

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

Greeting from UNESCO where efforts are underway to ensure that the programme of activities foreseen for 2006 will be successfully implemented and that the visibility of the Forum will be enhanced. Some 6 meetings and 25 publications are scheduled for this busy period. In addition, discussions are commencing on the optimal approaches for the next phase of the Forum. This process should take account of important developments at UNESCO, notably the drafting of the Medium Term Strategy for 2008-13 and the review of the Science and Social Science Sectors now in progress. In this way, the Forum's commitment to the promotion of knowledge creation and management will be best served.

We look forward to working with the Forum Committees and many partners to address the challenges involved in this exciting programme.

The UNESCO Forum Secretariat

UNESCO'S PROGRAMME PLANNING

2006 marks the planning for the next UNESCO Medium Term Strategy 2008-13 as well as for its first biennial programme (2008-9). To this end, the Director General convened regional consultations with UNESCO's National Commissions from May to July in Angola, Jamaica, the UAE, Greece and Vietnam.



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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Asia/Pacific Scientific Committee

The fourth session of this committee took place in Jakarta, Indonesia from 19-20 January 2006 under the chairmanship of Professor Akira Arimoto (Japan). The committee decided to hold a conference on *The Roles of Higher Education in National Development and their Impact on Strategies for Sustainability* before the meeting, in collaboration with the Association of Indonesian Private Universities (APTISI), the Universitas Mercu Buana (UMB) of Jakarta and the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, under the auspices of the Indonesian Ministry of National Education. Professor Bambang Sudibyo, the Indonesian Minister for National Education opened the meeting, which proved the relevance of the issues raised for Indonesia. The conference was a great opportunity for the committee members to share knowledge with about 150 leaders of universities mainly from Indonesia and the Philippines. Two panels addressed a variety of crucial issues such as defining mission statements for Higher Education Institutions, international cooperation, promoting knowledge transfer and innovation via links to industry and business and ensuring the career development of faculty in a changing higher education context.



The committee meeting was divided into eight sessions, where papers and ideas were discussed and they fed into the planning of the next research seminar, which will look at *Competition, Cooperation and Change in the Academic Profession in Shaping Higher Education's Contribution to Knowledge and Research*, which will be held in China next year.

The Europe/North America Scientific Committee

The committee met in Paris from 23 to 24 February 2006, chaired by Professor Ulrich Teichler (Germany). The meeting started with an inspiring workshop, where Professor Antoine Zahlan, currently working as a science policy consultant based in the U.K., presented his paper on the *Relationship between Europe and North America and the Arab States in a Globalized World*. Professor Peter Massen, currently working in the Faculty of Education at Oslo University, made the second presentation on *European and North American Higher Education Policies and Developing Countries*. After the workshop, discussions were held on the next meeting, which will be hosted by the University of Kassel, Germany in September 2006 and it will consist of a workshop and a committee meeting, in order to interact with researchers, who are present for the *Annual Conference of the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers*. The theme of the workshop is *The Changing Role of the Academic Profession and its Interface with Management*, where we are expecting 45 participants.

The Africa Scientific Committee

The fourth meeting of the Africa Scientific Committee took place at UNESCO, Paris from 9 to 10 March 2006 under the chairmanship of Professor Goolam Mohamedbhai (Mauritius). Mr Tidjani Serpos, Assistant Director-General for ADG/Africa and Professor Alec Boksenberg, chairperson of the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO and a member of the Evaluation Panel now reviewing the Science and Social Science Sectors of UNESCO, gave special presentations on current initiatives of interest to the Africa region. Both evoked the importance of strengthening research capacities in the region and their relation to effective poverty reduction strategies.

The committee discussed the forthcoming publications from African experts, which will centre on *Historical Investigations into Higher Education in Africa* and an analysis of the *World Bank Policies in Higher Education* in this region. Also, debate took place on the Regional Research Seminar to be hosted by Ghana in March 2007 on the theme of *Higher Education and the Education System as a Whole*.

The Latin America and Caribbean Scientific Committee

A very successful meeting took place in Caracas from 24-26 April, under the chairmanship of Professor Hebe Vessuri (Venezuela). The first day was devoted to a seminar on *Knowledge and the Latin American Society's Needs*. The meeting, hosted by the Instituto Venezolano de Investigacion Cientifica (IVIC) was divided into two major thematic sessions. The first session focused on "Production and distribution of knowledge" and was designed to examine the various institutional contexts in which knowledge was produced, reproduced and distributed. The second session was designed to examine the issue of *Public Policies in the Latin American Context*. The committee invited four prominent experts from the region who enriched the discussion as well as the 40 participants who attended the meeting. A full report of the seminar could be found at our web page.



For each session there were four speakers, two of whom gave a general outline of an issue, while the other two participated as discussants. At the end of each thematic session, the floor was opened for debate in which the audience participated generally.

At the committee meeting the main focus was the planning of the next research seminar on *Research and Higher Education Policies for Transforming Societies: Perspectives from Latin America and Caribbean*, which will be held in Trinidad and Tobago.

THE UNESCO FORUM AT THE WORLD BANK



The Asia Pacific Committee led a Breakfast Panel at the Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics (the ABCDE conference) which took place in Tokyo from 29 to 30 May 2006. Panelists were Rose Marie Salazar Clemeña, Lynn Meek and Charas Suwanwela who discussed Forum issues including the new book entitled *Higher Education, Research and Knowledge in the Asia Pacific Region*.

THE UNESCO FORUM AT THE OECD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Berit Olsson, Director SAREC/Sida and Pierre Sané, ADG/SHS, UNESCO were panellists at the OECD Civil Society Forum entitled *Balancing Globalization* (Paris, 23-24 May 2006). At a discussion on Access to Education, Dr Olsson highlighted the objectives and activities of the UNESCO Forum for promoting knowledge systems in developing countries. Dr Sané presented the outcomes of the recent SHS International Forum on the Social Science - Policy Nexus, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in February 2006 at the panel on Innovation and Economic Growth.



THE UNESCO FORUM GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM

This will take place at UNESCO Paris from 29 November - 1 December on the theme of *Universities as Centres of Research and Knowledge Creation. An endangered Species?* Guest speakers from all regions will attend and the programme will include a presentation of the Forum's special initiative entitled "A Comparative

Analysis of National Research Systems" by Professor Johann Mouton of the Council for Research on Science and Technology (CREST) South Africa and Professor Roland Waast, of the Institut pour la Recherche sur le Développement IRD, France.

Committee Members Update

Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr attended the conference on the Association of Commonwealth Universities on leadership in higher education (Adelaide, April 2006)

Professor N'Dri Therese Assie Lumumba has become an assistant researcher in the Cote

D'Ivoire for her distinguished career in higher education and research. She has received warm congratulations from her Forum colleagues on this prestigious honour.

NATIONAL RESEARCH SYSTEMS: INVITATIONAL WORKSHOP

6-7 April 2006

This special initiative of the UNESCO Forum was launched at a workshop attended by some 60 international experts from the governmental, academic, NGO and private sectors.

At the Opening Session, Professor Georges Haddad, UNESCO's Director of Higher Education, welcomed the participants and introductory remarks were given by Professor Berit Olsson, Director SAREC/Sida and by Professor Goolam Mohammedbhai representing the Forum's Global Scientific Committee. All commented on the importance of the topic and the urgent need to find innovative ways to strengthen research capacity in developing and poor countries, which lack infrastructure, sustained investment and human resources in this vital area.

The experts worked in two sessions and reflected on ways and means to strengthen research governance, personnel, funding and output, basing the debates on a set of questions prepared by Professor Hans Weiler of Stanford University. The workshop fine-tuned these questions, as well as recommended the adoption of an overall template which could help identify current research capacity and indicate sectors to be reinforced.

The next steps of the initiative include a global mapping exercise and analysis of the results yielded. 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 will collaborate with the UNESCO Forum for this project.

The report may be consulted online: http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=10161&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Recent publications available upon request

- ▶ *Changing Structures of Higher Education Systems*
(Papers of the 2nd ENA Regional Committee Meeting, 2004)
Editor: Ulrich Teichler
- ▶ *Managerialism and Evaluation in Higher Education*
(Papers of the 1st ENA Regional Research Seminar, 2004)
Editor: Maurice Kogan
- ▶ *Implications of the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific*
(Papers from the Asia/Pacific Regional Seminar, Seoul 2005)
Editor: Akira Arimoto
- ▶ *Historical Investigations in African Higher Education*
Editor: Bahru Zewde

UPCOMING EVENTS

a) Scientific Committee Activities

- 6 - 7 June 2006**, Fourth Regional Scientific Committee Meeting for Arab States, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates.
- 5 September 2006**, *Workshop on the Changing Role of the Academic Profession and its Interface with Management*, Kassel, Germany.
- 5-6 September 2006**, Fourth Regional Scientific Committee Meeting for Europe and North America, Kassel, Germany.
- 24 October 2006**, Fulbright UNESCO Symposium, on Global Higher Education, in cooperation with Council for International Exchange of Scholars, CIES.
- 29 November - 1 December 2006**, Global Colloquium of the UNESCO Forum *Universities as centers of research and knowledge creation: an endangered species?* UNESCO Paris.
- 1 December 2006**, Scientific Day for all Committees of the Forum (UNESCO, Paris).
- 2 December**, Fourth Global Scientific Committee Meeting (UNESCO, Paris).
- January - June 2007**, Regional Research Seminars (dates and venues to be announced).

b) Partner Activities

CODESRIA - ASC 6-8 September 2006

Conference Series 2006: *Electronic Publishing and Dissemination. Bringing the North-South Divide in Scholarly Communication in Africa: Threats and Opportunities in the Digital Era*, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa & Afrika-Studiecentrum in Kenniscentrum Leiden, The Netherlands.

<http://www.ascleiden.nl/GetPage.aspx?url=/events/event1142937906>

IMHE 11-13 September 2006

Conference: *Values and Ethics: Managing Challenges and Realities in Higher Education*. A frequent subject of debate in economic circles, these two notions have been brought into greater prominence by the shifting environment and the changes under way in higher education, Institutional Management in Higher Education in Paris, France.

www.oecd.org/edu/imhegeneralconference2006

IAU 13-15 October 2006

2006 International Conference: *Internationalization of Higher Education: New opportunities, New challenges. In conjunction with the annual conference of the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)*, International Association of Universities in Beijing, China

The conference will serve to launch the publication of the comprehensive report based on the second global survey IAU has undertaken on Internationalization of higher education.

<http://www.unesco.org/iau/conferences/china/index.html>

AAU - IAPSS 12-19 November 2006

Association of African Universities, International Association for Political Science Students and the International Conference in Abuja, Nigeria.

IAPSS offers a platform for exchange of ideas and for getting help on research and studies. It is also the network providing information on relevant political science issues and recent developments in the field.

<http://www.aau.org/announce/detail.php?ai=30>

SRHE 12-14 December 2006

Annual Conference. *Beyond Boundaries: New Horizons for Research into Higher Education*, Society for Research into Higher Education in Brighton, United Kingdom.

Conference offers scope to explore empirical and theoretical issues associated with the blurring of some traditional boundaries, the establishment of new ones and the prospect of opening up fresh horizons in higher education.

<http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2006/>

Further information:

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