One of the central factors impacting the successful negotiation of international research agreements and collaboration is culture. Recognizing this, the International Research Collaborations project (“I-Group”) of the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) held its second workshop at the National Academy of Sciences on July 29-31, 2013. The workshop “Culture Matters: An Approach to International Research Agreements” brought together a broad range of U.S. Government, higher education, and private sector participants to consider cultural dimensions in this space. The workshop followed the very successful July 2010 workshop “Examining Core Elements of International Research Collaboration: A Workshop.”

Bringing together nearly 80 participants, the workshop encompassed four tracks and examined their relationships with culture, research, and agreements: 1) People/Human Subjects; 2) Environment and Natural Resources; 3) Science, Engineering, and Manufacturing (SEM); and 4) Agriculture and Animal Issues.

NCURA members Pat Schlesinger, John Carfora, and Jim Casey moderated plenary sessions centered on wealthy vs. poor underdeveloped countries, urbanization/ecological sustainability/social resilience, and intellectual property, respectively. Participants were highly energized, the discussions were vigorous, and participants are looking forward to future follow-on activities.

If you would like to further explore materials from the 2013 and the 2010 workshops, please visit http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/guirr/PGA_050827#culture

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