

Research partnerships with the global South

A paradigm shift in research policy and development cooperation?



**A forum for policy and research of the Swiss National Centre
of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South**

Tuesday, 4 June 2013

17:00 to 19:30

University of Bern, 3012 Bern
UniS Building, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, Room 003

Successes of the NCCR North-South

The NCCR North-South strengthened Switzerland's position in international research on global change. Through the programme, the six Swiss partner institutions increased their standing, particularly in the indicated research fields.

- Migration: Development Study Group (DSGZ), University of Zurich
- Conflict transformation: Swiss Peace Foundation (swisspeace)
- Health care systems: Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)
- Sanitation and wastewater management: Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag-Sandec)
- Natural resources and sustainable regional development: Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern
- Governance: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)

Enhanced exchange with the global South

Researchers honed their skills and expertise, for example in the NCCR North-South's international training courses. Around 230 young researchers have completed or will soon complete their PhD (59% from the global South, 40% women). The programme's international network strengthened mutual trust and enabled participants to share their experiences. These partnerships will remain important to future research and practice beyond the end of the programme.

The value of research partnerships

Advancing research for global sustainable development requires well-trained experts. The standing of educational institutions and research networks in developing countries is often weak. That's why co-production of knowledge and joint development of know-how with the North is so valuable. Based on its comparably high educational capital, Switzerland has a key role to play in joint knowledge generation in developing and transition countries. But this requires that research cooperation in and with these countries be firmly anchored as an independent area in Swiss science policy and development cooperation.

Programme

- 17:00 Welcome address
Prof Dr **Martin Täuber**, Rector, University of Bern
- 17:10 Partnerships for Switzerland in a globalised world
Maya Graf, President of the National Council
Dr **Kathy Riklin**, Member of the National Council
- Excerpt from the film *Co-treating faecal sludge and solid waste*
(Eawag-Sandec, 2003)
- 17:40 Highlights and challenges
Prof Dr **Hans Hurni**, Director, NCCR North-South
Prof Dr **Ulrike Müller-Böker**, University of Zurich
- Excerpt from the film *The other silk road*
(DSGZ and PANOS, 2008)
- 18:10 NCCR North-South experiences
Prof Dr **Lothar Brock**, Member of NCCR North-South Review Panel
Dr **Anita Ghimire**, Kathmandu University, Nepal
- Excerpt from the film *Monitoring of brucellosis control in Mongolia*
(Swiss TPH, 2012)
- 18:40 Research and development policy outlook
Jürg Burri, Vice Director, SERI
Dr **Martin Dahinden**, Director-General, SDC
- Excerpt from the film *Mount Kenya: solving water conflicts*
(CDE, 2003)
- 19:15 Closing remarks
Prof Dr **Urs Wiesmann**, Director, NCCR North-South
- 19:30 Reception with refreshments

Please register to attend by 27 May 2013 by sending an e-mail to the following address: nccr-north-south@cde.unibe.ch

The NCCR North-South in a nutshell

Around 1250 researchers worked together in the NCCR North-South programme to find solutions to problems of global change. The programme brought together six Swiss research institutions and 140 partner institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Building research partnerships between participants in the industrialised global “North” and their peers in the developing global “South” was central to the programme’s success. Participating researchers investigated issues of poverty, conflict, health, sanitation, natural resources, and governance. The programme received 100 million Swiss francs in funding over 12 years from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the participating institutions.

What’s next?

The NCCR North-South fostered establishment of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern and gave birth to the International Graduate School North-South (IGS North-South), a doctoral programme on the topics of global change, sustainable development, and innovation offered jointly by the universities of Basel, Bern, and Zurich. The IGS North-South preserves the network of Swiss partner institutions built by the NCCR North-South. Exchange with the partners in the South will remain crucial to continuing research for sustainable development

This event is organised by the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South, in cooperation with

- University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)
- University of Zurich, Development Study Group (DSGZ)
- Swiss Peace Foundation (swisspeace)
- Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag)
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)
- Nine Regional Coordination Offices of the NCCR North-South in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Switzerland
- Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE)



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