



RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

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PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Research Opportunities*. The period since our last issue has been an exciting one, in which we have been developing plans for the future.

Our aim is to develop a genuinely global network, which has three key purposes. First, to provide a channel through which new developments can be shared. Second, to provide a means for government and funding agencies to make contact more directly with universities on a worldwide basis. Third, to provide a forum through which practitioners can communicate with each other. In each of these areas, we hope to add a distinctively international element to the debate, complementing the national and regional organisations that already exist.



Our expanded range of activities will include several new services. In addition to a more regular *Research Opportunities* magazine, it will include a journal, intended to disseminate new thinking in the area of university technology management, an expansion of our monthly e-mail briefings, benchmarking activities and an expanded website, giving unparalleled access to information about university best practice worldwide.

Face to face contact also represents a strong element of our plans, as evidenced by the announcement of our first global conference, detailed on the back page of this issue. This exciting event, being staged in conjunction with the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), should serve all of the above functions. It also provides a unique opportunity to establish partnerships, to mutual benefit, between developing and developed countries. I hope that as many readers as possible will be able to join us.

In the meantime, I hope that you find this issue interesting and look forward to your continued feedback.

John Kirkland
Director of Human Capacity Development

As research management becomes more complex, information systems need to keep pace. Here Roger Layton describes some key issues in the search for 'better practices.'

This article highlights some elements of better practices which we have learnt and applied over 10 years of developing information system for various research institutions and agencies, as well as a few 'first things' to consider when starting a new research information project. These form part of a larger set of critical success factors.

These better practices for information management should be viewed in the context of general practices associated with research administration and management, and there is a natural co-dependency between the research activities themselves and the information systems that support these activities.

Towards ever Better Practice

We consider 'better' practice, as opposed to 'good' or 'best' practice, as the *continual improvement* of practices at all levels. We place the practices into a dynamic structure in which they are constantly reviewed and changed for the better.

Our concern is with the role that information plays within research activities throughout the research life cycle, and also with the business processes that use information and generate new information and knowledge, as well as the strategic measurement of institutional research performance.

Technology, and especially ICT, is a driving force behind change in business process and information systems. As new techniques and products emerge, such as for widespread co-working networks, we are able to utilise these to create considerable improvement in the indicators for research performance. For example, by reducing the costs and incidence of travel in collaborative work by using an internet-based project support system, or by making better decisions on which proposals to fund by improving the evaluation process using knowledge management.

Our approach to better practices for information systems benefits from the experience of building and deploying these information systems over a period of 10 years while working with higher education institutions, research organisations, and funding agencies.

During this time we have explored the common practices that exist throughout the industry, and are in a continual evolution of improving the ways in which these common practices can be automated.

The Hierarchy of Needs

It is essential that an information system is not constructed for a specific need, but rather to support a wide range of needs at various levels. It must have both depth and breadth.

The breadth is contained in the range of activities that are supported by the information system – and the preference is to consider the full range from opportunity identification and skills audits, through to proposals, project management, grant management and IP management.

The depth is covered by the types of users who will need access. For each level of use there is a corresponding set of information needs and a set of users. These levels should include basic research, operational management, unit-level management and strategic research management and planning.

Coping with the Complexity of Research Processes



There is a common acceptance that the information requirements of research enterprises are complex. Within the design and implementation of a research information system we are required to contain complexity but not to ignore it. At the heart of the problem are a small number of 'first things' that must be implemented before the full system can be deployed.

First Things....

If these 'first things' are handled correctly, then the rest become easier to implement, if they are ignored, complexity will transform itself into chaos. These first things by themselves are insufficient to ensure success but must be considered to avoid major problems from the beginning.

1: Design the Database to Contain Complexity

There should be one and only one core database, in which all common elements are contained, and each core element should be stored only once within the database. No matter how many areas of research information need you have, you should always link into a single common database to support all new and emerging needs.

The database design should also make a distinction between the core elements themselves and the 'roles' that these elements play when linked to others. For

example, the 'role' that a person plays within a project, or the 'role' of an organisation. This concept of 'role' mostly applies to elements such as Persons and Organisations.

Patterns emerge from many databases that have been constructed, and these patterns can be seen as a better practice approach. The more generic the patterns the less patterns we need. The less patterns the simpler the database model, and thus the less effort in construction of the information system. There is considerable gain in efficiency of the system when generic patterns are used. However, there is a limit to the usefulness of these patterns and it is important to understand the benefits and costs before moving too deep into the generic patterns.

To date we have uncovered more than 50 generic patterns which are useful for the construction of research information databases, including Persons, Reviewers, Students, Organisations, OrgUnits, Funders, Proposals, Projects, Outputs and Categories. When combined together, these individual data elements support the creation of a new database model, built upon better practices, but also customised to support the needs of specific institutions. We refer to this list of core elements as the Common Research Objects.

2. Use Industry Standards

Until recently there have been few standards on how to encode and structure research information. The benefits of a common structure are to support the generation of industry-wide information with minimal effort, as well as for the institution to utilise a best practice coding structure.

Many national and international surveys require a specific coding structure, and if these are not built into the original information systems there may be considerable effort in extracting the required data at a later stage.

We highly recommend the adoption of standards, and recommend that you participate in the euroCRIS initiative (www.eurocris.org) which has already gone far down the path in defining useful standards.

3. Divide and Conquer

A full research information system implementation is a large endeavour, perhaps taking years to implement, and one important critical success factor is the division of the total system requirements into a set of small 'bite-sized' modules, all connected in the same core database.

The manner in which these modules are defined is based upon the organisational structure of the

individual institutions. This is important since there appear to be little or no standards in place for the structure of a research department/directorate within an institution. (Perhaps this is an area for further study!)

Over the past 10 years we have sought out a set of generic units, and have then considered the better practices associated with each of these units. These include components to support large requirements such as knowledge management, as well as smaller, more focused units, such as reviewer administration and the handling of notifications by email.

4. Cooperation vs. Collaboration

Another dimension for information management is the balance between information that is shared and available as required, and that which is considered to be private and used for competitive advantage. It is important to maintain these private stores of information for this purpose, and it is dangerous to presume that internationally available databases are sufficient for all your own information.

We typically recommend a dual approach to information management in which international databases, such as COS, are used as the hunting grounds for discovery of new information for creating partnerships, finding skills, and identifying new opportunities. However, as soon as these are identified, you will then need to add value to this information by discovery of new information, which you will keep private to support your own institutional development.

No matter how well the collaborative infrastructure and culture is established between different institutions, there will remain competitive forces, driven by the need to excel in external measurements and rankings and by the limited availability of funds.

Summary

It is impossible in a short article to do justice to the complexity of the topic of better practice in research information systems. However, the issues outlined above are crucial to consider within the design of a new system and should be considered in the larger picture of the information requirements.

Roger Layton is Managing Director of Roger Layton Associates, a South African based IT company. RLA is an IT company which specialises in the development of information systems for research organisations, higher education institutions and funding agencies. Website: www.rl.co.za

RLA has also developed the RA system for research administration, and details of this can be found at www.researchadministration.com

In the latest of our series of articles on international aid agencies and higher education, Jos Walenkamp describes new initiatives from the Netherlands Organisation for Co-operation in Higher Education (Nuffic).

In June 2002, three new Dutch international education programmes were launched: the Netherlands Fellowship Programme – Academic Programme (NFP-AP), the Netherlands Fellowship Programme – Training Programme (NFP-TP) and the Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening of Post-Secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT). The new programmes will be phased in gradually, while the old international education programmes will be phased out before the end of 2004.

The two NFP programmes award fellowships to employees of developing country organisations, which enable them to study in the Netherlands or to receive training from Dutch organisations. The NPT is an institutional development programme, which funds cooperation projects between southern organisations and Dutch providers of technical expertise. The overall aim is to help alleviate qualitative and quantitative shortages of skilled manpower and to do so within the framework of sustainable capacity-building directed towards reducing poverty in developing countries. The programmes are demand-driven and flexible, and they address local priorities. Ownership on the part of stakeholders in developing countries is an important feature.

The parties involved

Dutch embassies and consulates assess all applications for fellowships for master's and doctoral studies, short courses and tailor-made training. They can reject applications or make specific recommendations regarding their further processing. Together with Nuffic, they identify and select local organisations that are suitable for specific NFP support.

Nuffic manages both the NFP and the NPT, guiding the process by which candidates are selected. Where tailor made training is required, it will work with applicant organisations to produce a training outline, and organise public tender procedures for Dutch organisations to bid for the resulting contracts. NUFFIC also drafts the lists of courses and programmes for which NFP fellowships can be used, awards grants to the Dutch providers, and determines the number of fellowships available for each.

Dutch providers are higher education institutions or other organisations in the Netherlands which are specialised in transferring knowledge at post-secondary level. For most contracts, providers will have been

accredited by the Dutch education ministry. All the courses and programmes are also checked in terms of their usefulness for candidates from developing countries. Almost all are taught in English. For NFP fellowship programmes, the providers assess the academic ability of candidates, allocate places on the basis of numbers determined by Nuffic, make logistical arrangements and provide practical guidance for fellowship holders and implement the course or programme as agreed.

The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes

Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) are demand-oriented fellowship programmes designed to foster institutional development, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The NFP is focused on meeting the need for further training and capacity-building in developing countries. To maximize impact on capacity-building, NFP-funded training must be linked to the institutional development of organisations. A wide range of organisations are eligible - governmental, private and non-governmental.

The target group consists of mid-career professionals who are already in employment and nationals of one of 56 selected countries. While fellowships are awarded to individuals, the need for training must occur within the context of the local organisation for which an applicant works. The training must help the organisation to develop. This means that applicants must be nominated by their employers. Nuffic aims to use at least half of the available funding for female candidates, and at least half for candidates from sub-Saharan Africa.

Fellowships can be used for master's degree or doctoral programmes, short courses, tailor-made training or refresher courses. In each case, a separate section advises on eligibility, application and selection procedures. The courses and programmes are organised by subject area and provider, and are drawn from a survey of the Dutch post-secondary education sector conducted earlier this year. Providers whose courses were not accepted are able to appeal against the Nuffic decision. If successful, the list is updated immediately.

For the master's, doctoral and short course options NFP uses a two-step application procedure, which means that applicants must first gain admission to the course or programme they have chosen. To gain admission to a course or programme, an applicant has to contact the institution concerned directly.

The required information can be found on the institutions' websites. Only then can they apply for a fellowship. The appropriate fellowship application forms are available at the Netherlands embassies and

consulates or can be downloaded from Nuffic's website: www.nuffic.nl/nfp.

Multi-year agreements

In 2003 a new process for identifying demand for NFP support has been introduced. Nuffic can now enter into multi-year agreements with selected organisations in order to help them meet their staff-development needs. Initially, the organizations eligible for this type of participation in the NFP will be selected from ten countries. If the new process for identifying demand proves successful, the number of countries will be increased at a later date. For the present, the ten countries are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| * Ecuador | * South Africa |
| * Ethiopia | * Tanzania |
| * Guatemala | * Uganda |
| * Peru | * Vietnam |
| * Rwanda | * Yemen |

In each of these countries Nuffic will consult with the Dutch embassy or consulate and with local experts in order to identify suitable local organisations. The selected organisations will be invited to nominate staff members to take part.

It is important to note that in the countries listed above, this new identification process will take place in addition to the usual procedure for identifying organisations. In other words, other organizations in the ten countries are free to apply directly to the nearest Dutch embassy or consulate. In either case, Nuffic will seek the advice of the embassy or consulate before taking a decision since its officers will have an important say in the selection process.

The Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening of Post-Secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT)

In addition to the Netherlands Fellowship Programmes, the Dutch foreign ministry also funds a programme for international cooperation focused on institution-building. This is the Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening of Post-Secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT).

The NPT is a programme of South-North cooperation, which aims to help developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity for providing post-secondary education and training in a sustainable manner. It does this by mobilising expertise from Dutch organisations. The education and training capacity that the NPT aims to strengthen must be relevant to the sectors and themes targeted for the Dutch bilateral support given to the countries in question. More general support for the higher education sector is also a possibility, as is

support for projects that cut across the chosen sectors and themes.

Support can be given to organisations in the South that play an important role in the development of post-secondary education and training capacity. These include institutions for post-secondary education, government ministries, national commissions, and NGOs.

The programme is flexible and driven by local demands and priorities. As previously stated, 'ownership' by local stakeholders is a key feature. To achieve a good quality-price ratio, the contracts by which Dutch organisations provide the necessary services will be awarded on a competitive basis. The programme will emphasize the achievement of results and will therefore be output-oriented.

The involvement of local and/or regional expertise in the implementation of the NPT will be encouraged. Local staff will be trained preferably in the region.

The programme will start with a relatively small number of projects, initially in only a few countries. At a later stage, the pilot projects that have proven to be successful and that address priority areas can be expanded, as can the number of target countries.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on both the NFP and NPT please visit the Nuffic website on www.nuffic.nl/nfp.

Up-to-date information about fellowship opportunities, criteria, guidelines and deadlines can be found on the website and can also be requested by sending an e-mail to the appropriate e-mail address:

Fellowships for master's degree programmes:

nfpms@nuffic.nl

Fellowships for PhD studies: nfpdhd@nuffic.nl

Fellowships for short courses: nfpsc@nuffic.nl

Tailor-made training: nfptm@nuffic.nl

Refresher courses: nfprc@nuffic.nl

In each case, applicants are advised to consult with the Netherlands embassy in their country before starting the application procedure.

How much should individual researchers benefit from their own work? On the one hand, most are employed on a full-time basis by their universities, who might argue that successful research staff are only doing the job for which they are being paid. On the other, competition for key staff worldwide is intense. Academic pay scales are not always flexible enough to recognise outstanding success, and work pressures are such that the best researchers frequently have to work long hours. In many developing countries, the problem is even more acute. Often academic staff cannot afford to live on their basic salary, making some type of additional income essential.

*Reconciling this problem has been a major dilemma for universities worldwide. In this article, **John Kirkland**, Director of the ACU's Research Management programme, sets out the background and identifies some basic strategies. We hope that the article will provoke some international discussion, through which readers can share their views and experiences.*

According to legend, it used to all be so simple. Thirty, perhaps forty, years ago the issue of incentives for key academics was almost unheard of. Universities were not overly concerned with external research income – the vast majority of their research funds were still provided from central grants. Academic pay was at a tolerable level and, more important still, workloads were such that researchers had time to pursue projects that interested them. It was not really expected that such work would lead to commercial gain, but where it did, the central university did not normally consider it their role to support the process.

In reality, this situation never existed in the pure form described above. There is enough truth in the picture, though, to create real difficulties for universities seeking to centralise their structures. Take two examples.

Example one concerns revenue from inventions. For many universities, regulations that divide such revenue were written in an age when institutions regarded income from intellectual property as something of a curiosity – and certainly did not expect to have to contribute to its protection. Thus, although researchers in industry have little legal right to personal gain from their inventions, it was not uncommon to find regulations that entitled academics to 50%, or more, of such revenue. In some cases, the rule even failed to allow any recovery of patenting costs before the distribution took effect. In an age where a few successful inventions have to subsidise the many that do not come to commercial fruition, such rules became a serious disincentive for universities to invest.

Second – and more problematic still – has been the situation over consultancy. It is not uncommon, still, for university terms and conditions to allow time for ill-defined 'external professional activities'. For many years few questions were asked about these, but this situation is changing. Universities have to account for all of their resources, often in national evaluation exercises. Equipment and time have become scarce resources. There may also be legal and reputational issues which arise for the university where personal consultancies go wrong.

Predictably, as universities have strengthened their central research management structures, such systems have been increasingly questioned. Yet the solutions are far from simple. Reform is likely to be seen as an attack not only on material benefits, but also on deep seated notions of academic freedom. Nor do universities have much financial flexibility to provide additional rewards. Despite the great strides of recent years, many research projects struggle to meet the full economic cost, let alone make a profit.

There are other dangers. Those most affected would be the most successful research staff – the very individuals the university can least afford to lose. Most of all, such individuals may have a point. Surely, there should be mechanisms for rewarding the extra hours and commitment involved in managing a substantial research and consultancy portfolio. The conventional route of promotion, often after several years, does not always fill this need. And, as with many professions, the higher the active researcher is promoted, the less time she or he has for research. Can this really be in the interests of the university?

Finding the Balance

For these reasons, many universities have sought to pursue an approach based on *compromise*, rather than one that blindly asserts their legal rights as employers. Three approaches stand out in particular.



Academic inventions, such as this medical training simulator at Queen's University Belfast, can generate substantial income. Effective mechanisms for dividing this are vital.

These can be summarised as the *common interest*, the *sliding scale* and the *added value* approaches. In developing a common interest approach, the university would seek to find ways in which income can be allocated to benefit both individual and institutional aims. Sometimes, academics will be prepared to forgo personal income (particularly at higher tax rates) in return for greater freedom to spend earnings on their own research team or area. This in turn can lead to publications, conference papers and research studentships to benefit the institution as well. Such a system is likely to be most effective in a decentralised system of resource allocation.

The principle of sliding scales is that the individual receives a higher proportion of the income in certain circumstances. It is not uncommon for university intellectual property rules to offer a higher (or lower) percentage of income to the academic once a certain level has been generated. The same principle can be applied to research and consultancy income.

Such a policy could be used by the institution to advance other policies. It could, for example, be used to encourage full time academics to ensure that their own time is costed into proposals, or to enlist the support of academics in raising indirect cost recovery rates. In each case, the institution can argue that it can only share revenue with staff if projects are costed properly. Where research is undertaken at a loss, there is no revenue to share.

The third approach involves persuading academics that they will be better off routing their work through the institution. This can be applied particularly to consultancy. At present, models often assume that consultancy work is generated by the individual. If the university were pro-active in securing such work, and placing it with academics, a very different relationship would apply. Other services that the university could offer include advice on contracts, personal liability insurance and credit control. Such systems are often popular with funding bodies and clients. Although they might involve higher charges, they also ensure that their relationship is with the university, rather than the individual.

The precise issues involved in finding the balance between individual and institutional rights will vary between countries and universities. None of the above approaches offer an instant solution, but taken with other initiatives, they could form part of an institution-wide strategy in the field. In the next edition, we hope to include some practical examples of successful – or unsuccessful – policies from institutions. If you would like to share your experience, please contact me on j.kirkland@acu.ac.uk, preferably no later than 31 December 2003.



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Research institutions need to take a systematic approach to intellectual property. In this special feature Prabuddha Ganguli, advisor to VISION-IPR and Adjunct Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, sets out a model agenda.

There has been a significant rise in contract research, and other forms of university-industry collaboration. Through such relationships, industry gains access to world-class research resources and the best of human minds. Academic institutions discover an additional sense of purpose, gain exposure to demands of market realities, expand the knowledge base to create new products and technologies and also explore new career options. A prerequisite for harmonious working between industry and academics is a formalised framework for 'ownership' of the developed knowledge and systems for 'fair benefit-sharing' of commercial results between partners.

To sustain innovation in such a working paradigm, intellectual property rights (IPR) will have to become integrated with the value system of our academics. All features of IPR are therefore inseparable from project management as they significantly influence the conception and strategic implementation of a project. One is then required to map the knowledge ownership grids to ensure that there are no infringing overlaps and if there are any, then appropriate arrangements are worked out to avoid litigations. It is therefore imperative that focused cooperative efforts between the government, the private sector, and academic institutions be initiated to speedily evolve and implement institutional IPR policies.

A generic approach to formulation of institutional IPR Policy

A suggested framework for the formulation and implementation of the institutional IPR policy in Indian institutions is as follows:

- Identify a centralized office with executive authority such as the Office of the Dean of Research and Development, Dean of Academic Activities, etc. to drive institutional policy.
- Create awareness of the importance and role of IPR
- Define the rights and responsibilities of all involved
- Ensure transparency and fairness of the IP policy to encourage compliance and solicit feedback regarding the fulfilment of the IP policy.
- Institute a review mechanism of the policy for fine-tuning and improvement to ensure 'relevance' of the policy to the changing environment and needs.

The success of any IPR policy requires commitment from the most senior levels, such as the vice chancellor of the university, director of the institute and all the

associated Deans. The process of policy formulation is best initiated with the formation of a formal cross-functional team of faculty and students including IPR professionals, to identify and address all issues concerning the activities in the institution related to the creation and exploitation of intellectual assets.

The team should be entrusted with a time bound task of drafting an institutional IPR policy, establishing an IPR management position/committee with structured and focused executive roles, signing authorities for agreements, templates for key documents and guidelines to be followed in the institution. The draft policy should ideally be presented before the academic and administrative community of the institution to invite feedback, and piloted in selected departments.

Key sections in the IPR Policy

The policy should achieve consistency in the understanding and interpretation of IPR, and contain a glossary of key terms. Similarly a user-friendly document should contain typical examples to which potential users can relate. Key sections should include:

- *Scope and applicability:* a statement of who is covered, including institutional personnel (faculty, staff or visitors, researchers and scientists)
- *Ownership and assignment of rights:* Transparent criteria for conditions under which the institution would be the owner and situations under which the inventors/creators would have the right to own IPR should be defined. Issues may include the extent to which institutional resources are used, or third parties are involved as well as terms under which the institution might assign or license ownership, and through which confidentiality should be maintained.
- *Establishing an inventor friendly infrastructure and processes for the protection of creative works with total disclosure and documentation:* This may be initiated through a well-designed invention disclosure form. This would ideally be followed by evaluation by a formal committee whose objective would be to advise the institutional authority responsible for IPR. Issues should include novelty, patentability and commercial potential. Assignment of rights to the institution should take place at this stage. If the committee concludes that the institution should not take up ownership, the inventor(s)/creators may choose to protect their work independently. Criteria should also be established towards patent searches, application, and filing policy (including foreign filings). Decisions on whether to involve the institution should include cost factors, as well as benefits.

- **Commercialisation of IP:** There are various options for commercialisation. The institution might market the inventions and identify potential licensees for the IP it owns. The creator(s)/inventors would be expected to actively participate in this process. The institution may appoint a technology management agency to manage the process. Potential licensees may be approached, within set confidentiality guidelines. Alternatively inventors or institutions might exploit through their own startup companies. Policies are needed to guide all of these options based on procedures governed by the Institutional Policy on Startup Companies.
- **Benefit sharing:** This section is of great significance and needs to be formulated with extreme care and transparency. The main questions to be addressed relate to the valuation of the IP, appropriate and legally enforceable clauses in the contracts/agreements/MOUs involving institutions, individuals signing of contracts, time duration of the benefits, percentages of earnings/net earnings, etc. The revenue sharing model must be designed to harmonise with the institutional personnel policies and tax laws of the institution and the individuals involved.

Other administrative aspects of an IPR policy

Other sections of the policy should deal with 'infringements, damages, liability and indemnity insurance' that harmonise with the laws of the land. It is recommended that any contract between the licensee and the institution should include the grant of an indemnity and release by users in favour of the institution indemnifying and releasing the institution for any loss or damage.

Similarly, clauses need to be drafted in a section dealing with 'conflict of interest' which ensure that personnel declare any potential conflict. Such situations may arise, for example, when the inventor(s) and/or their immediate family have a stake in a licensee or potential licensee company. Transparent 'dispute resolution' mechanisms also need to be established so that any disputes are referred to an appropriate authority.

An area of constant debate when dealing with R&D funding organizations is 'jurisdiction'. As a policy, all agreements to be signed by the institution must have a jurisdiction of its choice guided by legal principles of the region and the country in which it operates. In several matters related to IPR, agencies that fund activities may insist on jurisdictions of their own choice in their interests.

No institutional IPR policy is complete without a section on 'compliance'. The policy must indicate the

consequences of non-compliance and/or punitive actions if any. This is significant as the IPR policy as endorsed and approved by a central body such as the governing council/governing board/senate or any other appropriate administrative authority becomes a binding document for all activities within the institution.

Case studies

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) a chain of 40 National Laboratories of the Government of India set up an institutional IPR policy a few years ago. A dramatic transformation in its patent related activities took place. Recent statistics reveal that CSIR in the last decade has transformed its working from routine adaptive research to high valued knowledge generation converting itself from a governmental 'normal cost centre' to a profit centre. CSIR now tops the list of PCT applicants from developing countries sharing the top slot with Samsung Electronics (South Korea) with 184 PCT filings. CSIR was granted 58 US Patents in 2001 taking its total to 174 US Patents since 1997. It presently earns approximately Rs. 100 million (US\$ 2.12 million) from licenses but projects earnings of the order of Rs.1500million (US\$ 32million) in the next five years. The working of this organisation may be considered as a 'model' for institutions in the scientifically capable developing countries.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB), one of the leading technology training institutes in India, in the last two years has integrated IPR into its education and R&D programmes. It has formulated an institutional IPR policy that has been endorsed by its board of governors, introduced a course on IPR for technology development and management as a formal part of the engineering degree courses, and set up a structured cell to coordinate IPR related activities and conduct training programmes in the institution to implement its IPR policy. It is also gearing up an organisational framework for the incubation and commercialisation of the institutional innovations through start-up companies initiated by students and faculty. The initial results have been very encouraging. In the last 15-20 months the IIT Bombay has filed over 23 patent applications in India, and has further progressed a selected lot through the PCT route and in USPTO. A direct impact of the IPR policy and its related activities is the increasing number of undergraduate students' project initiated patent applications. This has a cascading effect and is enabling the creation of a budding IPR culture in the institute campus.

For more information contact Prabudda Ganguli at ramugang@vsnl.com

Many universities recognise the need for better models of international collaboration, and new structures to ensure that research is relevant to policy concerns. In recent years, an initiative between the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) in Bangladesh and Simon Fraser University in Canada has sought to address both issues. Alimullah Miyan and John Richards describe the progress to date.

Over the 20th century, public policy institutes became important fixtures in Western Europe and North America. They serve as intermediaries among academics, journalists, civil servants, politicians, and the general public. They help citizens of a country conduct informed public policy debates and reach some measure of agreement on strategies for government to pursue. Good policy institutes set forth the pros and cons of feasible options; they integrate the contributions of different academic disciplines; they are strictly nonpartisan, and usually they operate at arm's length from government. Often, they have links to universities.

One of the priorities in developing countries is to stimulate the growth of such institutes. While Bangladesh has limited experience in doing this, IUBAT decided to undertake an experiment. In 1999, the Centre for Policy Research was launched in collaboration Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver, Canada as an experiment.

IUBAT has the advantage of a close working relationship with SFU since 1993. One of the authors (Professor Richards) teaches the new Master's degree in Public Policy at SFU, and has written extensively for the CD Howe Institute. Located in Toronto, this is one of Canada's leading policy institutes. The other (Alimullah Miyan) is Vice-Chancellor of IUBAT and has headed the managing committee of the Centre. This small committee has comprised academics, retired senior civil servants, and a senior member of the banking community. There is an active annual exchange of visiting faculty and students between the two universities, which facilitate the policy research efforts.

To date the Centre has published two major monographs. Both are available online at the Centre's web site <http://www.iubat.edu/cpr>. The first explores three options for how Bangladesh might use its natural gas endowment, the subject of passionate debate within the country. The second analyses strategies to expand access to electricity. At present, only about one in five in Bangladesh have access to power.



Public launching of CPR monograph with SFU and IUBAT Faculty. Back from Left: John Richard, Simon Fraser University, Alimullah Miyan, Vice-Chancellor and Nuruddin Kamal, IUBAT

Our goal in undertaking this work is twofold. On the one hand, we hope to make more meaningful the link between our two universities, by engaging students and faculty from SFU in detailed policy analysis of Bangladesh problems. On the other hand, we hope to produce studies that Bangladeshis can 'buy into.' To do this, we have resorted to joint authorship: at least one author who is linked to SFU, and at least one author who is a Bangladeshi, with links to IUBAT. The texts have been written in English, but we have prepared executive summaries in Bengali. Upon the release of each of the studies, we have conducted bilingual seminars and lively press conferences. We have distributed copies of the monographs widely among academics, journalists, senior civil servants and senior politicians.

Our future plan is to expand policy research in areas of major public concerns in Bangladesh like energy policy, local government, capital market, primary and higher education. We are gradually evolving as an input provider to formulation of policy and plans by the government, but our client is the people of Bangladesh. Recently, at the invitation of the Privatization Commission of the government, we conducted a roundtable on privatization and we are planning to include privatization in Bangladesh as a priority study area.

Much political debate in Bangladesh is intensely partisan and as we said above, there is a limited tradition of reliance on public policy institutes. Nonetheless, the CPR has shown itself to be a modest success.

For further information contact Alimullah Miyan at miyan@iubat.edu

FEAST, the Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation, is a joint EU-Australian initiative which aims to highlight, encourage and improve bilateral and multilateral science and technology cooperation between Europe and Australia. Julie Stackhouse reports.

The forum was established in 2000 by the diplomatic missions of EU countries in Australia and major Australian research organisations. Based on an initiative by the French presidency, FEAST reflects the decision of the joint management committee of the European Union and Australia on Science and Technology to consider a strategic approach to Science and Technology focused on targets and common priorities. FEAST is primarily funded, jointly, by the European Commission and the Australian Department of Education, Science and Technology (DEST). Its stated objectives are to:

- increase collaboration between European and Australian scientists, and to help them forge links with the relevant institutions;
- better identify and demonstrate cooperation between Europe and Australia;
- better provide information, on a mutual basis, on S&T of the countries concerned;
- better provide information on programmes and funding to promote cooperation between Europe and Australia; and
- exchange best practices, and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.



Feast members at the FP6 Launch in Brussels, November 2002. Picture left to right - Klaus Roeske, Joint MD, Bishop Innovation Ltd; Michael Parker, Executive Director, FEAST; Ian Bergman, MD, Australian technology promotions; Robert Gilbert, Director, Key Centre for Polymer Colloids, University of Sydney; Philippe Busquin, European Commissioner for Research; Peter Lewis, GM, CSIRO Business Development

One way in which FEAST meets these objectives is to highlight collaboration taking place between Australia and the EU and inform members on how they can get involved. Existing collaborative projects are profiled both on the website and in the newsletter. For example, the website provides details and statistics on projects

undertaken under the EU's Framework Programmes along with links to information on how to participate. In addition, to highlight opportunities for Australian researchers under FP6, FEAST recently held a series of seminars around Australia with speakers from the EU commission, Research Councils and DEST and included case studies of eight Australia-Europe collaborative projects. A second round of these seminars is planned for mid 2004.

FEAST also offers resources through which members can find both partners and funding for their research projects. Members can search for potential research collaborators using the partner search facility on the website or by responding to particular projects seeking partners which are advertised here. Information on funding opportunities is distributed to the network through email alerts, grant features in the newsletters and through the website, which contains links to Australian and European funding and research service sites. The regular newsletter also provides members with information on past and forthcoming events and on the development of complementary networks such as FEAST-France and the Association for Research between Italy and Australasia (ARIA).

FEAST's second international conference, Networking for Excellence, will be held on 13-14 November 2003 in Canberra. The conference aims to promote scientific interchange and policy discussion between Australia and Europe to enhance collaboration and will include sector workshops on: information and communication technologies, innovative solutions to drive agricultural sustainability, life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health and nanotechnology and nanosciences. Further information and registration forms can be found on the FEAST website: www.feast.org/feast4.html.

You can register with FEAST as either a site user or a member of the Forum. Site users are able to make use of basic facilities on the website and receive email funding alerts and the electronic newsletter. Members sign up providing details, which will be made available to other members looking for collaborative research partners. Members may use the partner search facility as well as being able to participate in complementary networks. The FEAST network is free of charge.

For more information on FEAST visit the website at www.feast.org or email info@feast.org

Preliminary results of the second UK technology transfer survey reveal some significant shifts in the patterns of research commercialisation in universities.

Universities are employing more technology transfer staff and investing more in protecting inventions arising from university research. Licensing activity has increased relative to spinout formation as the prevalent route for research commercialisation, and there has been an increase in commercialisation activity across the board with an overall increase in income generated.

The Annual Survey on University Technology Transfer Activities, conducted by Nottingham University Business School (NUBS) in association with UNICO and AURIL, covers the university financial year 2002. Data collected so far includes 15 out of the top 20 universities accounting for 70% of total research expenditure.

‘Already a sharper picture of the sector is emerging this year,’ says Professor Mike Wright, leading the NUBS survey team. ‘It’s clear that UK universities are increasing their commitment to technology transfer and interaction with industry. They are also improving their capability to generate income from the results of research.’

Results so far include – (last year’s corresponding figures in parentheses)

Staffing levels and activity:

The average number of FTE staff engaged in technology transfer activity is now eight (up from six). This increase in staff corresponds with the following:

- 27% increase in invention disclosures to 1400 (1100)
- 25% rise in intellectual property (IP) protection expenditure to £8.5 million (£6.8M)

Patents:

- 13% rise in numbers of patents filed to 653 (577)
- 97% increase in patents issued to 176 (89)

Licensing:

There has been a significant increase in licensing activity, and an increase in income generated from the licensing of university IP.

- Over 1000 active licence deals are in place
- 435 are generating income of some £15.7M (£13.7M): a 14.6% increase
- There has been a shift towards small-medium licensing deals generating revenue between £50-250K, and a small decrease in larger deals over £250K
- 21% of technology licence deals have been to overseas companies

New spinouts and financing:

- The data received so far reports the creation of 139 new spinout companies
- The number of spinouts financed with venture capital

has decreased, but business angel financing remains steady

- The majority of new spinouts have been financed from internal university funds or Government-backed initiatives such as University Challenge Seedcorn Funds (England) Proof of Concept Fund (Scotland) and Spinout Wales.

Exits:

- 14 exits reported so far: 9 through failure, 3 via trade sale, 1 stock market listing and 1 management buy-out
- The 5 successful exits realised £6.5 million in total

‘These preliminary results reinforce the overall strength of UK university technology transfer activities,’ said Tom Hockaday, Chair of UNICO and Executive Director of Oxford University’s technology transfer company, Isis Innovation. ‘Universities’ growing commitment to technology transfer is very encouraging, as is the government’s support of these activities. Investing in the interface between universities and business is critical to enable businesses and society to benefit from many research outcomes.’

Dr Philip Graham, Executive Director of AURIL commented: ‘I believe we are the best in Europe at this type of activity. By working so closely with industry through licensing and consultancy, universities are forging long-term partnerships which fuse high quality research with industrial technique. However, there is still plenty to do. Continual Professional Development within the knowledge transfer sector will help build on these strong foundations, drive benefits directly to universities and add to economic development.’

The Annual Survey on University Technology Transfer Activities is the first survey of its kind to provide benchmarks for commercialisation activities in the UK and enables a direct comparison with other countries, such as the US and Canada. It has been funded by UNIEI (University of Nottingham Institute for Enterprise and Innovation).

The full survey results are now available.

This summary is taken from an AURIL, UNICO, University Nottingham press release.

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p.graham@qub.ac.uk

Tom Hockaday, Chair, UNICO:

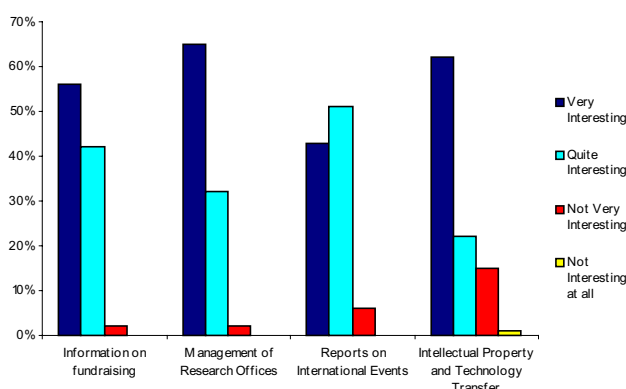
tom.hockaday@isis.ox.ac.uk

In our last issue we asked for your ideas on the future development of the Research Management Programme. Jay Kubler summarises your response.

Over eighty members returned our questionnaire on the future development of the programme. Whilst this is a relatively small sample of the Research Management network, the responses generated some interesting ideas for developing the initiative.

The regional distribution of the respondents was as follows: Africa 28%; Europe (UK) 23%; Oceania 20%; Asia 18%; and Americas (predominantly Canadian with one respondent from the Caribbean) 9%.

The first part of the questionnaire dealt with the content of *Research Opportunities*. Respondents were asked which types of articles and topics they found most interesting. Articles on the management of research offices and Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer emerged as the most popular with over 60% of respondents rating them as 'very interesting'. These were followed by information on funding agencies and lastly by reports on international events. There were some significant regional differences in the types of articles and issues respondents rated highly. For example, 83% of the respondents from Africa felt articles providing information on funding agencies were very interesting. This fell to less than 50% of respondents in all other regions, except the UK. Respondents from Asia and Africa found articles on the management of research offices significantly less



Your views on the content of Research Opportunities

interesting than respondents in the UK and Oceania where 81% and 65%, respectively, found them 'very interesting'. Reports on international events and articles relating to intellectual property and technology transfer were both rated most favourably by respondents from Africa, the latter was also very popular with respondents from Canada and Oceania.

Some respondents commented on topics that they would like to see covered more fully in *Research Opportunities*. Suggestions included more information

on funding opportunities; case studies of research management offices and their activities; publicising training opportunities for research managers; issues surrounding IP and the commercialisation of research; research collaboration and cooperation and aspects of the law relating to researchers and research managers.

The second part of the questionnaire dealt with the research management website. 57% of the respondents had visited the website and some submitted suggestions for additional topics to be included on the website. Topics and features suggested included: the development of an IP register (distinct from the patent register); a forum for research networking; links to EU funding sources and programmes; dates for international conferences and seminars and links to the research policies of various institutions from developing and developed countries.

Respondents were also questioned on the establishment of specialist interest groups in specific areas related to research management and support. Overall, 65% of respondents said they would be interested in joining a specialist group on education and training, 54% on benchmarking performance and 44% on technology transfer. Regionally, around 80% of the respondents from Africa and Asia, and the one respondent from the Caribbean, were interested in the education and training groups, this was around 50% for the other regions. This contrast is unsurprising, as the emphasis would be on developing countries. For benchmarking performance it was the respondents from Oceania that showed the greatest interest (80%) followed by the UK and Canadian respondents (68% and 67% respectively). Respondents from Asia and Africa together with the single respondent from the Caribbean expressed least interest in this area, over 60% stating that they were not interested. Over 50% of respondents from Oceania and the Americas expressed an interest in joining groups specialising in issues of technology transfer, for all other regions this interest was below 50%.

Finally respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest in attending a global conference, bringing together research managers and international funders. 69% of all those who answered said they would be very interested and a further 25% said they would be quite interested. Respondents from Oceania, followed by Africa, the Americas and Asia showed the greatest interest, least interest came from those in the UK.

If you would like to comment on any of the issues raised in the questionnaire please email j.kubler@acu.ac.uk. You can visit the research management website at www.acu.ac.uk/researchmanagement

Some 180 research managers from over twenty countries were in Faro, Portugal, in June for the 9th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators. In this special feature we review some of the issues that they discussed.

ProTON EXPANDING

A new network of technology transfer officials is well advanced, thanks to a recent grant from the European Commission. The new network – ProTON – represents a joint venture between EARMA and the technology transfer organisation TII. Funding has been obtained under the Commission's Innovation-SME programme, and the initial meeting took place in January.

According to **Max Nielsen**, coordinator of the new network, membership is limited at present but scheduled to grow each year. A particular priority would be to ensure that the new organisation complemented, rather than duplicated, the work of existing ones. This could be achieved by concentrating on the management of innovation and technology transfer, leaving EARMA to specialise in its traditional role of research management. A meeting had also taken place with national networks, to plan future activity.

Although in its early stages of development, several areas of activity have already been developed, with a range of subject groups being established. Possibilities under consideration include certification of training in the area, and the development of self-assessment and benchmarking tools. Funding will also cover an exchange visits scheme to allow good practice to be shared between members, whilst the first Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 2003.

Further details of the new organisation can be obtained from Max Nielsen, at max@icnet.dk.

MEASURING INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

A common problem for 'knowledge based organisations' – such as universities – is that intangible assets, their intellectual capital, are often disregarded. This is particularly so when value is analysed in terms of the financial balance sheet only. Finding a way to value these additional assets could have considerable value both in their internal management, and in negotiations with outside organisations.

The problem of measuring these non-financial assets has been the focus of an EARMA committee over the past year. The assets concerned have been divided into three categories: Human Capital – in the form of individuals employed by the organisation; Relational Capital – for example the relations with external stakeholders and Structural Capital, which involves

processes in place. Tools developed should be of use in both external marketing and internal management, and have already been piloted in two organisations.

The organisers hope that their work can be further refined in the next few years, and have submitted an application to the European Commission under the Framework VI programme. In the meantime, further details can be obtained from **Campbell Warden**, at campbell@ll.iac.es.



Professor Mariano Gago, Minister of Science, Portugal, addresses delegates at the EARMA conference.

MARIE CURIE EXPANSION

The European Commission's Sixth Framework programme has seen a welcome expansion of the Marie Curie Fellowship scheme. As **Magda Lola**, Secretary General of the Marie Curie Fellowship Association told the conference, however, expansion must not be about numbers alone, but embody a real concern for the future careers of award holders.

The Association now contains over 3000 current or former holders of Marie Curie or similar European Commission fellowships – distributed not only throughout Europe, but in the United States and Canada. Recent surveys suggest that the vast majority have found the impact of the scheme on their own development to be extremely positive – not only in a technical sense, but in developing scientific maturity and essential 'soft skills'.

But there have been problems also. Difficulties reported have included a lack of information on

available opportunities, visa and social security questions. Responding to these needs the Commission has developed a 'Pan-European Researcher's Mobility Portal'. Other issues include the need to establish appropriate administrative and social frameworks. Often, mobile researchers have not been properly integrated into any pension scheme, or forced to contribute to schemes from which they have little chance of benefiting. Women are seen as particularly vulnerable to these problems, and drop out of research in significantly higher numbers than men.

The main problem for Fellows, though, is the question of 'what comes next'. It is feared that the benefits of international mobility are not always recognised in career advancement, or re-integration into the organisational structure. In many areas the research career structure remains dominated by short-term contracts, whilst a significant increase in employment opportunities in the business sector would be particularly welcome.

Putting these problems into context, the meeting was reminded that whilst the Framework Programmes did much to promote mobility in Europe, they still account for only 5% of the total budget for non-military research. In this context it is concluded that a true European market could not be realised without similar initiatives at national level also.

GOOD PRACTICE IN SCIENCE PARKS

Science Parks are an established form of technology transfer in many countries. According to a paper presented to the conference by **Mario Rubiralta** and **Joan Bellavista**, of the Barcelona Science Park, however, more collaboration is needed to establish good practice in their management.

The paper described several functions of science parks – defining their roles as business incubator, technology platform and a meeting place between two cultures. The need for these two cultures to come together was seen as critical, for example, in the establishment of mixed laboratories whose operational and R&D associated costs are met by the private sector, but where management is linked to a public sector researcher.

The need to develop and exchange good practice could be seen at several levels. In view of the incorporation of private, as well as public sector clients, the paper suggests that management systems and levels of quality in laboratories need to be compatible with those found in companies. Standard management systems needed to extend to the establishment of protocols and procedures, evaluation of management, and incorporate mechanisms to review cost and effectiveness. The need to incorporate quality issues into their systems had led

MARIE CURIE FELLOWSHIPS

The latest round of Marie Curie Fellowships, launched as part of the new Framework VI programme in November 2002, contains a range of new features, including:

- generalisation of the Marie Curie label to additional types of fellowships
- opening of programmes to non-EU nationals
- reinforcement of reintegration and return measures
- elimination of age constraints and introduction of the experience criterion
- promotion of life-long learning
- consideration of the personal / family situation of researchers
- expansion of host fellowship schemes for training and knowledge transfer
- specific actions for the mapping and promotion of excellence and support of longer-term careers for researchers

Barcelona to adopt a policy geared towards obtaining the ISO 9001 quality standard. Whilst such systems were not yet common in public sector research, this was thought to have a highly positive effect on the quality of university spin-off companies. There was also a need to combine standard services with those developed to respond to specific client needs. In Spain, new types of financial backing have been introduced for 'intermediation' structures such as science parks, including the availability of industry loans and calls for science park funding in each of the last three years.

FORESTRY RESEARCH RECOGNISED

The Commonwealth Forestry Association has announced a new scheme to encourage publication of work in the field. Awards are open to those whose work has not previously been published in peer-reviewed journals, and who are under the age of thirty. Manuscripts should demonstrate sound methods and conclusions, discussion of results and description of appropriate research methods. They should also be original, and accessible to a wide audience.

Further information on the awards can be obtained from the Association's web site, at www.cfa-international.org.

Sometimes it seems that researchers and policymakers live in parallel universes. Researchers cannot understand why there is resistance to policy change despite clear and convincing evidence. Policymakers bemoan the inability of many researchers to make their findings accessible and digestible in time for policy discussions. Julius Court and John Young of the Overseas Development Institute, UK, look at ways of bridging this gap.

Bridging research and policy does matter. Research is one way for policymakers and other stakeholders to identify which policies are most effective and how they can best be implemented in different contexts. For example, the results of household disease surveys in rural Tanzania informed a process of health service reforms which contributed to a 28% reduction in infant mortality in two years. But the way the HIV/AIDS crisis has deepened in some countries is a devastating example of policymaker resistance despite clear evidence.

The problem is that there remains no systematic understanding of what, when, why and how research feeds into policy in developing countries. The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has been working on how research influences policy processes since 1999. The key question is: Why are some ideas that circulate in the research/policy arenas picked up and acted on, while others are ignored and disappear?

What Influences Policy Uptake?

ODI's work highlights the complexity of research-policy processes. Analysis of a large number of case studies has enabled us to highlight a number of themes and issues. We structure the discussion around four interlinked arenas: Context, Evidence, Links and External Influences.

Context: This seems to be the most important domain in affecting the degree to which research will impact on policy. Key issues concern the extent of demand (by policymakers and society more generally) and the degree of political contestation. Political resistance often hinders change, despite the existence of clear evidence. At its broadest level, it seems that 'policy change equals demand minus contestation'. The nature of political culture and degree of openness also seem important in enabling the use of research in development policymaking to occur.

Evidence: The key issue affecting uptake here is whether research provides a solution to a problem. Policy influence is also affected by research relevance (in terms of topic and, as important, operational usefulness) and credibility (in terms of research approach and method of communication). In particular, the analysis highlighted the impact of participatory approaches and the value of pilot schemes.

Links and communication: The extent of links and feedback processes between researchers and policymakers are clearly important. Policy uptake is greatest if the research programme has a clear communications and influencing strategy from the start. Issues of trust, legitimacy, openness and formalization of networks are also important. But it is difficult to draw clear conclusions on how the nature of the links affects policy uptake – this arena in particular needs further investigation.

External influences: The impact of external forces and donor funding certainly affects the way research impacts on policy. Broad incentives, such as EU or WTO accession or the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) process, can have a substantial impact in generating policymaker demand for research. As policy processes become increasingly global this arena will increase in importance. The analysis also highlights a number of innovative ways to ensure research has a greater policy impact. But much more systematic evidence is needed.

How Can Researchers Respond?

There are inevitable tensions between the need to get useful information to policy makers quickly in a rapidly changing policy environment, with taking the time to be rigorous and obtain reliable results. Although too early to make extensive recommendations, the analysis of the theory and preliminary case studies undertaken so far already provide some useful pointers for researchers.

Preliminary recommendations for researchers seeking policy influence include:

- **Understand the context.** Linkages between research and policy are influenced more by the political context than any other domain. Researchers need to be clear who they are trying to influence with their work. Is there policymaker demand? What are the sources / strengths of resistance? What are the opportunities and timing for input into formal processes? Policy communities are broadening in many developing countries, with new entry points into the policy process.
- **Solutions to problems.** Policymakers tend to look for solutions to problems. But it is also important to focus on societal problems. Finding solutions to these can generate their own demand and uptake.
- **Credibility matters.** A reputation for rigorous research over a long period can provide credibility to take advantage of a sudden policy window.

- **Get to know the actors/networks.** Researchers working on a policy issue need to be aware of the different actors in the policy community, their position within it and relative influence. Anyone who wishes to influence the policy process needs to engage with the relevant official or unofficial networks.
- **Communicate not disseminate.** Interactive dialogue is better than one-way communication. Use networkers, champions and salesmen to spread the word and provide credibility. Actual demonstration or short, clear, jargon-free documents are better than academic papers.

Remaining Gaps

While we believe the current work is useful, it is also clear that current understanding in this area remains thin. There are three main remaining challenges here. First, there is a particular lack of work on the impact of macro political factors at the national level. How can contexts be categorised and how best can stakeholders operate to influence policy in these different contexts? How do research-policy processes work in situations with democratic deficits?

Second, how do different types of network and policy communities influence policymaking? Do different sorts of policy networks, work better in different environments? How can legitimacy and trust be strengthened?

Third, future research might address the impact that international processes, general donor policies and specific research funding instruments have on local research-policy processes.

Although the importance of bridging research and policy is widely accepted, there has been surprisingly little effort in understanding how, when, and why policy is influenced by research in developing countries. Our work suggests that bringing these separate worlds together can spur dramatic developmental progress.

Further Information:



ODI Research and Policy in Development Programme (RAPID):
www.odi.org.uk/rapid/

GDN Bridging Research and Policy Project:
<http://www.gdnet.org/rapnet/>

FEAST CONFERENCE FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Networking for Excellence Conference
13-14 November 2003, Canberra, Australia

The Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation (FEAST) is hosting a conference to promote Australian and European research collaboration and networking. This two-day conference will focus on world-leading research and technology development in the areas of biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology and sustainable agriculture. Researchers, research managers and policy makers will be provided with an opportunity to explore science and technology collaboration and to make new alliances with appropriate partners from Europe and Australia.

Specific conference themes include Networking, Research Priorities, Science and Social Responsibility, Brain Train - Knowledge Transfer and Mobility, Technology Diffusion and Bilateral Collaboration.

Eminent speakers from Australia and Europe will include:

Dr Ritva Dammert

Co-ordinator, Finnish Centres of Excellence Program and the Research Council for Natural Science and Engineering Academy, Finland

Dr Guy Van den Eede

Head of Unit Biotechnology and GMOs and DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Italy

Professor Jean-Marc Grognet

Scientific Affairs Director, CEA Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, France

Dr Peter Briggs

Pro Rector and Principle of Southlands College, University of Surrey, Roehampton, UK

Dr Vijoleta Braach-Maksvytis

Co-Director of CSIRO Nanotechnology and Head Office of the Chief Scientist, Australia

For a full list of speakers attending, the conference program and to register please visit:

<http://www.feast.org/feast4.html>
or email: info@feast.org

A WELCOME IN THE HILLSIDE

The impact of universities on their regional economies is receiving increasing attention. Nigel Peacock describes how Welsh universities work together to improve the interface between universities and business.

Croeso i Gymru. Welcome to Wales. Coal mines or Carneddau? Steel mills or sheep? Cwm Rhondda or Max Boyce? The best business climate in Europe (WDA) or the basket case of the British economy?

Whatever your image of Wales, the old nation of teachers, preachers and poets owes much to its universities. But from the traditional universities in Bangor, Aberystwyth, Lampeter, Swansea and Cardiff to the wide range of newer institutions, efforts are being made to develop the high-value business culture – the so-called knowledge economy - required for Wales to play its part in the 21st century.

The Welsh Industrial Liaison Officers' (WILOs) network brings together the people working at the interface between universities and business. Our individual roles differ, yet we have a common interest in sharing good practice, in contributing to policy development, and in developing joint programmes to promote links between universities and businesses.

Much of this is common to similar professional networks across the world. So what is different about WILOs?

Firstly, Wales is a small country. With only three million people it has about one-twentieth of the UK population or 10-15 percent of the population of



"I'm a celebrity get me out of here" – TV weathergirl and fluent Welsh-speaker Sian Lloyd presents Bangor Vice-Chancellor Roy Evans with the Daily Post award for "Business Person of the Year" (photo courtesy of University of Wales, Bangor)

Australia or Canada. This gives easier access to policy-makers, with – it is hoped – a greater influence on policy development than would be possible in larger countries.

Secondly, Wales faces the challenges of devolution. In contrast to our colleagues in England, we have to deal with administrations in both London and Cardiff, sometimes with conflicting priorities and requirements.

This federal system is shared with other commonwealth countries, most notably in Australia and Canada, although these have had more time to allow the balance between the central and devolved administrations to evolve and for everyone to "learn the rules". In Wales we are struggling with recent change.



"Menai Straits" – The WILOs group helps to build bridges between Universities and business (photo courtesy of Nigel Peacock)

Thirdly, in Wales we have not yet had what might be called the Scottish enlightenment – a state of mind in which Universities are widely recognised as key contributors to the economy. It is notable that responsibility for higher education in Scotland is part of the economic development portfolio of the Scottish Executive. In Wales, higher education remains part of the education portfolio.

So what has the WILOs group achieved? There are several examples.

The change in the European Commission definition of SMEs (Small-to-Medium-sized Enterprises), to allow University shareholdings in spin-out companies to be treated in the same way as shareholdings by venture capitalists, was initiated by a Welsh university (Bangor). This proposal was discussed at a WILOs meeting and was taken forward, through the Wales European Centre in Brussels, to the EU desk officer dealing with this policy. This change, to be implemented in January 2005, makes the spin-out process much more attractive to all universities across Europe.

A few years ago, Know-How Wales was set up as a development agency initiative to employ people to promote joint projects between universities and businesses. It was widely felt both within the universities and by many businesses that the funds used for this could have been invested within the industrial liaison offices in each institution. At the launch, one senior academic stated publicly ‘...we need results not reports; projects not PR; delivery not just discussion...’ and, whilst successful in parts, the initiative has not provided the benefits claimed in its publicity material.

Lessons have been learned from this, and in a later programme, Spin-out Wales, the additional staff are employed by each institution rather than by the development agency.

For many years universities in Wales have participated in the UK-wide TCS (formerly Teaching Company Scheme) programme. Under TCS, a graduate works in a company, typically on a two-year project, with support from an academic supervisor and access to university facilities. For many small companies TCS programmes represent their first significant link with a university.

In Wales, particularly in the rural areas, there are many companies unwilling or unable to make even the



"Blessed are the cheesemakers" – Abergavenny Fine Foods benefits from University expertise (photo courtesy of University of Wales College Newport)

relatively-small commitment to a TCS programme. WILOs identified this difficulty, and developed a smaller-scale programme, called Higher Education Link Programme (HELP) Wales. HELP Wales, managed by the University of Glamorgan on behalf of all universities in Wales, has developed over 125 projects with small companies and universities. Over 85% of these projects are with companies employing less than 50 people, a set of companies that find it particularly difficult to access university expertise through traditional methods.

The WILOs group is discussing possible future programmes in areas such as technology licensing.

On a practical level, WILOs meetings are held every six months, usually as an afternoon session followed by an informal dinner, with another working session the following morning. Invited speakers lead sessions on various topics of interest, normally by giving a 15-20 minute presentation with 30 minutes of discussion. The informal nature of the group, with ‘Chatham House rules’ where appropriate, enables more detailed discussions than would be possible in formal conferences or public fora. An e-mail discussion group has been established for use between meetings.

WILOs welcomes contact with similar groups in other countries. In the first instance, please contact the chairman, Nigel Peacock, on tel.+44-1248-382501 or e-mail n.peacock@bangor.ac.uk

CUDOS FOR COLLABORATION

ACU has just launched CUDOS (Commonwealth Universities Database Online Service), which aims to facilitate connectivity in higher education and research by providing detailed listings of university staff, research expertise and study options. CUDOS is designed to bring you instant, searchable access to the contacts you need in universities throughout Commonwealth Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Canada and the Caribbean.

The database offers much more information per listed institution than similar resources on international higher education, with:

- 500+ listed higher education institutions in 36 countries
- 178,000 named senior academic and administrative staff members
- 23,000 listed academic departments
- 58,000 phone numbers, fax numbers and emails, so that you can build the contacts you need

CUDOS is especially useful to research management professionals because each academic department can be searched by its research listing; and you can also build benchmarking contacts with colleagues responsible for managing research at universities around the Commonwealth.

Until 31 December 2003 you will be able to try CUDOS out, free of charge, at www.acu.ac.uk/cudos. For further information, please contact cudos@acu.ac.uk

The news section of Research Opportunities is brought to you by ResearchResearch – a leading provider of news and funding information for researchers around the world.

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*ACU members can sign up for a free three week trial to the online service. For further information, visit the site: www.ResearchResearch.com or contact **Thérèse Claffey** on +44 20 7216 6513 or at tc@researchresearch.com*

Africa urged to seize opportunity offered by GM (first published 10/10/2003)

Africa must "seize" the opportunity offered by controversial genetically modified food, a conference in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa heard this week. Biotechnology can boost food production and cut back environmental degradation, Kingsley Amoako, who heads the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), told a three-day conference on sustainable development. "Not enough attention has been paid to impacting the daily lives of ordinary people," he told delegates from around the continent. It is therefore important that we now focus on exploring the ways in which science and technology can empower the poor to make beneficial changes in their own condition," Amoako said.

Funding for staple food research (first published 10/10/2003)

Africa should be a major beneficiary of a new USD 100 million research initiative to improve the nutritional value of major starch crops that are staples in under-developed countries, a Nigerian crop research institute said. The International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in the southwestern city of Ibadan, said in a statement it would receive an unspecified amount of funding from the programme, known as HarvestPlus to improve the nutritional quality of cassava, maize and sweet potato. The 10-year programme will be run by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), of which Nigerian research centre is a member. It will seek to improve the nutritional quality of key staple foods in Africa, Asia and South America. The IITA said HarvestPlus had received USD 25 million of funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a further USD 47 million from other Western

donors. The Nigerian crop research institute said it would be one of the main African research centres involved in the project. A research station in Mozambique specialising in sweet potato is also expected to get some funding, it added.

Joint research into disease and bioterrorism (first published 24/10/2003)

Singapore and the United States will set up a 'nerve center' in Singapore next year to combat health threats to the region, The Strait Times reports. The Regional Emerging Diseases Intervention (Redi) Centre will enable thousands of scientists, public health and infectious disease experts from both countries to pool their resources to fight emerging diseases and counter bioterrorism. Its first target will be SARS. The Times said the centre would start work immediately on developing a vaccine against the virus, and monitoring massive outbreaks of influenza and other diseases that could disrupt the entire Asia-Pacific region. The initiative comes under the wings of the US Department of Health and Human Services and various key ministries in Singapore. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, as well as the Food and Drug Administration, will have major roles, as will Singapore hospitals and research institutes, according to The Times.

South Africa, India to strengthen ties (first published 24/10/2003)

South Africa is planning to sign a host of scientific co-operation agreements with India covering biotechnology, IT and safeguarding indigenous knowledge, following last week's visit to the subcontinent by science and technology department officials. The visit coincided with President Thabo Mbeki's trip to India, and was intended to strengthen scientific links under the existing Programme of Cooperation Agreement. In the biotechnology arena, SA is planning to collaborate with India on experiments to grow "golden rice", and the two also plan to work together on AIDS vaccine research and bioremediation (using biological agents to combat pollution). Business Day said an agreement has also been reached with India's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to help SA create its own version of India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library.

Centre of Excellence to help environment (first published 23/10/2003)

Western Australia's environment will be the big winner from the state government's AUD 28 million Centres of Excellence in Science and Innovation programme. Education and Training Minister Alan Carpenter, representing the Premier and Minister for Science, Geoff Gallop, officially launched the Centre of Excellence in Applied Organic Geochemistry at Curtin

University of Technology on 22 October. The centre, a joint venture between Curtin and the University of Western Australia, received more than AUD 1.2 million from the Centres of Excellence in Science and Innovation programme, which aims to encourage opportunities to expand and enhance WA's science and innovation capability and performance. The Minister said the joint venture was an outstanding collaboration between the higher education sector, government and industry.

Australia, China education links strengthened (first published 21/10/2003)

Australia's education links with China have been strengthened following the signing of a new agreement on cooperation between The University of Newcastle and the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) in Beijing. The agreement represents a commitment to greater sharing of intellectual capital and will encourage academic staff to collaborate in research, share supervision of degree students and explore innovative curriculum design and teaching methods. Education Minister Brendan Nelson said, "Both institutions have a strong reputation for research and share a strategic ambition to engage with international partners. Both Australia and China have benefited from the development of strategic alliances with quality education partners. I am delighted at the growing links between our universities." There are now more than 460 formal agreements between the two countries making China one of Australia's most important international education and academic partners.

\$1.8m for overseas research collaboration (first published 10/10/2003)

Collaboration between Australian and overseas researchers has been strengthened with a AUD 1.8 million grant from the Australian government to support ongoing international partnerships over the next three years. Under the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Linkage-International program for movement of researchers between Australian research institutions and centres of research excellence overseas, the Australian government will fund 24 new awards and 11 new fellowships commencing in 2003.

"This program builds collaboration between Australian researchers and their overseas counterparts, strengthens the international experience of early-career researchers and provides senior researchers with opportunities to develop new research relationships," Commonwealth science minister Peter McGauran said.

The research projects will involve collaboration with 16 countries, including the United States, France,

Germany, Norway, Denmark, Japan, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Gates Foundation doubles HIV/AIDS grant support to India (first published 10/10/2003)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to double the USD 100 million in HIV/AIDS prevention funds that the Microsoft founder had pledged to India last year, the Associated Press reports. In addition, the foundation has announced the first USD 67.5 million in HIV/AIDS grants, to go to seven organizations in India over the next five years. The article notes that the foundation aims to target its prevention resources to high-risk groups including 300,000 commercial sex workers and 4.5 million clients. "The Indian government says about 4.5 million people are infected. Some experts, however, say India underestimates its AIDS totals by millions," AP states.

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In each edition of Research Opportunities, turn to this section to find current funding opportunities relevant to most or all Commonwealth researchers. The information is sourced from COS Funding Opportunities, a leading database of information about currently available funding, containing more than 23,000 funding programmes, representing over 400,000 individual funding opportunities worth over \$33 billion.

*Please note: If your institution does not have a subscription to this service, please follow the Source Link rather than the COS Record Link for the opportunities that interest you. For subscription information, please send an e-mail to **Simon Lister**, uk@cos.com.*

Title: CSC Fellowship Scheme

Sponsor: Commonwealth Science Council (CSC)

Deadline: (anticipated) May 31, 2004; July 31, 2004; September 30, 2004

Completed application forms must reach the CSC Secretariat at least 60 days before the date for commencement of the visit.

Amount: Fellowships will consist of financial support (the equivalent of GBP2,000) for the fellow's travel and maintenance not covered by the nominating or host country or its institutions; and will include return air fares, local subsistence and travel costs, and insurance (both travel and medical). Fellowships will be tenable usually for a period of one to three months, but consideration may be given to an application for a longer period. Applicants should ensure that they have applied for a period sufficient for the completion of their proposed work.

The council may give special consideration to attachments in developed countries only in cases where no suitable training institution or facility is available in a Commonwealth developing country. In cases where applicants are already in those developed countries, such support, if granted, will be subject to the limit of GBP500 or its equivalent per fellowship.

Eligibility: Applicants should be nationals of a CSC member country, normally qualified minimally to first-degree level or its equivalent, and be engaged in scientific research and technological development in a recognised institution. Applications from countries in arrears of contributions to the Commonwealth Science Council for more than two years may not benefit from the council's travel grants and fellowship scheme. Priority will be given to applications from women scientists and from small developing states.

Only applications approved by the CSC member or his/her pre-appointed representative will be considered

for awards.

Citizenship: Commonwealth

Activity Location: Commonwealth; Less Developed Countries (LDC)

Requirements: PhD/MD/Other Professional

Summary: The Fellowship Scheme of the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) was established in 1980 to provide opportunities for scientists and engineers from member Commonwealth developing countries to enhance their professional skills and experience through short-term attachments in other Commonwealth countries.

Awards will be given for activities that promote cooperation in the application of the benefits of science and technology between Commonwealth member countries. Priority will be given to activities supporting national priorities in current CSC programmes, especially those promoting the activities of the Commonwealth Knowledge Network (CKN), through exchange of know-how and expertise between Commonwealth countries. The fellowship consists of a short-term attachment to institutions and research establishments normally in a developing Commonwealth country. Only in special cases, support (full or partial) may be provided for attachments in scientifically advanced Commonwealth countries. The fellowship cannot be applied towards preparations or examinations for a degree or diploma, nor will it support general liaison visits or attendance at meetings. Unless in exceptional circumstances, this award cannot be combined with a CSC travel grant.

Source Link:

http://www.comsci.org/grants/g_doc002.htm

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=23242>

Title: Professor Dame Lillian Penson Postdoctoral Research Grant

Sponsor: University of London; School of Advanced Study; Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS)

Deadline: April 15, 2004

Amount: The grants are tenable for 3 to 12 months and will provide not more than £2,500. Penson Fellows are permitted to use the institute's facilities and in addition are offered desks in a shared office.

Eligibility: The grant is open to postdoctoral scholars in universities or comparable institutions in the Commonwealth.

Citizenship: Commonwealth

Activity Location: Commonwealth

Requirements: PhD/MD/Other Professional

Summary: The Professor Dame Lillian Penson

Research Grant is awarded biennially to postdoctoral scholars in universities or comparable institutions in the Commonwealth in the fields of the humanities and social sciences (including law and economics) and adult education. Penson Fellows are expected to take an appropriate part in the institute's activities.

Source Link:

<http://www.sas.ac.uk/commonwealthstudies/research/fellows2.html>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=1912>

Title: Research Fellowships

Sponsor: Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

Deadline: (anticipated) February 28, 2004

Amount: The fellowship stipend payable in 2003 is £19,000 for the first year, and £20,000 for the second year. In addition a London weighting of £2,134 per annum is payable in appropriate cases.

Approximately six awards are made each year.

Eligibility: A candidate must be British or a citizen of the British Commonwealth or of the Republics of Ireland or Pakistan. A candidate should preferably be less than 30 years old as of the application deadline date. Candidates in science subjects must be in possession of a PhD degree, or in the final stages of their PhD studies. Candidates offering engineering must be of at least postgraduate standing. Candidates must be recommended by professors or heads of departments of universities or other institutions of equivalent status in the United Kingdom.

Citizenship: Commonwealth; Ireland; Pakistan; United Kingdom

Activity Location: Unrestricted

Requirements: Graduate Student; PhD/MD/Other Professional

Summary: The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 Research Fellowships scheme is intended to give a few young scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity to conduct research for a further period of two years.

The fellowships are open to candidates in any of the physical or biological sciences, in mathematics, in applied science, or in any branch of engineering.

Source Link:

<http://www.royalcommission1851.org.uk/research.html>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=13782>

Title: Rome Scholarships 2004-2005

Sponsor: British School at Rome; Residential Awards for Research in the Humanities

Deadline: (anticipated) January 10, 2004

Applicants for Rome Fellowships and Rome Scholarships are considered in a single competition. Separate applications are not required.

Amount: This nine-month residency includes room and full board, and a research and travel grant of £444 per month. (Holders of a B.A. studentship or similar award receive £100 in total.) Residencies will be tenable in the (October-July) 2004-2005 academic year.

Eligibility: Applicants must be British or Commonwealth citizens, or have been working professionally or studying at the graduate level for the last three years in the United Kingdom. Applicants should normally have begun a programme of research in the general field for which the scholarship is being sought, whether or not registered for a higher degree.

Citizenship: Commonwealth; United Kingdom

Activity Location: Italy

Requirements: Graduate Student; Undergraduate Student

Summary: The British School at Rome (BSR) offers residential awards in the humanities in order to promote research on Rome and Italy from prehistory to the present. The BSR is an interdisciplinary research centre for the humanities and the fine arts. The Rome Scholarships are given for research at the pre-doctoral level on the archaeology, art history, history, and literature of Italy, from prehistory to the modern period.

Source Link: <http://www.bsr.ac.uk/ahum.html>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=16919>

Title: Pushpa S. Chopra Prize

Sponsor: Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited

Deadline: June 01, 2004 (anticipated)

Amount: Pushpa S Chopra Prize includes £2,500 plus travel costs. The bursary will cover travel and appropriate costs of visiting the centre abroad. Additionally, there will be four smaller prize bursaries of £1,000.

Eligibility: In keeping with the trust's terms nominees and applicants will be 'engaged in medical research or in the practice of medicine within the British Commonwealth of Nations'.

Citizenship: Commonwealth

Activity Location: Unrestricted

Requirements: PhD/MD/Other Professional

Summary: The chairman and members of the Prize Fund Committee invite nominations or applications from individuals and institutions for the 2004 Pushpa S.

Chopra Prize, to be awarded to an individual of distinction who has significantly contributed to advancing medical knowledge about the nature and treatment of incurable diseases. Incurable diseases include 'mental or physical disease for which no cure or complete cure has been discovered.' It is intended to choose an outstanding clinical scientist.

Additionally, there will be smaller prize bursaries ideally to encourage younger individuals working on incurable diseases to visit appropriate centres within the British Commonwealth to facilitate further research.

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=77470>

Title: Doris Odlum Award

Sponsor: British Medical Association (BMA)

Deadline: March 15, 2004 (anticipated)

Amount: The award is valued at £600.

Eligibility: Applicants must be medical practitioners registered in the British Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.

Citizenship: Commonwealth; Ireland

Activity Location: Commonwealth; Ireland

Requirements: Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional

Summary: Through its Board of Science and Education, the British Medical Association offers awards and fellowships for medical research. The purpose of the Doris Odlum Award is to assist research into mental health.

Source Link: <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Science+Research+Grants>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=21540>

Title: Margaret Rhondda Award

Sponsor: Society of Authors (SOA); Awards, Grants, and Prizes

Deadline: December 20, 2004 (anticipated)

This award is offered every three years.

Amount: The award amount was £1,000 when last offered.

Eligibility: The program is open only to women journalists in needy circumstances.

Applicants must be British or other Commonwealth citizens ordinarily resident in Great Britain. An interview in the United Kingdom may be required.

Citizenship: Commonwealth

Activity Location: Unrestricted

Requirements: Graduate Student; Women; Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional

Summary: One award for journalism is offered every three years to assist a woman journalist with a particular project.

Awards are tenable in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Source Link:

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/awards.htm>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=21929>

Title: Special Awards

Sponsor: Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

Deadline: Continuous. Applications will be accepted at any time. Applicants should, in the first instance, talk to the secretary before making a written application.

Eligibility: The commission is restricted by its charter to offering its awards to British nationals and citizens of the British Commonwealth only.

Citizenship: Commonwealth

Activity Location: Unrestricted

Requirements: Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional; Nonprofit

Summary: A very limited number of Special Awards are made to worthy causes and individuals who illustrate an outstanding requirement for assistance with their prestigious projects.

There are no established priorities of subject matter. Special Awards may range from substantial support for other charities in pursuing specific projects, to travel and study awards for individuals.

Source Link:

<http://www.royalcommission1851.org.uk/special.html>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=46986>

Title: Emslie Horniman Anthropological Scholarship Fund

Sponsor: Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)

Deadline: March 31, 2004 (anticipated)

The fund trustees will interview shortlisted candidates in London in late May or early June. Candidates not resident in the United Kingdom are not interviewed but their applications are considered on an equal footing.

Amount: Each year the trustees will make one or more Major Awards of up to £4,000 each, and in some cases it may be possible for additional funds to be made available to holders of Major Awards for a limited period to enable the work to be written up. There are

also a number of awards of up to £1,000.

Eligibility: Applicants must be nationals of the United Kingdom or the Irish Republic, or Commonwealth citizens. There are no restrictions on applicants' age, sex, religion, or ethnic origin. Applicants must be university graduates, or be able to satisfy the trustees of their suitability for an award. Students in any field of anthropology who do not already hold a doctorate are eligible to apply for the awards. Funds cannot be awarded for a joint research project, but individuals who are members of such a project can apply for a grant, provided that its leader holds a Ph.D. or is similarly qualified.

Citizenship: Commonwealth; Ireland; United Kingdom

Activity Location: Unrestricted

Requirements: Graduate Student

Summary: The Emslie Horniman Fund was established to promote the study of the growth of civilisations, habits, customs, and religious and physical characteristics of the non-European peoples and of prehistoric and non-industrial man in Europe. This includes anthropological research in its widest sense, including ethnography and all branches of human and social science relating to the physical and natural development of people in society. The major aim of the fund is to encourage recent graduates to pursue fieldwork and so to develop their careers as anthropologists and make significant contributions to the discipline. Grants are normally made for research that will contribute to the award of a higher degree. Grants will not be made for undergraduate fieldwork projects. Grants are not made for library research, or for university fees or subsistence in the United Kingdom or at the applicant's home institution.

Preference will be given to those who propose to do fieldwork outside the United Kingdom. The fund will not normally support those returning home.

Source Link:

http://www.therai.org.uk/grants/research_funds.html#Emslie_horniman

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=51108>

Title: Betty Trask Prize and Awards

Sponsor: Society of Authors (SOA); Awards, Grants, and Prizes

Deadline: January 31, 2004 (anticipated)

Amount: The total prize money available is £25,000.

Eligibility: The author must be a Commonwealth citizen who is under the age of 35 at December 31, 2002. The author must not have had any novel published, other than the one being submitted.

Citizenship: Commonwealth

Activity Location: United Kingdom

Requirements: Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional

Summary: The Betty Trask Prize and Awards are given for first novels, published or unpublished, by writers under the age of 35. The submitted work must be in the English language and must be the work of one author (not a translation). The work must be romantic or traditional in nature, not experimental.

The work submitted may be published or unpublished. If published, the work must have been published in the United Kingdom in the year of application or be due for publication in the year after application.

Source Link:

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/prizes.htm>

COS Link: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=30560>

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Programme News

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce a major International conference on Research Management sponsored by SARIMA and ACU:

Research as an Agent for Transformation and Development

Towards a Global Profession: University Research and Innovation Management in the 21st Century

Cape Town - 5 to 7 May 2004

The conference will combine practical learning in key areas of research and innovation management with a high level strategic overview of the role of research as an agent for transformation and development. With multiple tracks over three days, including training modules, the conference will be relevant to both research and innovation managers and vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors responsible for research. The conference will also focus on the internationalisation of the profession and building global networks.

Themes:

Defining the profession: Why is research and innovation management important? What can research contribute to society? How should research and innovation managers contribute? What are the needs of funders and researchers in an increasingly competitive environment? What is the role of benchmarking - locally and internationally?

Developing the profession: Essential skills, training and recruitment; Networking and partnerships - locally, nationally and internationally; Overcoming barriers that impact researchers; Developing the capacity of new, emerging and established researchers.

Communicating the profession: Relations with funding bodies, industry and government; Relations with researchers - developing a cooperative environment.

Towards a global profession: The way forward; The value of international partnerships and networking; Global training and capacity building.

If you are interested in attending, or contributing a paper please contact, Diana McCann, Executive Director of SARIMA on sarima@sarima.co.za

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4 - 5 March 2004

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS (AUTM)

AUTM celebrates the 30th anniversary of its founding at its annual meeting to be held at the Marriott RiverCenter in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

www.autm.net

22 - 23 April 2004

ASSOCIATION FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY LINKS (AURIL)

The annual conference of AURIL is to be held at Queen's University Belfast.

www.auril.org.uk

12 - 14 May 2004

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS GROUP NETWORK (RAGNET)

Ragnet's annual conference will be held in York, United Kingdom.

www.ragnet.ac.uk

24 - 26 June 2004

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS (EARMA)

Research Management and Administration in a Changing World: the annual EARMA conference will be held in Bucharest, Romania.

www.earma2004.ro

The editors welcome feedback and items for inclusion in future editions. Please contact:

Dr John Kirkland, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK

email: j.kirkland@acu.ac.uk fax: +44 (0) 207 387 2655

The ACU gratefully acknowledges the support of the Education Department of the UK Department for International Development in supporting the establishment of the Research Management programme in developing countries.

*Editor: John Kirkland
Assistant Editor: Julie Stackhouse
Designer: William Sandeford*

Research as an Agent for Transformation and Development

A major international conference – sponsored by **SARIMA** and **ACU**

Cape Town – 5 to 7 May 2004

First Announcement and Call for papers

Towards a Global Profession:
University Research & Innovation Management in the 21st Century

SEE OVERLEAF FOR DETAILS

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

Please return this form or email your details to register your interest in the conference.

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Address:

Tel:

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Email:

I would be interested in attending this conference and would like to receive further details

I would be interested in contributing a paper on one of the conference themes

Details of paper:

Please return this form by fax or post or alternatively email the details requested above to Diana McCann at sarima@sarima.co.za.

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University Research and Innovation Management in the 21st Century

In an increasingly globalised world, research in higher education institutions can make a major contribution to the transformation of society, in both developed and developing worlds – to their mutual benefit. This requires a profoundly different and more professional approach to the management of research and innovation, both to satisfy the requirements of funding entities and to ensure that research outputs are applied for greatest social and economic benefit.

The conference will combine practical learning in key areas of research and innovation management with a high level strategic overview of the role of research as an agent for transformation and development. This will focus particularly on the role of the university executive management in establishing a framework and environment that supports this expanded role of researchers to be contributors to economic and social development.

These increasing demands on research are in addition to and build upon the traditional demands for scholarly research and publication. Research and innovation managers need the skills to effectively support a strong, well funded research environment while being key agents for knowledge transfer to society – in all disciplines.

Who should attend:

The conference will have multiple tracks with track 1 focusing on the needs of research and innovation managers and including training modules. Track 2 will be a high level strategic overview of relevance to Vice Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors responsible for research and all who have an interest in the role that research can play in addressing the needs of society. Track 3 will focus on the internationalisation of the profession and building global networks.

Themes:

Defining the profession: *Why is research and innovation management important? What can research contribute to society? How should research and innovation managers contribute? What are the needs of funders and researchers in an increasingly competitive environment? What is the role of benchmarking – locally and internationally?*

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