

'A Changing Landscape'

Making support to tertiary education and research in developing countries more effective

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Atlantic Hotel, Delataplein 200, Kijkduin

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Preface by Jos Walenkamp

Higher education and research in many developing countries cannot survive without international cooperation and support. That situation has not changed over the last few decades. It would be surprising, however, if the traditional means of collaboration and support were still the most effective ones.

The landscape of development cooperation, higher education and research is changing as it is battered by the storm of new developments. Globalization, borderless or cross-border education, knowledge-based economies, ever-increasing demand and need for higher education and research, privatization, information and communication technologies, education as a tradable service, increased enrolment, distance education, the brain drain, brain circulation, the bachelor-master structure, increasing demands from public and private enterprise and joint degrees are some of those developments.

Donor policies are characterized by great variety. There is a wealth of experience with all kinds of policy, programmes, people, approaches, circumstances, countries, all in the realm of international cooperation in higher education and research. Yet in developing new policies and programmes, little use is made of that wealth.

In this rapidly changing landscape, Northern donor agencies and institutes for higher education and Southern partners alike are looking for new policies that will make their collaboration more effective and more relevant to development.

It was our aim to contribute to the development of new policies using existing experience, by bringing together over a 1,000 (wo)man years of experience from several stakeholder groups, from dozens of different countries and by asking them these questions: 'How can the interaction between governments and institutes, in North and South, between donor agencies and institutes and between institutes be made more effective?' 'How can collaboration with and support for Southern governments and institutes help them achieve the organizational and management structures, the research and training capacity, and the quality and size they need to play their vital role in social and economic development?' 'What are the best ways to assist them in their contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals?'

In this booklet we have tried to analyze all the papers, speeches, presentations, discussions, suggestions and complaints received before, during and after the conference and to distil from them conclusions and recommendations. We hope it will help us, as well as the readers of this publication, to contribute to improving old programmes and creating new ones.

We could never have done this alone.

The conference and this publication were made possible by the financial support of the Directorate General for International Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but above all by the written and verbal contributions of all the participants.

Among the highlights of the conference were the keynote speech by Professor Lídia Brito and the closing address by Ms Agnes Van Ardenne-Van der Hoeven, Minister for Development Cooperation, which was delivered by the Director for Cultural Cooperation, Education and Research at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jan Hoekema.

To them and the organizers of the conference, my most sincere thanks.

Jos Walenkamp

Director Development Cooperation, Nuffic