

Creating an Environment for Productive International Collaboration

Presentation to the Government-University-Industry
Roundtable Working Group on International Research
Collaborations

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**The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities**

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The Association of Commonwealth Universities

- The world's oldest inter-university association
- Over 500 member institutions covering 54 countries
- Two-thirds in the 'developing Commonwealth'
- Several programmes – including research management

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Universities**



Global Research Management Network

- Established by ACU in 2005
- Brings together university research practitioners throughout the world
- Particular focus on benchmarking, development of research management systems in the developing world and professional development
- Brought together through *Research Global* magazine

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Collaboration from a Developing Country Perspective

Commonalities

- A common curiosity
- A common discipline
- A process led by individuals, research teams or centres, rather than institutions
- Increasingly – a trend towards project led, competitively won research models

Collaboration from a Developing Country Perspective

Potential differences

- Resources and infrastructure
- Time
- Incentives and economic background
- Lack of institutional infrastructure
- ‘different ends of the telescope’

Five Simple Questions

- What are you trying to achieve?
- Why this particular partner?
- Who are you *really* dealing with?
- What is their motivation?
- What outcome would make you both happy?

Issues in Practice

- Allocation of tasks – who does what?
- Finances – who gets what? Are you starting from the same base?
- Contracts – are you dealing with individuals or institutions? What are the implications of this?
- Intellectual Property – what is fair? What is practical?
- The Future – is this part of a longer term relationship?
- Public Presentation – what kind of relationship are you in?

Some Key Take-Aways

- **DON'T** shy away from collaboration with the developing world
- **DO** be clear about your motives
- **DON'T** try to be a missionary
- **DO** try to think of the project from their standpoint – as individuals and institutions – as well as your own