

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 focusing particularly on developing countries. The objective is to identify, gather, analyse, disseminate and promote research. The UNESCO Forum provides a platform for researchers, policy-makers and experts to engage critically with research issues and findings.

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and Partners of the UNESCO Forum,

It is with great pride that we send to you the first number of the new UNESCO Forum Quarterly Update. The development of our Newsletter is part of our ambition to increase the UNESCO Forum's visibility. The intent is also to facilitate your awareness of the UNESCO Forum's activities. Although this first edition is a crucial step in this direction, we hope to further develop the Quarterly Update with interesting input from Committee Members and Partners.

Looking back at the last quarter of 2004, it was doubtlessly one of the most challenging periods for the UNESCO Forum. The absence of our Project Manager, Katri Pohjolainen Yap, has been conspicuous, and we all wish for her quick recovery and return to the Secretariat!

October, November and December also included several interesting Seminars, the Colloquium on Research and Higher Education Policy being the final and major event of the year. Even though the Seminars, and especially the Colloquium,

were demanding in terms of preparations and planning, they were also rewarding and contributed significantly to the objectives of the UNESCO Forum. You may read more about these meetings in this Quarterly Update.

With the experiences of last year's Seminars we are now looking forward to a year filled with many interesting events, starting in April, which connect researchers and policy-makers both regionally and globally on issues such as Trade in Education and Academic Freedom.

Maria Lindqvist
Deputy Project Manager
UNESCO Forum
Secretariat



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activity update

First Regional Research Seminar for Arab States

The UNESCO Forum Regional Scientific Committee for Arab States held its first Research Seminar in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, 6-7 October 2004.

Within the context of rapid changes and developments affecting Higher Education in the Arab region, the theme of "Restructuring and Differentiation of Patterns of Higher Education in the Arab States: Meeting the Challenges in the Present and the Future" was chosen by the Regional Scientific Committee for Arab States. The idea of the theme was to bring to the fore the changes that are currently arising in higher education through the initiated processes of restructuring and diversification of the system in an environment characterized by the ideological domination of the market.

The essential question one should ask is: What kind of university is needed and according to which evaluation tool? The global context at the heart of which higher education is evolving is marked by the increase and the complexity of knowledge along with a diversification of the methods to access knowledge. The persistence of the use of traditional teaching methods based on memorisation in our universities constitutes an aggravating factor for the weak production of knowledge, even worse, its marginalisation in our universities.



(First Regional Research Seminar for Arab States)

Nonetheless, the revolution induced by the massive use of ICTs in the organisation and functioning of the societies, returns science and knowledge to an essential position in the development of societies. Indeed, it is the higher education and scientific research sectors, which is called for in order to play a determining role. Nowadays, our societies are confronted to the necessity of in depth changes of the training system in a new national and international context. They are confronted to what we could call the 2nd step of the reforms characterized by the challenges in a knowledge society in full expansion.

The Seminar was the opportunity to gather researchers from the region to discuss nine papers focused on the following issues:

- ways to start reforming higher education systems in order both to improve the quality of education and research and to provide an answer to the increasing demand of access to higher education;
- solutions to transform the demographic and therefore financial pressure on higher education into factors of change;
- and finally how to ensure the education of an elite through a highly selective process and at the same time guarantee the knowledge diffusion to a growing population.

Without doubt the contributions of experienced speakers enabled us to share knowledge and to open tracks for reflection that will support the implementation of relevant public actions in favour of higher education and scientific research. The papers presented during this seminar created an opportunity to open a real debate on the situation of higher education in the Arab Region as well as to identify future challenges.

Nouria BENGHABRIT-REMAOUN

First Regional Research Seminar for Europe and North America

The First Research Seminar for Europe and North America on 'Managerialism and Evaluation' took place on 4 November 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. This meeting was presided over by Professor Maurice Kogan. Four papers were presented and discussed during the Seminar; namely, those of Professors Guy Neave, Ivar Bleiklie, Mary Henkel and Francisco Michavila Pitarch. As Professor Pitarch was unable to attend, his paper was presented by Professor John Brennan.

COLLOQUIUM ON RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

"Knowledge, Access and Governance: Strategies for Change"

1-3 December 2004, Paris

REPORT

The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge held its first international Colloquium on Research and Higher Education Policy in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, 1-3 December 2004.



Mr K. Matsuura

Both the UNESCO Forum and the Colloquium are follow up activities of two major UNESCO Conferences: the World Conference on Higher Education (1998) and the World Conference on Science (1999).

The main objective of the UNESCO Forum is to enhance the international community's understanding of systems, structures, policies, and developments in Higher Education, Research and Knowledge, with particular focus on developing countries. One of the premises of the UNESCO Forum's work is that there exists no single answer to what constitutes "ideal" higher education or research systems, structures or policies; it is therefore necessary to identify and examine a variety of solutions to meet the challenges arising out of different cultural, political, and economic contexts.

This Colloquium on Research and Higher Education Policy was the first of its kind in a series of global events that will carry forward the momentum of the UNESCO Forum. Its objective was to connect the worlds of research and policy in higher education by gathering researchers, policy-makers and experts from all parts of the world with a mandate to critically review relevant research results and to question existing policy frameworks at national, regional and global levels.

In the context of rapid and complex changes occurring in higher education today, the inaugural theme of "Knowledge, Access, Governance: Strategies for Change" was chosen by the UNESCO Forum Global Scientific Committee as representing the three key issues facing the world of higher education and research: the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the facilitation of access to higher education and research around the world, and the structural arrangements for the governance of higher education and research are to be seen as formidable challenges for both scholarly inquiry and policy. Around these three issues, the Colloquium brought together researchers, adminis-

trators, government officials and representatives of national and international agencies and associations involved in higher education and research.

The Global Scientific Committee, which has been responsible for the planning of the Colloquium, is one

of the six committees of the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge. It is comprised of 15 researchers and policy makers from all major regions of the world and from a wide range of professional backgrounds. It is designed to function as an intellectual platform transcending institutional and national boundaries, and to act as a global catalyst of critical reflection, analysis, and strategy on higher education, research and knowledge. The Chairs of the respective Regional Scientific Committees are members of the Global Scientific Committee, thus facilitating the communication and the continuity of work between regional and global levels.

The Call for Papers for the 2004 Colloquium was launched in April 2004, on a very broad basis, and yielded well over a hundred proposals. Out of these, the Global Scientific Committee, during its meeting on 23-24 July 2004 in São Paulo, Brazil, selected 30 proposals to be presented as papers at the Colloquium. These papers focused on the themes of Knowledge, Governance and Access, and were organized accordingly for the Colloquium program. **The program** provided for both plenary and parallel sessions where the papers were presented in summary form and thoroughly debated by invited discussants and the Colloquium participants.

In addition to the contributions that resulted from the Call for Papers, the UNESCO Forum invited a number of presentations from among some of the most distinguished specialists in the field of higher education and knowledge around the world. These included, as key note speakers, **Professor Homi K. Bhabha** (India), Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard University, and **Professor Paulin J. Hountondji** (Benin), Professor of Philosophy at the National University of Benin in Cotonou. In addition, invited papers were presented by **Hans Weiler**, Stanford University, USA, **Saleem Badat**, Council on Higher Education, South Africa, **Ana Maria Cetto**, Technical

Cooperation Department, International Atomic Energy Agency, Austria, **Joel Samoff** and **Ms Bidemi Carrol**, Stanford University, USA, **Carmen Garcia Guadilla**, Center for Development Studies, Venezuela, **Fahima Charaffedine**, University of Lebanon, Lebanon and **Steve Fuller**, University of Warwick, United Kingdom. The Colloquium was formally opened by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, in an opening session chaired by the Director of UNESCO's Division of Higher Education, Mr. Georges Haddad.

The Colloquium generated a great deal of interest in the international community of higher education and research, and was attended by 295 participants from 70 countries in all major regions of the world, representing a wide range of academic, governmental, non governmental and international institutions. While some parts of the world were better represented than others, and some relevant agencies, notably UNESCO itself, could have been more broadly present in the Colloquium's proceedings, the UNESCO Forum was very pleased with both the competence and the range of geographic and professional backgrounds of the Colloquium participants.

The major accomplishments of the Colloquium can be summarized as follows:

a) The Colloquium brought the work of the UNESCO Forum for the first time to the attention of a worldwide professional audience; the Colloquium's principal themes - access, knowledge, governance - highlighted for the international scholarly and policy discourse the key issues facing higher education and research in today's and tomorrow's world.

b) The wide range of the participants' backgrounds provided for a particularly lively and stimulating interaction on the Colloquium's major

themes both during the formal sessions and in many conversations outside the formal agenda. Since the sustained dialogue between scholars and policymakers in the field of higher education and research is still the exception rather than the rule, the Colloquium provided an extraordinarily important means of communication among these groups, and a basis for future cooperation between them.

c) The contributions to the Colloquium, especially the key note and other invited papers, but also several of the contributions resulting from the Call for Papers, provided a rich insight into the state of the art of scholarship and reflection on key issues in higher education, and form the basis for a major UNESCO publication that is now being prepared under the UNESCO Forum's auspices. The fact that the keynote contributions to the Colloquium were provided by a scholar of comparative literature and a philosopher was indicative of the broad range of approaches that an adequate analysis of the problems of higher education, research and knowledge requires.

d) The Colloquium was a solid first and promising step towards building an international network of scholars, administrators, policymakers and associational representatives interested in better understanding the dynamics of higher education and knowledge production in today's world. On this basis, the UNESCO Forum will continue building and strengthening this network through a series of further regional and international seminars and colloquia, including a second major colloquium in late 2006.

The papers of the Colloquium 2004 will be disseminated and published either in a book (to be published in the fall 2005) or on the UNESCO Forum website.

Hans Weiler

(First Regional Research Seminar for Europe and North America)

In his paper Professor Guy Neave drew on his two classic accounts of the rise of the evaluative state taking us forward to consider the likely impacts of the Bologna proposals onwards on both management and evaluation. Professor Ivar Bleiklie gave some direction on the political and public administration dimensions of evaluation and managerialism. From these macro aspects the focus was turned on their impacts on academic identity and values, a subject in which Professor Mary Henkel linked different forms of evaluation to managerialism. Finally, institutional realities were discussed on the basis of the paper written by Professor Francisco Michavila Pitarch which presented a university strategy on Accreditation and Quality Assessment.

During the Committee Meeting which took place on 5 November, the Committee agreed to publish the papers from the 1st Regional Research Seminar as Occasional papers which soon will be available on the UNESCO Forum website together with the comments of the discussants.

It was confirmed during the Committee Meeting that the theme for the 3rd Regional Scientific Committee meeting for Europe and North America, which is to take place on the 17th and 18th of November this year in Paris, is "Globalized Knowledge".

Renewed Scientific Committees

In order to optimize the capacities of the Scientific Committees, the UNESCO Forum decided to increase the number of members of each of its Regional Scientific Committees from nine to eleven. Accordingly, the UNESCO Forum worked on the nomination process for the committee expansion during last year. As the result of this, all regional committees do now have 11 members. In addition, the Global Scientific Committee has two new committee members.

Newly selected Committee members:

Africa: Goolam Mohamedbhai (Chair), N'Dri Assie-Lumumba, Takiyawa Manuh, Bahru Zewde

Arab: Mohamed Najib Abdulwahed, Nouria Lakhdar-Ghazal, Fouad Al Roumaihi

Asia and the Pacific: Saran Kaur Gill, Chong-Jae Lee, Regsuren Bat-erdene

Europe and North America: Philippe Laredo (Vice Chair), Elaine El-Khawaw, Ronald Sultana

Latin America and the Caribbean: Miguel Nussbaum Voehl, Michele Monteil, Magdalena Leon

Global: Goolam Mohamedbhai, Nabeel Kassiss

The Preparatory Expert Meeting in New Delhi for UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Implications of WTO/GATS on Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

A Preparatory Expert meeting on the implication of WTO/GATS on Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific took place in New Delhi, India 9-10 December 2004. It was co-organized by the UNESCO Forum, the UNESCO Office New Delhi and the UNESCO Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance. At this meeting, the issues of GATS and trade in higher education were addressed, especially focusing on the impact of trade in a system that has weak structures and little capacity.

The Preparatory Expert meeting was an important part of the preparations for the regional seminar in Seoul on 27-29 April 2005 concerning the implication of WTO/GATS on Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific.

Scientific Committee and Field Office Day

The day before the Colloquium, on November 30, about 40 participants from the UNESCO Forum Scientific Committees and some of the Field Offices that the UNESCO Forum is cooperating with, met for half a day to get to know each other and learn about the different regional activities. The intention with this day was to create links over the regions and for the participants to learn more about the conceptual frameworks and the long term plans of the different committees. It was also to hear about the UNESCO Forum activities with UNESCO Field Offices. Yet another important objective was to discuss the UNESCO Forum Steering document.

During the day, conceptual frameworks and long-term plans were presented to give the Committee Members a general view of the UNESCO Forum committee activities. This was the first time the Scientific Committees could meet all together. An important conclusion of the day was that more interregional cooperation and a more comparative approach needs to be developed. The Global Scientific Committee has an important role to play to link between the regions.

Part of the day was devoted to a discussion on the UNESCO Forum Steering document. The process of developing the Steering Document occurs on several different levels: papers on topics such as gender and sustainable development are being commissioned to boost the document, Prof. Fatou Sow and Prof. Jajah Koswara are working on the policy context and the input from committee members and partners is taken into account. During the Scientific Committee and Field Office Day several valuable suggestions were given, e.g. to focus more on research and research systems, as well as the operational side of the UNESCO Forum with a view to bring in mechanisms for evaluation and to have clearer definitions of the terms that are being used. The discussion was very helpful for the UNESCO Forum and will be an important part in the revision of the Steering Document.



UPCOMING EVENTS

a) Scientific Committee Activities Spring 2005

Asia and the Pacific

As the first activity of the UNESCO Forum this year, the 3rd Regional Scientific Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific will be held on **25-26 April 2005 in Seoul**, the Republic of Korea, under the theme of "Advocating Research Policy Changes in the Higher Education System of the Asia-Pacific Region". In this meeting, the Regional Scientific Committee will address the sub-topics of this main theme, which is divided into four as follows; Best practices in relation to: (1) promoting research; (2) knowledge production; (3) gender equity and; (4) higher education quality, focusing on the institution level.

The Regional Scientific Committee for Asia and the Pacific will also hold the UNESCO regional Seminar back to back with the 3rd Regional Scientific Committee meeting on **27-29 April 2005 in Seoul**, the Republic of Korea, which is co-organized with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO as well as the UNESCO Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance. The theme of the seminar is the "Implications of WTO/GATS on Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific". The seminar will deal with higher education, development of research and knowledge systems in a globalized world facing the challenges of international trade as well as cross-border provision of higher education. During the session, the experiences among countries and regions responding to this trend will be shared and measures to improve capacity building as well as strengthen research will be discussed. This seminar will be an opportunity to enhance cooperation and exchange for joint research and cooperative projects in the future at the regional level.

Africa

The Regional Scientific Committee for Africa will meet **12-13 May 2005 in Maputo**, Mozambique. The main focus of the 3rd Regional Scientific Committee meeting will be the publication on the World Bank and higher education policy, as well as the development of conceptual framework for the Committee.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, Mexico will be the venue for the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held **9-10 June 2005**. The aim of this meeting will, among several things, be to discuss the follow up of the Regional Seminar on GATS/WTO. This regional seminar will be held **7-8 June 2005, also in Mexico City**, Mexico and focus on the implications of GATS/WTO on higher education and research, and especially on international mobility and the internationalisation of higher education. As is the case with the regional seminar in Seoul, the Republic of Korea of this meeting will be co-organized with the UNESCO Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance.

b) Partner Activities 2005

CODESRIA

28 - 30 April

"Lusophonie" in Africa: History, Democracy and Integration", CODESRIA International Colloquium, Luanda, Angola.

http://www.codesria.org/Links/News/announcements_2004/international_colloquium_2004.pdf

29 - 31 August

Globalization Studies Network, 2nd International Conference, Dakar, Senegal,

<http://www.codesria.org/Links/News>

/announcements_2004/gsn_codesria_eng.pdf

AAU

27 - 29 June

"The African University in the 21st Century", University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. SAARDHE (South African Association of Research and Development in Higher Education.

<http://www.aau.org/announce/cfp-kwazulu-natal.pdf>

IAU

31 March - 2 April

"Strong Universities for Europe", European Universities Association, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

www.eua.be/eua/en/eua_conferences_coming.jsp

13 - 14 April

"First International Congress on the Production of Science, Software and Free Thinking Movement", Islamic Azad University International Affairs, Teheran, Iran

www.iaiau.org

20 - 21 May

AUF General Assembly, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

www.auf.org

ICSU

17 - 21 October

ICSU 28th General Assembly, International Council for Science, Suzhou and Shanghai, China

<http://www.icsu.org/eXcal2/calendar.php4?mode=view&id=8>