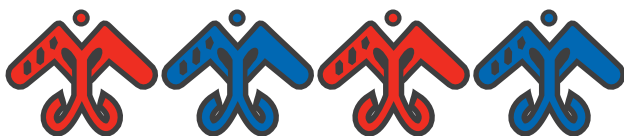
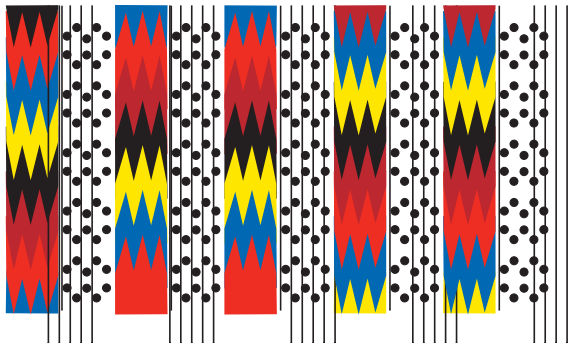


PHOENIX - Fostering the rebirth of social sciences and humanities in the Central Asia



Dear reader,

Since the summer is approaching and the academic sphere is losing its vigor and activity, with all the students going for holiday, it is a good time to have a retrospective and more general overview about issues of SSH in CA countries.

In this newsletter first we give an overview about the PHOENIX workshop on research evaluation that was held in Kyrgyzstan from 20th to 22nd of May 2007. We cover the main topics of the event and bring to you the genuine feedback from CA participants.

All in all we can say the workshop was a success and the feedback was positive. It is clear that participants from the five Central Asian countries took note of the ideas of the European presenters as feedback has been filled with requests for additional information on the subjects developed. The speeches were thought provoking and many presented schemes could be adapted in the process of developing of own evaluation systems in CA countries. The importance of presented subjects was showed by the massive load of questions asked. Discussions were very fruitful, but due to limited time, lot of questions remained thrown into the air.

Beside the workshop speeches, all the participants enjoyed the social programme that included reception with traditional food served and boat trip on beautiful lake Issyk-Kyl.

The second part of this Newsletter deals with overall situation of research in CA countries. Three countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - are presented with stories focusing on R&D system and policy, on recent developments and future plans. In next issue we will have report on Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, overview about events in September like PHOENIX project writing seminar or HERA Conference, both taking place in Estonia.

CONTENT

Reactions of PHOENIX workshop on research evaluation	2-3
Feedback from workshop participants	4
R&D in CA - country profiles	5-8

Research evaluation workshop

"Road to excellence: Research evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities"

*"Raduga" resort, Kyrgyzstan
20th – 22nd of May 2007*

„Road to excellence: Research evaluation in SSH” was the title of the Phoenix workshop held in Kyrgyzstan from 20th to 22nd of May 2007. Nine lectures were made by six guests from different European countries. In addition, the representatives of the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) present at the workshop gave an overview of the situation of academic research in their countries. The workshop was held at the Raduga Hotel in the scenic village of Sary-Oy, 243 kilometres from Kyrgyzstan’s capital. The presentations were a success and resulted in overall positive feedback and requests for additional information on the subjects that were discussed.

The workshop began with a reception and dinner in the Raduga hotel on the evening of Sunday, 20th May. The guests had a chance to become acquainted with each other and the appropriate mood for the seminar was set.



PHOENIX coordinator Ülle Must

Next morning the presentations began. First **Ülle Must**, seminar moderator from Archimedes Foundation, Estonia gave an introductory welcome speech. This was followed by the overviews of the five attending Central Asian countries.

Then it was time for the European performers to give their insight on the subject matter of the workshop. First up was **Henk Moed** from the University of Leiden in



Dr Henk Moed from Leiden University, The Netherlands

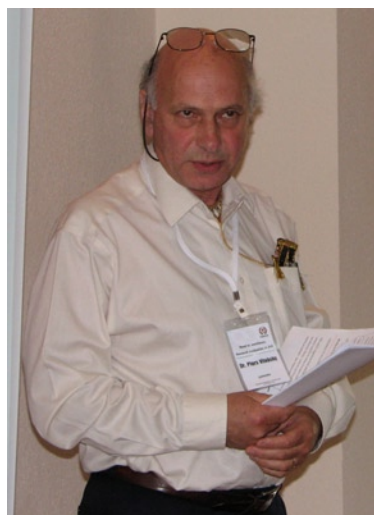
Netherlands. His two presentations dealt with citation analysis in research evaluation and bibliometric assessment of research performance in social sciences and humanities. He concluded the presentations stating that the future of



Dr Rüdiger Klein

research assessment exercises lies in the intelligent combination of metrics and peer review.

After this **Dr Rüdiger Klein** from European Science Foundation held a speech on Foundation's different funding and evaluation schemes.



Dr Piers Vitebsky from Cambridge

The next presentation of the day was made by **Piers Vitebsky** from Cambridge University in England on the subject of the specificities of international level evaluation of collaborative, transdisciplinary research exemplified by the

Research evaluation workshop

evaluation process of ESF's BOREAS programme.

Ülle Must gave two presentations on the subjects of assessment in European research and development co-operation programs and also gave a thorough overview how the COST (European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research) program works.

The second part of the workshop began on the late afternoon. The first to give his presentations was



Tiit Laasberg, Archimedes Foundation

Tiit Lasberg from the Archimedes Foundation. His first presentation dealt with the subject of research evaluation strategies in Finland and Estonia, the second one gave a practical overview of the management of research evaluation in Estonia.

The final presentation of the workshop was conducted by **Arto Mustajoki** from the University of Helsinki in Finland. His lecture complemented that of Tiit Lasbergs as he too gave an overview of research assessment in Finnish universities.

The second day of the workshop also had many rounds of questions and discussions in which participants got the chance to talk with the performers of both days of



Prof Arto Mustajoki from University of Helsinki

the workshop and ask questions regarding subjects of interest. The workshop concluded with a summary of the two days after which all the participants ate lunch together.

All in all the workshop held from 20th to 22nd of May was a success and the feedback was positive. It is clear that participants from the five Central Asian countries took note of the ideas of the European presenters as feedback has been filled with requests for additional information on the subjects developed. Archimedes Foundation, the PHOENIX coordinator considers the workshop a success as well since it helped bring closer together the social sciences and humanities scientists from Europe and Central Asia. The next PHOENIX event, focusing on successful project writing will be held in Laulasmaa near Tallinn, Estonia in September.

Post-workshop proceedings will be available at project's website <http://phoenix.irc.ee>



Participant feedback

The PHOENIX Workshop in Kyrgyzstan held from 20th to 22nd of May 2007 titled “Road to excellence: Research evaluation in SSH” received good feedback from the participants. Dr **Gulnara Eleukulova**, a senior lecturer at Kazakh-British University, said that the workshop gave new theoretical knowledge regarding science and research development, but also had a practical side, as was evident from the Assessment of COST Actions presentation. The reports were thought-provoking and helped better understand the problems of local scientific research. “The bibliometric ranking of world universities is of great importance for Kazakhstan these days. Kazakhstan is planning to take the Finnish model of education and research. Previously educational and research entities were of separate management. The present goal is to unite both research and education,” said Eleukulova. She also emphasized the impact of Tiit Laasbergs presentation on practical management of research evaluation in Estonia and its comparison with the Finnish one: “It showed that if the authorities have clear objectives and are proactive it is possible to change old system onto the new one as it happened in Estonia.”

Another senior lecturer from Kazakhstan, Dr **Erlan Askarov** complimented the staff for compiling an interesting programme in addition to the informative

lectures. He also said that it was interesting to have a dialogue on R&D issues with participants from other CA countries, which gave him a different perspective on local matters. Although the lecture of one performer raised some personal doubts for him, all in all he rated the quality of the seminar to be



Dr Erlan Askarov shake hands with Ulle Must

very good and also enquired for additional materials on the subjects discussed at the seminar.

In conclusion, the participants considered the workshop to be a success and held in high regard both the organisational skills of the staff and the thorough lectures of the performers.



Kazakh delegation after receiving workshop certificates

R & D in CA - Kazakhstan

Overview and recent developments of R&D system in Kazakhstan

At the beginning of 2006 there were 181 higher education institutions with 775 000 students. Since Kazakhstan as most of the CA countries is modernising and reforming its research and education system hereby we give an overview of policy, institutional framework, research evolution and overall developments.

R&D policy

At present, the main guideline for research and development policy is a "Program of Industrial-Innovative development", that was adopted in 2003. The wider base is national plan of implementation the "Strategies of Kazakhstan's Entry into a Group of 50 Most Competitive States of the World" that was addressed by the President in March 2006.

The priority research areas in SSH are outlined in "State Program of Development of Science for 2007-2012".

In humanities the priority is fundamental research. In social sciences the priority is given to topics related to practical functioning of society thus supporting very much applied research.

In humanities there all also variety of subprograms that regulate the field with great detail. For example "State Program on Functioning and Development of Languages for 2001-2010" or "Program of Development of Archives and Documentation system for 2007-2009".

Developments in state funding

Two forms of financing of science are proposed - basic and project based.

Kazakhstan is going to accept the Finnish model of scientific research management. It was decided to move more to project-based financing system rather than financing organizations.

Science and technology programs are planned to be financed on a project base through Science Fund or National Innovation Fund for the period from 3 to 5 years

Private financing of sample test constructions of scientific research works is supposed to be fulfilled through both venture funds and directly by private entities on a contract base. It is planned that by 2012 50% of financing will be implemented by private companies (in 2005 it was



7%). In order to accelerate introduction of scientific innovations into production there has been established several funding institutions, like "Bank of Development of Kazakhstan", "Investment Fund of Kazakhstan", etc.

The main steps in implementation of the state program in basic funding would be:

- State investments to found 15 national laboratories of open type;
- Infrastructure support in order to repair or maintain current research buildings and equipment;
- Financing training and upgrading staff qualification;
- Introduction of modern system of attestation of scientific stuff and accreditation of scientific and educational entities;
- Information support and licensing;

The state would finance fundamental research in priority areas of History, Archaeology, Linguistics, Oriental Studies, Philosophy of Mathematics, Physics, Earth Sciences and Biology. Also, the Government will define a range of top higher educational institutions which will get priority in funding.

Institutional landscape and reforms

It was decided to reorganize some science research institutions of the Academy by quitting some and founding bigger entities. Gradually scientific research will be given under higher educational institution management. In order to fulfil specific scientific research there are established Funds where resources could be applied for on competitive basis.

There has been developed a powerful network of scientific entities. The Union of the scientists of Kazakhstan has been founded and Association of Higher educational institutions is working successfully.

R & D in CA - Kazakhstan

Research evaluation and accreditation

In 2006 there has been implemented auditing of the Kazakhstani science with the assistance of USA specialists. In the result of auditing there have been defined the most perspective directions in the development of science and the problems of science.

In the result of the auditing there have been chosen 5 priorities in science development:

- Biology,
- Nanotechnology,
- Mining and Metallurgy,
- Nuclear energy,
- Oil and Gas.

The process of awarding scientific degrees and titles is managed by the Committee on Supervision and Attestation in the sphere of education and science. There were 1106 senior doctors and 3018 candidates of sciences in 2006.

By 2010 in Kazakhstan there would exist simultaneously both an old system of attestation of scientific stuff and a new one in accordance with the Bologna model.

There are proposed three levels of scientific-research examination with specific procedures and institutions involved:

The definition and correction of R&D priorities would be conducted by International Expert Board with 75% foreign and 25% local experts.

The development of scientific-research programs and evaluation of the results would be done by the National Centre on Scientific Research Information together with the National Institution on Intellectual Copyright; with 60 foreign and 40 local experts altogether.

The selection of projects for scientific research programs would be conducted by Science Fund (for scientific and research works) and the National Innovation Fund (for sample test and design) compiled with 25% of foreign and 75% of local experts.

Future plans

- Promotion of Higher Scientific Research Commission's status and foundation of International expert board;
- Foundation of the Committee on Science under the Ministry of Education and Science;
- Adoption of the State Program on the development of science to 2012, defining the sphere of public interests in the science;
- Foundation of JSC "Science Fund" authorized to fulfil examination, selection, and financing scientific research programs and projects;
- Promotion of competition and transparency in granting scientific and technological projects by using external examination made by foreign and local experts;
- Development of transparent and legal mechanism of transference of copyright from patent to license in order to use the patent in the research funded by the state.



Kazakhstan is full of picturesque stepp and mountain regions

R & D in CA - Tajikistan

Social-humanitarian sciences in Tajikistan

Overview

Tajikistan is a mountainous landlocked country in Central Asia. It borders Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east. Most of Tajikistan's population belongs to the Tajik ethnic group, who share culture and history with the Iranian peoples and Uzbek people and speak the Tajik language. According to July 2006 estimates, the population was 7,320,000.

Current situation

The central body of scientific research in the Republic of Tajikistan is the Academy of Sciences (AS). In 2006 several reforms were conducted in order to improve the quality of research in the country. These reforms included the creation of a state unitary enterprise which deals with infrastructure and research equipment and also several administrative orders dealing with increasing the quality of research.

The Academy of Sciences

The scientific institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan are united into four departments: physic and mathematical, chemical and geological, biological and medical and social sciences. The department of social sciences unites the following institutes: Language and Literature Institute, Oriental



Study and Written Heritage Institute, History Institute, Archaeology and Ethnography Institute, Philosophy Institute, State and Law Institute, Economy Institute and Humanitarian Sciences Institute.

In 2006 Tajikistan celebrated its 15th year of independence. On this occasion the Academy of Sciences conducted 12 scientific conferences and seminars, published more than 10 books and periodicals, as well as 8 monographs and collections. In the city of Kulyab a symposium was held where 32 scientists from 12 countries performed with their presentations. A proposal was also made to add the Tajik (Persian) language into the number of international working languages of UNESCO.

In 2006 a total of 1020 works were published by the scientists in the Department of Social Sciences of the Academy of Sciences. Among these were 122 monographs, collections and brochures, as well as 449 articles. The number of people working in the fields of social sciences in 2006 was 587, including 368 scientific workers, 61 doctors and 119 candidates of science.



Vakhsh River in Tajikistan

Photograph by Kalandarov Nozim/ITAR-TASS/CORBIS

The Central Scientific Library

The Central Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan is the largest scientific library in Tajikistan, founded in 1933. The library allows access to several international databases, increasing the size of its virtual fund. It also has a universal book fund in more than twenty languages and also a collection of rare books. Scientific research materials have been published by the library since 1952.