowledge societies through media and information and communications technologies (ICTs)

The Forum's focus on "research on research" and, implicitly, on the state of knowledge production and dissemination is crucial for all these objectives.

content

Editorial Remarks

Priorities for UNESCO's Programme Planning 2008-13

Activity Update

4th Meeting of the Arab States Regional Scientific Committee, Al Ain University, United Arab Emirates, 6-7 June 2006

4th Meeting of the Europe/North America Scientific Committee, Kassel University, Germany, 5-6 September 2006

Special Event: Women and Research
A lunchtime panel (1 December 2006)

Progress Report on the Special Initiative:
National Research Systems

The UNESCO Forum Global Colloquium

2nd Africa Research Seminar: Accra, Ghana, 22 -24 March 2007

Recent publications

Forthcoming Publications & Commissioned Papers on Special Issues

Upcoming Events

Regional Research Seminars

Other events



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

4th Meeting of the Arab States Regional Scientific Committee, Al Ain University, United Arab Emirates, 6-7 June 2006

The Arab States Regional Scientific Committee gathered in the UAE at the invitation of the Al Ain University and its Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maittha Al Shamsi. Professor Nouria Benghabrit-Remaoun, chair of the Arab States Committee, was presiding at this event. A day of reflection and debate was organized on various topics of interest to the region. Lectures included: *The Implications of WTO/GATS on Higher Education* by Professor Jane Knight of the Comparative International Development Education centre of the University of Toronto, Canada; *Accreditation Issues Today* by Professor Sharon Siverts, Director, Commission for Academic Accreditation, UEA Ministry of Education; *The UN MDGs and Higher Education Issues - Implications for the Arab States* by Professor Abdel Moneim Osman, Director of UNESCO, Beirut

4th Meeting of the Europe/North America Scientific Committee, Kassel University, Germany, 5-6 September 2006

At the invitation of INCHE, University of Kassel, Professor Ulrich Teichler welcomed some 60 participants to this meeting which featured a workshop on *The Changing Academic Profession*. Experts from the USA, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and France were joined by international presenters from Australia, Japan and China. The various sessions focused on the following themes: the academic profession and the increasing expectation of relevance, internationalization as a challenge to the academic profession, the changing role of graduate/doctoral education, training and work, management and its interface with the academic profession. A publication of the scholarly papers presented is expected in Spring 2007.

SPECIAL EVENT: WOMEN AND RESEARCH A LUNCHTIME PANEL

1 December 2006

In association with the Global Colloquium, this lunchtime debate was organized in cooperation with the Unit for Gender and Women's Issues of the Bureau of Strategic Planning and with L'Oréal. The guest speaker was Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director of the Royal Institution, a scientific think tank in the United Kingdom and spokesperson for L'Oréal on issues related to women and science. An acclaimed neurophysicist and advocate for women researchers, Baroness Greenfield traced her own career from her first contact with scientific subjects during her schooling, through her student years and into her career as a fully fledged professor and researcher. Noting that the challenges faced by women seeing research careers may be clearly

identified, she stressed that these were far from resolved with regard to equality of opportunity and career advancement. The importance of sound mentors and continued solidarity amongst academic women were emphasized since women-friendly academic conditions in academic teaching and research are still targets to be achieved, particularly in developing countries.

The ensuing debate focused on experiences from different regions and academic disciplines. Baroness Greenfield was joined in this discussion by international experts from the UNESCO Forum Committees: Hebe Vessuri, Venezuela, Maittha Al Shamsi, UAE, Zakia Bouaziz, Tunisia, Karuna Chanana, India, and Fatou Sow, Senegal.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SPECIAL INITIATIVE: NATIONAL RESEARCH SYSTEMS

Following the Invitational Workshop (6-7 April 2006) attended by some 60 international experts from the governmental, academic, NGO and private sectors, a large scale mapping exercise was launched led by Dr Johann Mouton of the Centre for Research on Science and Technology, (CREST) of the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa and Dr Roland Waast, of the Institut pour la Recherche sur le Développement, IRD/France. Support is being provided by the Centre for Higher Education in Europe (CEPES/Bucharest) and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics.

Fifty-eight countries are involved in the collection and mapping of data and include, inter alia, Botswana, Cameroon, Zambia, Morocco, Tunisia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bahrain, Oman, Romania and Lithuania. They are studied according to a set of Performance Indicators which cover the national history of higher education, science and social development, current policies in these areas, human resources in science and technology, investment in research strategies to promote innovation, the status of researchers and their career development, informal structures related to knowledge production, the instance of scientific cooperation and agreements amongst research and development actors and research output.

At the 2006 Global Colloquium, Professor Mouton and Waast gave an update on the progress and methodology of the project as well as a preview of the expected outcomes which include providing critical data on research systems in developing countries, promoting effective country-owned development policies, contributing international expertise to national and regional knowledge management, sharing expertise across borders via international debate and recommendations, proposing suitable solutions to strengthen research systems based on the adaptation of good practice, facilitating south/south cooperation in knowledge management and innovation, convening strategic international and regional debate on the status of national research systems and forging partnerships for enhanced capacities in the area of innovation.

This project will develop a template which will assist countries in mapping their own capacities to identify strengths and weaknesses to be addressed. It is planned to hold an experts' workshop in late 2007 to analyze and fine tune the final results.

THE UNESCO FORUM GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM

This major conference took place at UNESCO Paris from 29 November - 1 December on the theme of *Universities as Centres of Research and Knowledge Creation. An endangered species?* The debates centered on three sub-themes: research productivity, research capacity and the relevance of research.

The meeting was opened by the Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura who acclaimed the concept of the UNESCO Forum as an international arena for debate on systems of research in a globalized world, thus taking forward the key ideas on the future of knowledge production proposed by the World Conference on Higher Education 1998 and the World Conference on Science 1999. The critical importance of knowledge systems, the challenges they face today, and the special role of universities in this process were also evoked in the remarks of Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Science and Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education.

A special keynote scenario linking the theme of the conference to the Millennium Development Goals was delivered by Professor A.H. Zakri, Director, Institute for Advanced Studies of the United Nations University. He emphasized that the exclusion from knowledge is an aspect of the struggle against poverty and that partnerships, North /South and South/South, are crucial to the resolution of this issue. The Higher Education community, especially universities through their research mission, plays a central role in this process.

Keynotes address followed: Arthur Bienenstock, Stanford University, USA, on research capacity, Imanol Ordorika, UNAM, Mexico, on research productivity, and Charas Suwanwela, Thailand,

on research relevance. These address were complemented by a series of international and regional perspectives on aspects of these key sub-themes: Jorge Yurtonic, Chile, Charles Edquist, Sweden, Xue Lan, China and Joseph Massaquoi, Sierra Leone and Director UNESCO/Nairobi. Discussants were Mario Cervantes, OECD, Albert Sasson, Morocco, Tony Marjoram, UNESCO, and Carthage Smith, ICSU.



The Colloquium featured parallel sessions where 36 experts from all regions presented their various experiences.

The Final Report was presented by Professor Hans Weiler (Germany), assisted by Professors Sarah Guri-Rosenblit (Israel) and Akilagpa Sawyerr (Ghana).

The programme included a presentation of the Forum's special initiative entitled *A Comparative Analysis of National Research Systems* by Dr Johann Mouton of the Council for Research on Science and Technology (CREST) South Africa and Dr Roland Waast, of the Institut pour la Recherche sur le Développement IRD, France.

Useful reactions were provided from various standpoints: Richard Yelland /OECD for the governmental view, Diem Ho/IBM for the private sector, and Maria Slowey/SRHE for the academy. This range of comments served to underscore the importance of knowledge production and the place of universities in this process for a wide range of social and economic stakeholders. (Full reporting at www.unesco.org/education/researchforum)

2nd Africa Research Seminar: Accra, Ghana, 22 -24 March 2007

The African Regional Scientific Committee has chosen *"The Contribution of Higher Education to National Education Systems: Current Challenges for Africa"* as the theme of its second research seminar which is being organized in cooperation with the African Association of Universities (AAU), and the University of Ghana, Legon. Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr is leading the Local Organizing Committee.

The programme has been elaborated under the guidance of the African Committee headed by Professor Goolam Mohammedbhai and is designed to emphasize the important linkages between higher education and UNESCO's action in the area of Education for All (EFA). The call for papers has resulted in the choice of some 18 presenters from 13 countries of the region. The researchers will speak to the programme's selected sub-themes namely Teacher Education, Non-Formal Education, Technical and Vocational Education, Research in Education and Open and Distance Learning and Continuing Education. Special guest speakers include Eva Egron Polak, Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU), and Dr Nuri Yakabu of the National Board of Technical Education, Nigeria.

The seminar's Proceedings will be published in the course of 2007.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ *Knowledge Society v Knowledge Economy: knowledge, power and politics*
Editor: Guy Neave, Sverker Sorlin, Hebe Vessuri (Palgrave Publishing, USA)
- ▶ *Higher Education Research and Knowledge the Asia Pacific Region*
Editors: V. Lynn Meek and Charas Suwanwela (Palgrave Publishing USA)
- ▶ *Universidad e Investigación Científica : Convergencias y Tensiones*
Editor: Hebe Vessuri (CLACSO Libros, Argentina)
- ▶ *Knowledge, Power and Dissent*
(Proceedings of the UNESCO Forum Global Colloquium 2004)
Editor: Guy Neave (UNESCO Publishing)

Forthcoming Publications

- ▶ *Regional Research Seminar Proceedings*
Accra, Rabat, Trinidad and Tobago, Paris, China

Commissioned Papers on Special Issues

- ▶ Dr Wallace Baker, Senior Partner Emeritus, Baker and McKenzie, Paris
The Global Compact, Social Engagement and Business Ethics: Challenges for the University
- ▶ Dr Roger Benjamin, The Council for Aid for Education CAE
Assessment versus Accountability in Higher Education
- ▶ Dr Nicholas Burnett, Director, Global Monitoring Report on Education for All, UNESCO
The Education for All (EFA) Movement: the importance of educational research
- ▶ Dr Nazli Choucri, Professor of Political Science, MIT and Chair, Scientific Council of the UNESCO/MOST Programme
The Politics of Knowledge Management in the 21st Century
- ▶ Dr Donald Gerth, President Emeritus California State University at Sacramento and Chair, American Council of the UNU
Internationalism and Universities in the 21st Century
- ▶ Dr Diem Ho, Director, Academy of Technology, IBM Europe
Innovation, Knowledge Management, Research: The ICT factor
- ▶ Professor Bruce Johnstone, State University of New York, USA
Current trends in higher education financing and their associated implications for developing competitive national research systems
- ▶ Dr Murielle Joye-Patry: International Federation of University Women
Civil Society Partnerships and Development Policies: Emerging Trends
- ▶ Dr Jane Knight, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada
The General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) and Higher Education: A Global View
- ▶ Dr Patti McGill Peterson, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)
New Models for the Research University
- ▶ Dr Bikas Sanyal, Consultant, International Institute for Educational Planning, UNESCO
The Role of Higher Education in obtaining EFA goals with particular focus on Developing Countries
- ▶ Professor Maria Slowey, Vice President, Society for Research into Higher Education
Trends and Challenges for Post Graduate Research: a global review
- ▶ Dr Traugott Schoefthaler, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, Alexandria, Egypt
The Dialogue of Civilizations: fostering university research on intercultural understanding
- ▶ Professor A.H. Zakri, Director, Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University, UNU/IAS
The United Nations Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction: the role of academic research

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Research Seminars

Europe

5-6 March 2007, UNESCO, Paris,
Globalizing Knowledge: European and North American Regions and Policies addressing the priority issues of other UNESCO Regions

Africa

22-24 March 2007, Accra, Ghana,
The Contribution of Higher Education to the Education System

Arab States

24-25 May 2007, Rabat, Morocco,
The Impact of Globalization on Higher Education and Research in the Arab States

LAC

19-20 July 2007, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
Research and Higher Education Policies for Transforming Societies: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

Asia/Pacific

17-18 September 2007, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China,
Competition, Cooperation and Change in the Academic Profession in shaping Higher Education's contribution to knowledge and research

Other events:

Autumn 2007, with the Science Policy Research Unit, Sussex University, United Kingdom,
Expert workshop on Science Policy and Innovation

Autumn 2007, with the Society for Research into Higher Education,
Trends and Issues in Postgraduate Research and Training

Autumn 2007, with the UNESCO Institute of Statistics and the Unit for Gender and Women's Equality, UNESCO, *The Gender Dimension in Research: A Stocktaking*

Autumn 2007, Experts' Workshop to examine the outcomes of this project and their application for research policy in Member States, *Special Forum Initiative: Strengthening National Research Systems*

Further information:

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