

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



What have we learnt?

Closing remarks, LUMS SSE Workshop 2006

February 16, 2006

Closing remarks



- What did we set out to do this morning?
- What have you learnt (not heard) today?
- What have we learnt today?
- What are we hearing from others?
- Next steps
- Acknowledgements

What did we set out to do this morning?



- What is a research university?
- Is it a useful institutional model for developing countries?
- How does one build a research university in a developing country?
- How does one harness its output for knowledge creation and socio-economic development?

What have you learnt (not heard) today?



- Role of leading universities in society – the huge impact
- How to open up to 90% of the population is a concern
- Quality of faculty is of paramount importance
- Gender gap has to be reduced
- For economic gains from research, patience is required
- Reasons for failure of higher education were not discussed
- Develop an atmosphere of academic learning, academic freedom
- Distinction between basic and applied research and their funding

What have we learnt today?



- Research universities matter! If not in the short, then in the medium to long term (MIT/Stanford/Caltech, IITs, CAS,)
- Knowledge creation is fundamental to research universities
- Cannot have a short-term, or limited disciplinary view of the outputs of research universities (IITs, MIT, CAS)
- Research universities do need to balance societal responsibility and intellectual curiosity, but we need new perspectives for recognizing the value of both
- Opportunities for partnering with industry are available (if not internally, then externally)

What have we learnt today?



- The arguments about choices are similar across developing countries (Koc University)
- It is possible to succeed (Koc University)
- The SSE can be something great ... or just respectable ...
- The place should be developed around individuals, quality of faculty is essential
- It is less important to decide exactly what areas to go into, than to get the best people in broad areas
- Metrics like raw publication count less useful for our context, but we do need a quality bar

What are we hearing from others?



Charles Vest, President Emeritus MIT

CMI Lecture, 15th July, 2005, at Cambridge University

Editorial Comment: Three Keys to MIT's Success

- Deep, Fundamental Research and Scholarship exist side-by-side, indeed hand-in-hand, in mutual respect with Applied, Industrially-Relevant Research.
 - The standards are equally high for both.
- Active, knowledgeable Visiting Committees
 - External views and knowledge exchange
- Strong Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
 - Broaden the discourse, enhance creativity, and leaven the yeast.

Next steps



- Many problems
- Few solutions
- Lots of choices
- For example

Acknowledgements



- Participants
- SSE Advisory Committee
- LUMS Faculty and Management Committee
- Workshop Volunteers
- Workshop Organizing Team
- SSE Project Team