

Demanding Innovation

articulating policies for demand-led research capacity building

An international policy seminar organized by
ECDPM and DGIS (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Cooperation)

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Presentation

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Structured Synthesis of the discussion

On Friday morning, 12 October 2001, Dr Louk Box of the University of Maastricht, presented a structured synthesis of the discussion during the seminar. Here follows a transcript of the powerpoint slides with which he supported his presentation.

1. **Innovating Demand**
 - Mediating between needs and strategies - the role of research

- 2 **Innovating Demand**
 - Articulating policies
 - for demand-led
 - research
 - capacity
 - building.
 - an internal policy seminar organised by ECDPM and DGIS

- 3 **Mesopotamia?**
 - MMRP discourse
 - Poverty oriented
 - Autonomous management
 - Long term support
 - Research capacity
 - WHOSE DEMAND?
 - &
 - RTD discourse
 - Policy oriented
 - Linkage to EU policy development
 - Short term focus
 - Dialogue capacity
 - WHOSE DEMAND?

4 **Move upstream ...**

- Cynthia Bautista: *'Let us see the knowledge production side of things, and take it one step further: more abstraction' (Kerala)*
- Paul Engel: *'Follow a systemic approach'*
- Conclusion: *move upstream (both) and realise that both discourses stem from a common source or concern.*

5 **Nair on Kerala**

A key question is the transition from Gibbon's Mode 1 to Mode 2: *how to marry scientific quality with societal relevance?*

6. **Gibbons et al.: what do they say?**

- Mode 1: Conventional science
- Autonomous
- Disciplinary
- Hierarchical
- 'State oriented'
- &
- Mode 2: The new trend
- Integrated
- Transdisciplinary
- Egalitarian
- 'Community' focus

7. **Reference to Nair's work ...**

- K N Nair, Vineetha Menon, G Gopikkuttan *Knowledge production and utilisation in developing countries: Lessons from Kerala Research Programme on Local Level Development*

8 **Whose demand? Thandika Mkandawire on demanders :Whose interests?**

- Governments
- Donors
- NGOs/intermediary organisations
- Private sector
- &
- International organisations
- Society at large/communities
- Research community
- Individual researchers

9. **Hameeda Hossein's perspective**

- Social activists: a crucial group of users
- Include them in agenda setting, but also in research monitoring and in reporting
- Realise that research becomes business and that tenders or commissioned research kill dialogue, originality and insight
- Regional sharing is the key
- Ethics of research: share understanding

10. **Catherine Odora Hoppers' plea**

- The construction of ignorance leaves a sickening feeling at the bottom of our stomachs.
- A gross asymmetry exists between those who own knowledge in the informal sector and those who valorize it in the formal sector.
- Knowledge rich people are resource poor.
- A new science is called for: dialogical and intercultural.
- Capacity building: why is it that after 40 years we still talk about it? What went wrong?
- Partnerships: structural subservience?
- Ownership: the rat's version of science is different from Pavlov's
- What can we do about it?
 1. Space for cross-fertilization in gene pool of ideas
 2. Define agendas in big or small groups
 3. Disarm globalisation: generate new ideas

10. **Strategies: Researchers**

- Involve different actors in the development of new paradigms: be flexible
- Use local means to disseminate
- Recognise: no contradiction between excellence and demand led research
- Acknowledge accountability and responsibility chains

11 **Donors:**

- Split funds between N&S so each knows what to get
- Regionalise your work according to regional centres of excellence
- Promote priority for research and a culture of research
- Evaluation should not be crucifixion: (gopping is simplified zopping)

12 **Communities**

- Empower local communities to get together
- Development interactive strategies
- Prepare for negotiation & agenda setting
- Basic education is key
- Take knowledge / communication networks seriously

13 **Private sector**

- General neglect of attention for private sector
- Private sector is motor for development
- Knowledge networks are increasingly capable of linking with researchers

14 **Policy makers**

- Create champions
- Create forums and platforms for exchange
- Involve policy makers to make teams and work sustainable
- Build champions among leading agencies and donors

15 **Conclusions**

- Demand-led research is feasible: experiences show it
- Policy dialogue: there exists a workable toolkit

16. **Thandika Mkandawire on allocation**

- It is a political decision who will get the 'real demand'?

Thandika Mkandawire's paradox:

- Accountability versus Sustainability
- For *accountability* research results need to be identified with the researcher
- For *sustainability* research results need to be integrated with common knowledge at the local level

Thandika Mkandawire on universities

- If universities decline, research declines
- Donors follow fashions: 'networks' prime
- The independence and coherence is the principal problem
- Donors do not like universities because they are incontrollable through their independent quality review