

Opening Notes Ahead of Sixth Plenary Session

Jonathan Ayles

Welcome

Alec Boksenberg, of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, outstanding career as a physicist and astronomer as Astronomer Royal, now Professor of Experimental Astronomy in the University of Cambridge. Has an Asteroid named after him.

Change of Programme

- Sixth session chaired by Rasigan Maharajh from 0930 to 1030
- Noticeboard session 1030-1100 tomorrow : What is already happening ? Don't want to duplicate existing networks, research effort or lobbying
- Dick Nelson on Catch-up and Globalics
- any others networks

Yesterday and Moving ahead to a final communique

- Reminder that we are dealing with a wide variety of circumstances – development is a very wide set of issues. Nor is there clear agreement on a issues including the role of universities through to the nature of catch up.
- Developed countries have become more heterogeneous. Came out in discussion, contributions by Banji and Padmashree
- There is variation within countries: Women's experience is different to men; urban/rural; rich and poor; informal as well as formal. Strongly highlight by Marilyn Carr.
- Resources matter: KJ and Stan reminded us capital is scarce, but it is the vehicle that makes things happen. Capabilities matter, labour skills to absorb imported technology and – above all generate local technology. Women are neglected here as innovative and shrewd. Growing labour shortages due to the AIDS epidemic.
- Innovation is not just science, not just technology but also organisations and institutions. We know nothing of the service sector of developing economies
- Catch-up too simplistic an idea, firms in developing economies may acquire capabilities that put them on the frontier, examples in Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan. Clear from Keun Lee Catch-up has worked using different models in Korea, Taiwan and China. Would have been true for post-war Europe supported by Marshall Aid.
- Not clear how firms acquire technology. What is the role of intermediaries of the sort outlined by Gordon Ollivere. What about . How does Africa latch on to system integrators if firms increasingly want complete sub-assemblies?

- Not just about firms: Firms supported by a whole system of markets, publicly provided institutions such as health, water, roads, airports, justice and the legal system, defence.
- Not clear that privatisation generates innovation: An inconclusive debate lacking evidence.

Organising notion of “appropriate innovation”