Programme

Higher education and development: tackling 21st century challenges

Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 June 2014 | WP1331

Globally, higher education has experienced a surge of growth in recent decades. This is against the backdrop of a growing recognition of the importance of higher education to economic growth; the expanding role of the global knowledge economy; the internationalisation of the higher education sector; and the rise of ICT as a tool with the potential to address some of higher education’s most demanding challenges. Developing countries have been important players in the expansion of higher education, with demographic and economic change driving demand for higher education services and skills.

This conference will bring together decision-makers from developing countries with a broad cross-section of stakeholders who represent the diversification of higher education provision and offer important perspectives on the transformations currently underway in the sector. The dialogue will focus on exploring innovative approaches to deliver higher education that is accessible, affordable, and of high quality. The conference will also provide an opportunity for participants to engage in open exchange and constructive challenge, and to deepen mutual understanding.

Main objective: To develop a clear vision of what higher education should deliver for developing countries in the 21st century and identify strategies for realising that vision.

In partnership with:
Department for International Development (DFID)

Supported by:
Pearson

Monday 23 June

1300-1430
Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500
Welcome and introduction

Robin Hart
Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Lynne Featherstone
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development, Department for International Development (DFID), London
What should higher education deliver for developing countries in the 21st century?

1. Defining a vision: 21st century expectations of higher education
   - What are the key benefits that participants believe Higher Education (HE) should deliver in developing countries?
   - How have expectations of HE shifted for the 21st century? Why?

Session Chair: Robin Hart
Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Fred Swaniker
Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, African Leadership Academy, Johannesburg

Jo Beall
Director, Education and Society, British Council, London

1645-1730
Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. Higher education, jobs and growth
   - What do employers expect of HE, and what do government and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) expect of employers?
   - What role should HE play in supporting entrepreneurship?
   - How can employers, government, HEIs and others work together effectively to remove barriers on the HE to employment pathway?

Session Chair: Myles Wickstead
Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Former Head of Commission for Africa Secretariat, The Open University, Milton Keynes

Simon Thompson
Chairman, Tullow Oil plc, London

Guy Pfeffermann
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Global Business School Network, Washington DC

Srikanth Iyengar
Vice President and Regional Head - Europe, Financial Services, Infosys Limited, London

Wilfred Kiumi
Managing Director, Jamhuri Film and Television Academy, Nairobi

1930
Drinks reception and dinner

Tuesday 24 June

0800-0845
Breakfast

Which developments in the supply of higher education offer promise in helping to realise this vision?

0900-1045

3. Innovation, quality and affordability of teaching and learning
   - Which innovations in teaching and learning have already added value to HE in developing countries in terms of improving quality/affordability? Which have the potential to do so?
   - What are the main challenges holding back improvements in the quality/affordability of teaching and learning in developing countries which further innovation could help to address?
   - What is the role of different actors – government, employers, HEIs, private investors, external supporters – in fostering educational innovation?
4. Developing diverse student bodies

- What strategies have been successful in improving access to HE for under-represented groups, including women, those of lower socio-economic status, ethnic minorities and the disabled?
- What strategies have been successful in ensuring that access translates into good employment outcomes? How can the quality of the HE experience for these groups be improved to improve this?

Session Chair: Robin Hart
Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Sohail Naqvi
Vice Chancellor, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore

Musimbi Kanyoro
President and Chief Executive Officer, Global Fund for Women, San Francisco

5. Building networks for research and influence

- What kinds of strategies have worked well to increase uptake of research by policymakers in developing countries?
- What kind of strategies have worked well to increase uptake of research by the private sector?
- What potential is there for greater private sector sponsorship of research in developing countries? What role is there for government or external supporters in brokering private sector sponsorship?

Session Chair: Myles Wickstead
Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Former Head of Commission for Africa Secretariat, The Open University, Milton Keynes

Alexander Ademokun
Senior Programme Manager, INASP, Oxford

Val Snewin
International Activities Manager, The Wellcome Trust, London
How should higher education systems evolve to meet 21st century expectations?

1700-1830

6. Governing changing higher education systems: experiences of reform

- What reform has been carried out and how far has it progressed?
- What were the different interests of stakeholders in reform? How were they managed?
- What impact has reform had on quality, relevance, access and sustainability of HE?
- Is more reform needed?

Session Chair: Mark Lowcock
Permanent Secretary, Department for International Development (DFID), London

Naana Jane Opoku Agyemang
Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Accra

Jacob Kaimenyi
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nairobi

Shiferaw Shigutie Wolassa
Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Addis Ababa

Sifuni Mchome
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT), Dar es Salaam

Damilola Ogunbiyi
General Manager, Lagos State Electricity Board, Lagos

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Hosted by: Iain Ferguson
Chair, Wilton Park, Steyning

Dinner Speaker: Richard Boggis-Rolfe
Chairman, Odgers Berndtson, London

Wednesday 25 June

0800-0845
Breakfast and checkout

0900-0915
7. Reflections

0915-0945
8. Strengthening higher education systems

Introduction in Plenary (speakers talking initially for 10 minutes)

- How can higher education systems in developing countries grow to scale, without compromising quality?
- What are the critical gaps in capacity which hold back HE’s potential to contribute to development – both within higher education systems, the private sector and public sector? How can these gaps be addressed?

Zaw Myint
Deputy Director General, Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar), Yangon

0945-1100
Discussion in break-out groups (3-4 groups) on agreed themes; facilitators to be announced.

1100-1130
Tea/coffee
9. Refining and realising a 21st century vision of higher education

- How have participants' perceptions of a 21st century vision evolved during discussions?
- What are the main take-aways regarding how this vision can be realised?

Feedback from break-out groups followed by plenary discussion.

Jonny Baxter
Head of Secretariat, Higher Education Taskforce, Department for International Development (DFID), London

1245
Lunch

1345
Participants depart