

UKIERI- Enhancing Excellence Partnering Progress

30 families in Nadia district in West Bengal are now drinking arsenic free water due to the work done through UKIERI partnership between Bengal Engineering and Science University and Queen's University Belfast.

With over 120 research partnerships currently underway, UKIERI is organising a series of assessment and review workshops to gauge the impact that the awarded partnerships are bringing. 30 institutions recently participated in the two day workshop held on 22-23 August to share research progress and best practises of sustaining these partnerships. The institutional representation was through project investigators who spoke about their research across diverse scientific and technological themes.

These research partnerships under UKIERI cover a wide spectrum of subject areas from Nano Technology, Stem Cell, Seismic Strokes in Himalaya region, fire control to critical issues around Health Sciences like removal of arsenic from ground water, to a device for easy knee replacement and creating new vaccines for tuberculosis etc. Over the spread of two days, 32 projects presented their progress on the research they are currently undertaken and how it is leading to more focussed approach in tackling some of the global issues.



The overall feedback that emerged from this workshop has been extremely positive with most partnerships achieving the set out project objectives. The institutions strongly communicated the contribution of UKIERI in furthering these key thematic research partnerships and bringing the research community of India and the UK together for more collaboration. The number of joint research papers presented by the participating institutions has increased manifold; showcasing the mutuality of benefit which is the focus for all UKIERI partnerships.

One of the direct beneficiaries of these partnerships has been young researchers who have greatly benefitted through their working on these UKIERI supported partnerships and have developed their research capacities. This as per partnership awardees will go a long way in developing the new generation of researchers working on many more bilateral/multilateral partnerships.

One of the key findings of the review workshop has been the substantial leveraged funding that these partnerships have already garnered and continues to attract. Most partnerships

have community, government agencies, industry and non-governmental support from both India and the UK and have been also successful in receiving considerable funding from other agencies like Indian Department of Science and Technology, Biotechnology, Earth Sciences, Yorkshire Innovation fund, Research Councils UK, Royal College of Engineering etc.

Many of these partnerships are now undertaking dissemination and outreach activities like workshops, symposiums across India and the UK for stakeholders, government and relevant agencies to inform on research outputs. One such recent workshop was held in IIT Delhi on 8th and 9th August and Jadavpur University on 20th August in which Sujata Sen, Director East India participated.

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