

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Endogenous Development and Transdisciplinarity in Higher Education

Challenges for the co-evolution of mainstream and Endogenous Knowledge Traditions

Cochabamba Bolivia, October -November 6, 2011

Endogenous development, education and research

An increasing number of universities and institutes of higher learning are offering innovative education and trans-disciplinary research programs, which are inspired by indigenous cultures and related endogenous knowledge. This is happening in the context of creative dialogue between mainstream and indigenous knowledge traditions. This dialogue is a constructive way to reduce the dominance of western knowledge and the mono-culturalization of the education and research processes worldwide. Higher education based on transdisciplinarity and dialogue between different knowledge traditions aims to broaden the content and form of higher education, taking into account the rich diversity of knowledge in different parts of the globe.

One of the initiatives in this respect is CAPTURED, an international programme "Capacity and Theory Building for Universities and Research Centres in Endogenous Development". The programme is founded on the belief that the cultural diversity is as important for civilizational evolution as bio-diversity is for biological evolution. The programme is lead by the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Ghana, the Agroecology Programme (AGRUCO) of the Universidad Mayor de San Simon (UMSS) in Bolivia, and the Foundation for the Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) in India.

Similar initiatives exist in international organizations as UNESCO, United Nations University and in countries like Canada, New Zealand, USA and others.

The international conference seeks cooperation with these initiatives in order to bring together leaders in institutions of higher education to share experiences, identify challenges and build strategic alliances for mainstreaming and enhancing endogenous education, research and development.

Objectives

The conference will focus on:

1. Sharing of achievements, potentials, limitations and future challenges for further growth of endogenous education and research and of university based programs of endogenous development.
2. Strengthening of existing relations and build new strategic alliances with key players in higher education and research for endogenous development.
3. Establishing an international platform for the promotion of endogenous knowledge and research in higher education.

Conference themes

Specifically, the conference will offer the opportunity for sharing experiences and exploring future activities on educational methods , field experiences and networking strategies related to :

1. Models, experiences and results of establishing dialogue between endogenous and mainstream knowledge and the potential for co-evolution of sciences.
2. Approaches and achievements in theory building on indigenous ways of knowing and indigenous sciences in general and in fields like Agriculture, Health, Environment and Governance.
3. The methods of transdisciplinary research and endogenous development.
4. The methods and materials for endogenous education
5. Correlation between endogenous and mainstream knowledge concepts and categories
6. The status of endogenous studies and the strategic directions for further initiatives.
7. Strategies for accreditation in formal educational systems.
8. Programs for capacity building of researchers and teachers in endogenous education and research

Call for contributions

The conference invites participants to make a contribution by presenting papers. Deadlines:

- Title of paper and abstract (500 words) by March 1
- Confirmation of admission: April 15
- Full paper: June 30
- Registration for conference: September 1

Participants of the conference:

- Staff and students of universities that have programs on endogenous learning and research.
- Scientists of mainstream universities who have experience sharing and learning together with indigenous communities
- Field based organizations linked to knowledge institutions and universities who are working in the direction of endogenous development
- Funding and policy making agencies related to education, development and research.

The conference will be co-organized by Captured and other organizations being identified and will hosted by AGRUCO of the Universidad Mayor San Simon in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, committed its sponsorship and support to the conference.

The conference will include plenary presentations, as well as workshops during which specific topics will be dealt with and in which specific recommendations for future action will be formulated. Field visits to rural areas in Bolivia, meetings with indigenous researchers and leaders of rural communities with which AGRUCO cooperates since many years are part of the program.

Provisional programme

October 28: Arrival and registration

October 29: Opening, Protocols Govt of Bolivia
Key note lectures and subgroup discussion

October 30 : Presentation of papers in subgroups arranged according to the 8 themes. 15 minutes each.

Invitation to presenters to address the questions:

- What have we learned about mainstreaming EK and ED in higher education and:
- How can we use the international exchange to further the understanding and strengthen the initiatives.

November 1: Continuation of subgroups and plenary presentation .

Afternoon: Discussion on establishing international platform and forward actions.

November 2: Participation in Festival Todos Santos

November 3 and 4 : Excursion in Bolivia to visit places of cultural significance and research areas of Agruco:

November 5 : Departure of participants

Further information: www.Captured-edu.org

www.captured-la.org

Contact: Agruco@agruco.org