Press Release

First International Higher Education Research and Policy Roundtable

November 12, 2013

On November 2 and 3, 2013, the first ever roundtable meeting of directors of higher education centers and programs, as well as a small group of policymakers active in higher education, met at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China for a consideration of the role of higher education research and training centers in today’s complex tertiary education environment. The roundtable was organized by the Boston College Center for International Higher Education, in cooperation with the Graduate School of Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Innovation, Higher Education and Research for Development (IHERD), an initiative of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). It was funded by SIDA and administered by SANTRUST, a South Africa-based NGO. The event brought together 33 key professionals from all continents.

The key purpose of the meeting was, according to organizer Philip G. Altbach of the Boston College Center for International Higher Education, to “initiate a dialogue among the diverse higher education centers worldwide on common issues and initiate a network with common interests. Our goal is to serve the broader higher education community worldwide.”

The group agreed on the importance of data and analysis for higher planning and management, and discussed common global concerns. Tertiary institutions increasingly need professional leadership and management, and higher education programs, most located in universities, provide specialized
training. Serving policymakers and university leaders with data and analysis is another key service of higher education centers. The group strategized on how best to ensure productive and sustainable links.

The first roundtable expressed the hope that the community of researchers and policymakers will continue the dialog with the goal of serving the broader higher education establishment.

Two statements relating to the roundtable are attached to this press release.

Please contact Philip G. Altbach (altbach@bc.edu) or Laura Rumbley (rumbley@bc.edu) for additional information or commentary.

The following individuals participated in the roundtable. (Affiliations are for identification purposes only).

• Australia: Leo, Goedegebuure, LH Martin Institute, University of Melbourne.
• Canada: Glen Jones, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.
• Chile: Andrés Bernasconi, Centre for Research on Educational Policy and Practice, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
• China: Dunrong Bie, Research Center of Higher Education Development, Xiamen University.
• China: Nian Cai Liu, Center for World-Class Universities, Shanghai Jiaotong University.
• Colombia: Jamil Salmi, Tertiary Education.org.
• Europe: Lesley Wilson, European University Association, Belgium.
• France: Christine Musselin, Office of the Dean for Research, Sciences Po.
• France: Åsa Olsson, Innovation, Higher Education and Research for Development, IHERD, OECD.
• Germany: Georg Krücken, International Centre for Higher Education Research, Kassel, University of Kassel.
• India: Pawan Agarwal, Planning Commission, Government of India.
• Ireland: Ellen Hazelkorn, Directorate of Research and Enterprise, Dublin Institute of Technology.
• Japan: Futao Huang, Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University.
• Malaysia: Morshidi Sirat, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
• Mexico: Sylvie Didou AuPetit, Centre for Research and Advanced Studies.
• Nepal: Pamela Dube, Tembeni Consulting.
• Russia: Isak Froumin, Institute of Education, National Research University-Higher School of Economics.
• Slovenia: Pavel Zgaga Centre for Education Policy Studies, University of Lubljana.
• South Africa: Nico Cloete, Centre for Higher Education Transformation.
• Sweden: Lena Johansson de Chateau, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA.
• Sweden: Merle Jacob, Research Policy Institute, Lund University.
• Thailand: Piyawat Boon-Long, Knowledge Network Institute.
• United Kingdom: Robin Middlehurst, Kingston University and Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.
• United States: Philip G. Altbach and Laura E. Rumbley, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College.
• United States: William Tierney, Pullias Center for Higher Education, University of Southern California.
• Vietnam: Ly Pham, International Education Institute, Vietnam National University.