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