



Press Release

IAU meets in China on Internationalization of Higher Education

For the vast majority of the leaders of higher education institutions and associations of universities around the world who took part in the 2005 IAU Survey, internationalization of higher education is of utmost importance, though they also see risks inherent in this process. According to these respondents, the major risks at present are the *“growing commercialization of higher education, the increase in foreign degree mills, and the threat of brain drain”*.

These are among the major findings of the **2005 IAU Global Survey Report** published by the **International Association of Universities (IAU)** under the title ***Internationalization of Higher Education: New Directions, New Challenges***.

This publication will be released on the occasion of IAU annual **International Conference**, this year held in Beijing, China, on 13-15 October 2006. This event gathers close to 150 leaders and representatives of higher education institutions and associations of universities from 48 countries around the world to debate the topic of **Internationalization of Higher Education**.

The latest **trends, challenges and opportunities (present and future)** brought by internationalisation will be examined from a global perspective during this major event held in conjunction with the 2006 China Annual Conference for International Education of the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).

As underlined by IAU Secretary-General, **Ms. Eva Egron-Polak**: “by carrying out global surveys, on a regular basis, the Association seeks to improve the understanding of the latest trends emerging in this rapidly changing sector” [and] “is committed to making higher education stakeholders aware of key challenges and risks of these developments”. [...]. “The analysis of the results, helps IAU, and perhaps others, determine what actions are needed in the future to address some of these crucial questions that require global attention and debate”.

IAU has been committed to promoting and facilitating debate about “Internationalization” since its creation in 1950 and maintains it as one of the priority themes for its on-going work. The association brings together universities, institutions of higher education and national and regional associations of universities from more than 120 countries around the world. It aims to promote debate, reflection and action on key issues in the field of higher education in its effort to advance the formation of ‘a worldwide community of higher education’.

In Beijing, the author of ***Internationalization of Higher Education: New Directions, New Challenges***, **Dr. Jane Knight**, will present the **main findings** of this survey, based on responses from higher education institutions and associations of universities in 95 countries (making this the largest internationalization study of its kind!). Her analysis examines regional differences and similarities in approaches to internationalization, new developments and major challenges facing the sector in the coming years. According to Dr. Knight, [...] *“the findings from the 2005 IAU survey paint a relatively positive picture in terms of the sustained importance attributed to internationalization and the increase in the number of HEIs that have moved from an ad hoc to a planned approach to internationalization”*. Though she adds that *“the picture is less encouraging at the national level...”* as *“...national governments are giving inadequate attention to international education and do not play the role that they should in terms of national policy and funding to facilitate international research, mobility and development projects, and to ensure that appropriate quality assurance and accreditation systems are in place for cross-border delivery of programs”*. Among the key trends observed, she notes *“a continuing growth in institutional networks, student mobility, recruitment of fee-paying students, double degrees, and research as forms of international collaboration”*, as well as a *“shift from international cooperation to the pursuit of national competitiveness as a motive for internationalization”*.

In addition, the IAU International Conference will offer participants a glimpse of current **developments of internationalization**, especially in China as well as Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. A session, organized jointly with CEAIE will also present **other IAU initiatives in internationalization**, which have been numerous in the past decade especially (see: www.unesco.org/iau).

For further information and possible **interviews** with IAU President, (**Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai**), IAU Secretary-General (**Ms. Eva Egron-Polak**) or the author of the IAU 2005 Global Survey Report, (**Dr. Jane Knight**), please **contact**:

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