

Journées Scientifiques de la coopération

Feb. 12 & 13, 2004

North-South Scientific Cooperation

The North-south cooperation at EPFL

- A **tradition** of more than 30 years at EPFL
- well recognized **expertise** through original initiatives in education, research and services
- **Commitment** to further, develop and improve its cooperation activities

EPFL as a partner

- International prestige and **excellence** of Swiss federal institutes
- Renowned **competences** in science and technology
- Continuing **commitment** and **support** of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- ... and the **enthusiasm** of EPFL international staff and student body

Examples of cooperation activities

- **Education**

Postgraduate programs centred on the development problematic in partnership with “local” institutes

- **Research**

Participation in NCCR North-South
“Scientific partnership for mitigating the syndromes of global change”, AGS, INCO, etc..

- Senegal

Resources Management &
Urban development
(1999 – 2005)

*IMAP : Instruments & Models for
a Participative Planning*



- El Salvador, Venezuela

Urban development, habitat
(2001-2005)

NCCR North-South :

"Social practices and empowerment
in urban societies"

- Vietnam 1996-2004
Strengthening of the
Institute for Environmental
Technology & Management
(IER-CEFINEA)



- Latin America : Cuba, Mexico,
Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras,
Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama,
Colombia, Chili, Brasil, Uruguay

Environment, Resource management
RACAL Project (Red de Analisis y Control
Ambiental Latinoamericana)

Future trends ...best practices

- **Enlarge** the spectrum of fields for cooperation (information technology, life sciences, ...)
- Increase **interdisciplinarity** between EPFL actors and collaboration with social sciences and humanities
- Reinforce **scientific partnership** between scientists from EPFL and from developing and emerging countries
- **Customize** programs
“one-size-fits-all” model doesn’t apply to cooperation: specificity of partners!

Cooperation as a culture

- Cooperation should go beyond a succession of punctual events in order to successfully **empower** individuals and institutions in the south we collaborate with.
- Cooperation is most successful by using a **transdisciplinary approach** involving education, research and services.
- Successful cooperation should on the long term bring **benefits to all actors** involved in.
- Cooperation = **exchange of knowledge** => mutual enrichment