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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

IESALC

International Institute of UNESCO
for Higher Education in
Latin America and the Caribbean

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Academic cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America

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Towards Network Collaboration in Higher Education in the Caribbean:

**Knowledge Creation and
Internationalization
for Endogenous Development
and Building Autonomous
'Knowledge Societies'**

Preamble of WCHE 2009's Final Communiqué

- “As a public good and a strategic imperative for all levels of education and as the basis for research, innovation and creativity, higher education must be a matter of responsibility and economic support of all governments.”
- “At no time in history has it been more important to invest in higher education as a major force in building an inclusive and diverse knowledge society and to advance research, innovation and creativity.”

- **The knowledge economy**
- **Globalization, the Knowledge Economy and Endogenous Development**
- **Capital Accumulation and Endogenous Development**
- **Knowledge and Economic Development in the Caribbean**
- **Trends and Policy Recommendations**
- **Towards an Alternative Scenario for the Caribbean Endogenous Development and for building 'Autonomous Knowledge Societies'**

Knowledge economy

- **Assymmetric distribution of resources and infrastructure for KBE**
- **Research and knowledge production and distribution play a central role**
- **Can help compensate locally for unequalizing social effects of globalized economy**

The challenge ahead

- No higher education institution in the region alone can meet the region's economy and societal development goals.
- Low resource allocation to L-R&D
- Presence of transnational tertiary education institutions
- Limited technology transfer, migration of human capital

The challenge ahead

- Limited scientific and technological research, centered in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad-Tobago and Barbados.
- Higher education expansion and student enrollments have gone to careers of secondary impact on the endogenous development process.

Globalization, the Knowledge Economy and Endogenous Development

- **Opportunities for local capacities**
- **Local need and identity based initiatives + organizational capabilities as scaffolds for external actors to interact also as a function of local realities**

Capital Accumulation and Endogenous Development (ED)

- Innovation and knowledge diffusion
- Flexible networks and alliances
- **Central idea for ED: the dynamics and transformation of local economies are necessarily anchored in the forces for change in the local community.**
- Requires self-esteem and identity recognition

Knowledge and Economic Development in the Caribbean

- Heterogeneity of the Caribbean:
language, culture and mobility barriers; different forms of statehood
- Tertiary sector oriented towards teaching and professional education
- Dependent research and technology
- R&D is not a current priority for most of region

Action initiatives to increase research capacity and knowledge creation towards regional endogenous development

- Include endogenous development needs in the research agenda of the academy, industry and in government development strategies.
- Develop a multi-sector financial strategy to increase L-R&D capacity and endogenous knowledge creation.

Alternative Scenario for the Caribbean Endogenous Development and for building 'Autonomous Knowledge Societies'

- Counter proposal to the entrepreneurial university: 'developmental innovation university'
- Intensive use of ICT's
- Create jobs and repatriate talent

Alternative Scenario...

- learning to work together as 'bloc', with solidarity and respect for differences
- breakdown asymmetrical relations between small and large country partners,
- resolution of different kinds of bureaucratic obstacles, recognizing professional and academic credentials
- creation of a Latin American Caribbean 'integrationist consciousness' and a corresponding 'intercultural citizenship'.

Alternative Scenario...

- UNESCO-IESALC /UNITWIN/ Chairs and related networking initiatives such Macrouniversities Network
- On going work form regional organizations CARICOM, OECE, UNICA, UDUAL
- University based interactive projects like ATLANTEA form UPR

- Support and foster the Higher Education knowledge creation network initiatives of IESALC/UNESCO, UNICA, UDUAL, ATLANTEA and the Macrouniversities Network.
- Support the UNESCO Chair initiatives to better understand higher education, given its importance as tool for survival of civilization.

Concluding remarks

Solidarity building through networking, collaboration and partnering based on mutual respect, intercultural dialogue and humanistic values that will strengthen socially responsible citizenship, -exerted locally within a planetary perspective-, will enhance the possibilities of building sustainable endogenous development towards knowledge based equitable societies