

# There is no real equality in .funding research studies



*Global Knowledge Dialogue in Muscat discusses challenges of scientific collaboration, with focus on inequality and funding in the Global South Image credit: Amr Rageh/ SciDev.Net*

**Written by: Amr Rajih**

Inequality is evident around the world, the capacity to generate knowledge in the .Global South is lacking... which requires the need for funding commitments

This was the opening remark by Qureshi Abdul Karim, President of the World Academy of Sciences, during a panel discussion titled 'Rethinking International Scientific Collaboration in the 21st Century', as part of the 'Global Knowledge

Dialogue' in Muscat, organised by the International Council for Science in collaboration with the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, coinciding with the .Council's Third General Assembly held from 26-30 January

The attendees discussed a number of challenges that hinder the achievement of real international cooperation that enhances the growth of science and innovation, including the 'inequality' between the North (or developed world) and the South (developing world), and the 'weak funding in developing countries', which .represents a fundamental challenge facing their researchers

The recent surge in “revolutionary technology” may represent an opportunity for development, Quraisha added, but access to these technologies also faces a clear pattern of inequality, and they do not contribute to solving the problems that .already exist in the Global South

Speaking about the funding crisis in developing countries, Setnay Shami, Director General of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences, pointed out that the lack of funding equality between different countries clearly affects research trends, saying: “We all know that donor agencies shape the research agenda, and there is a clear difference between the priorities of donors and those of researchers in ”.different regions

These research agendas are often short- or medium-term, which in turn leads to .fragmented efforts and disparate results, Stenay explains

On the other hand, Stanay criticizes the weak funding of projects adopted by the countries of the South, and the lack of cooperation between them. Regarding this, she says: “Through my work in a number of initiatives, I can say that the countries of the North coordinate all types of regional research cooperation in the countries ”.of the South

She added: “There is great interest from the countries of the region - especially the rich ones - in international cooperation, not regional cooperation, and I believe that international cooperation will only be strengthened by regional cooperation, ”.which is one of the things that we lack

Among the proposed solutions to reduce the inequality between researchers from the North and the South in the programme, which was mentioned by Lydia Britto, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO, is the ' Remote Access to Laboratory Equipment ' initiative, which helps researchers from the South - especially from Africa - to access complex laboratory equipment without having to .leave their countries

In an attempt to propose an innovative solution to the problem, one of the Omani researchers present at the event suggested establishing a scientific research bank, explaining: “There is an international food bank, but there is no international bank ”!that supports scientific research

It’s not a crazy idea,” says Macharia Kamau, Kenya’s ambassador and special“ envoy to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and can be adopted and .disseminated in international forums

While I was chair of the group that issued the Sustainable Development Goals, my“ colleague Ambassador Kurose and I saw the need to establish a technology bank, so I see no reason why we should not establish a bank that supports scientific research, not only for the least developed countries, but others can participate in .it,” Kamau says

Kamau hopes that the new regional office of the International Scientific Council in the Sultanate of Oman will spread this initiative among members of the .international community

This article was produced by SciDev.Net's Middle East and North Africa regional .office



.SciDev.Net is not responsible for the content of external website links

The content of the Site is available for use by third parties under a Creative Commons license, unless otherwise noted

.SciDev.Net is a registered trademark 2025 ©

Site Maintained by Modular