

Atlas of Ideas

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Chinese
Academy of
Sciences
Institute of
Biophysics

1980

Why do UK researchers collaborate with developed countries, eg USA?

MRC


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Council

- Historically shared scientific culture
 - Access to intellectual resources
 - Wider research network
 - Access to supporting resources (eg sophisticated facilities, patient samples, data bases)
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Why do UK researchers collaborate with developed countries, eg USA?

MRC

Medical
Research
Council

- Developed world still produces majority of scientific publications (>66%)
 - Produces majority of Nobel Laureates
 - Collaboration generates high-quality publications
 - Established mechanisms to exploit intellectual property
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Why collaborate with the new economies?




- Altruism – helping other people
- Interest in problems specific to those countries e.g. malaria, agriculture, social research
- Access to problems of potential relevance to UK e.g. Avian Flu, SARS
- Sharing the burden of large-scale science
- The ‘universality of science’ (ICSU)

Chinese Academy of Sciences institute site 2006




Justification for changing our thinking



- Scale of new investments in the developing world
 - Rapid expansion of centres of excellence
 - New dynamics of researcher migration
 - Relocation of industry to access new skilled work force, with lower production costs
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Justification for changing our thinking



- Global threats from emerging technology could be mitigated through closer interaction (eg bioterrorism)
 - Tackling scientific problems on a larger scale (variomics; epidemiology & trials on rare diseases)
 - Diversity of talent and specialization
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Challenges for research in new economies



- Dismantling traditional hierarchical approaches
 - Developing framework of research ethics/ research integrity
 - Encouraging free thinking and risk taking
 - Developing individual responsibilities
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Challenges for research in new economies



- Different regulatory environments
 - Big ideas vs local concerns
 - Language
 - Cultural attitudes to learning
 - Intellectual property rights
 - Research ethics
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Science in the developing world



- Beneficiaries - resourcing poor countries
- Focus on strengthening research capacity
- Need to develop infrastructures
 - Health systems
 - Education
 - Agriculture
- Collaboration in research will contribute to socio-economic advancement