



Taking development research and training institutes to the next level

EADI Directors' Meeting 2007

18-19 October 2007, The Hague

hosted by Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

DRAFT - Background Note (08/10/07)

Directors' Meeting 2007

On 18-19 October 2007 directors and heads of research institutes and think-tanks will jointly participate in various open space discussions and exchange sessions on issues and topics related to the business of research institutes, think-tanks and training organisations. The idea is that directors of institutes will have a chance to interact with peers who run research institutes and think-tanks.

As a participatory event, Directors' meeting 2007 will seek to connect European research institutes for more effective co-operation by sharing ideas, identifying common problems, exchanging progress reports on ongoing initiatives, creating jointly new project plans and developing the agenda of the next Directors' meeting at EADI's General Conference in June 2008. The discussions will also focus on institutes' governance structures and ways of work, strategies for impact and policy relevance and models for managing co-operation with Southern research institutes. Directors' meeting 2007 will be hosted by the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, in conjunction with the ISS' 55th anniversary.

Background

EADI's 2006 Directors' meeting – hosted by the Institute of Development Studies, Brighton – attracted more than 100 participants e.g. directors, heads of EADI member institutes, Southern partner organisations and representatives of donor agencies to discuss trends and challenges facing development research and training community. It provided a forum for open discussions and exchange of perspectives.

One year on, development research and training institutes as well as think-tanks are still concerned about the impact and effectiveness of research and training activities – and how they can contribute to development co-operation. In the light of this need, we look for a participatory event where the directors of EADI member institutes have a chance to interact and exchange.

Process

The 18 October Group Discussions

Trends, challenges, emerging governance and managerial issues will be addressed by two or three speakers presenting concrete cases in a first panel. This constitutes the basis for the following group discussions among directors as it assesses current developments and gives input to further action.

In a second step some groups will be set up to discuss enhanced co-operation of development research and training institutes. The process begins with creating a list of 'issues' or 'projects' that need to be discussed. The identified issues are then clustered and will be discussed in rounds of conversations which take place throughout the day. Discussion rounds can be arranged by existing projects which seek to use the meeting to take their agendas forward or by single participants that volunteer to organise a cluster for discussion. A facilitator will explain the overall structure and the aim of the day. Assistance with process and output documentation will be provided. Participants will have a free choice of which conversations to join and may also choose to rove between different conversations. At the end of the process, everyone gathers back into a larger group where there is an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from the smaller conversations.

The 19 October Exchange Sessions

The idea behind the sessions is to maximize learning processes and ensure a broad exchange among participants. The format of the day will combine short presentations (for 20 minutes each) – delivering 'food for thought' input – with open discussions and a participatory roundtable. The aim is to stimulate discussion around each table on participants' specific experiences on the topic. The result of each table discussion will be captured through the preparation of a short 'learning story'. This will give some sense of the issues and dilemmas discussed. 'Learning stories' will be posted on the EADI website and published in EADI's Newsletter. A facilitator will manage the process, timekeeping and outputs.

At the end of the exchange sessions a wrap-up of the meeting will be held which summarises the outcomes, assesses discussions and provides an outlook on future events. This wrap-up constitutes the official closing of the Directors' meeting 2007.

However, after the tea and coffee break in the afternoon, there will be room for networking with other EADI members and Southern partners as well as the continuation of ICCDA meetings and meetings of the regional Working Groups.

DRAFT Programme

Wednesday 17 October – Pre-Meeting		
14:00	Consultation on the training needs for the generalist development practitioner Welcome by the EADI President	Jean-Luc Maurer, EADI President
14:10	Introduction by the Institute of Development Studies: The Commission and its goals	Lawrence Haddad (IDS)
14:30	Presentation - key questions - aim of the consultation - expected results	tba
14:45	Findings of the survey <i>Training needs for the generalist development practitioner</i>	tba
15:00	Open discussion	Facilitator: Jean-Luc Maurer, EADI President
16:45	Wrap-Up	Lawrence Haddad (IDS)
17:00	End of consultation	
Thursday 18 October – Directors’ Meeting		
08:30	Arrival of participants; registration	
9:00	Welcome by the host Opening remarks by the EADI President	Louk Box, Rector (ISS) Jean-Luc Maurer, EADI President
9:30	EADI 2020 – Where do we stand	Thomas Lawo (EADI) Executive Secretary
09:45	What is the ‘next level’ for development research institutes? Trends, challenges, emerging governance and managerial issues Panel and presentations of case studies	Simon Maxwell (ODI) Jürgen Wiemann (DIE) (tbc) Steve Morgan (ESRC)
11:00	Tea / coffee	
11:30	Group discussions Connecting research institutes for more effective cooperation – ideas, emerging issues, common problems, actions, projects, plans, progress reports	Introduction by Jean-Luc Maurer, EADI President
12:15	Wrap-Up	
12.30	Lunch	
15:00	ISS Dies Natalis/awarding Honorary Doctorates, Sir Richard Jolly and Bina Agarwal	
	Dinner at ISS “Indonesian Buffet”	

Friday 19 October – Directors' Meeting / ICCDA		
9:00	Introduction to the day	Jean-Luc Maurer, EADI President
9:15	EADI Prize 2007	tba
Exchange sessions		
9:30	Are we reaching the goal? Strategies for impact and policy relevance	Facilitator: Louka Katseli
09:30	John Young, RAPID (ODI)	
09:45	Paul Engel (ECDPM)	
10:00	Caroline Wiedenhof (MINBUZA)	
10:15	Open discussion	
11:00 Tea / coffee		
11:30	The relevance of education and training for development researchers and professionals. Do we meet the needs?	Facilitator: Desmond McNeill (SUM)
11:30	Peter Taylor and Lawrence Haddad (IDS)	
12:00	Michel Carton (IUED)	
12:30	Open discussion	
13:00 Lunch		
14:00	What models for managing co-operation with Southern research Institutes?	Faciliator: tba
14:00	Participatory roundtable with three regional associations:	Johan Helland (CMI)
14:15	CMI: International Co-operation Strategy, pursue equality with partners in the South (CMI)	Alfred Nhema (OSSREA)
14:30	ICCDA: South-South Programme	Adebayo Olukoshi (CODESRIA)
14:45	Open discussion	Emir Sader (CLACSO)
15:30	Wrap-up and closing of the Directors' Meeting 2007	Hari Singh (APISA)
		Jean-Luc Maurer, EADI President
16:00 Tea / coffee		
16:30	Networking space Continuation of ICCDA meetings Meetings of regional Working Groups	