

Innovation, Policy and Science

November 2007

IDRC and Canada Research Chairs launch the International **Research Chairs Initiative**

The IPS Research Partnerships Challenge Fund in cooperation with the Canada Research Chairs program have agreed to launch the International Research Chairs Initiative (IRCI), with the aim of supporting up to 5 research chairs in eligible country universities. All the details and application forms will be posted on December 3rd, 2007 on the IRCI website at www.idrc.ca/irci.



Each selected IDRC Research Chair will define a five-year research program in collaboration with a Canada Research Chair(s) fitting in one or more of the four IDRC's thematic areas. Proposals will be evaluated on their relevance to IDRC's program areas, the rationale and demand for comparative research, and the potential for mutually beneficially collaboration between chairs and with other partners.

Canada The central objective of the IRCI is to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies in low and middle-income countries through strengthening the research capabilities of universities in these countries. With this objective in mind, RC holders under IRCI will be researchers and mentors whose work, given additional funding and institutional support, holds significant potential for scientific advancement and application. It is expected that an IDRC Research Chair will play a catalytic role in addressing key development challenges through collaborative research, and mentoring the next generation of scholars and practitioners.

Through the involvement of the Canada Research Chairs program and its chair holders, this initiative seeks to create opportunities for chair holders in low and middle income countries and in Canada to implement a joint research program, create unique training and fieldwork opportunities for students, and identify new avenues for knowledge, policy or technology transfer.

To know more about IRCI, application deadlines, online forms, and contact information visit www.idrc.ca/irci after December 3rd, 2007.

Sri Lanka

+	Canada Research	Chaires de recherche
	Chaire	du Canada

			- 1			
ı	nsic	10	th	10	1001	10.

Workshop

Launch of International Research Chairs	1	Chile-Canada event on S&T	4	Africa
Initiative		International Workshop	4	Workshop in Biofuel Development in
Survey on S&T Policy in Africa	2	at the Alberto Hurtado University		Southeast and East Asi
Call for Proposals on IP	2	Workshop on SMEs Incubators in Asia	5	COVIDSET 2007 Meeting with Nicaragua
IDRC and SSHRC launch	3			CONICYT
the CURA Program		Southeast Asia Research	5	IPS at the IANAS
China-India Consultation	3	Councils Forum in Singapore		Support to STI Policy in

Innovation as Key to the Green Revolution in Africa	6	Atlanta Conference on S&T 2007	•
Workshop in Biofuel	6	4th ASIALICS	9
Development in		Workshop on Knowledge	1
Southeast and East Asia		Economy in the	
		Americas	
COVIDSET 2007	7		
		Final Meeting of ESTIME	1
(Meeting with Nicaraguan)	(7)		
CONICYT		Cambodia All-partners	1
IPS at the IANAS	8	meeting	
Support to STI Policy in	8	Upcoming Events	1

About IPS

12

COVIDSET 2007

ITS supported the 2nd African Regional Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Science, Engineering and Technology (COVIDSET 2007) held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 25-27 September 2007. The Conference was organized by the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI), a project of the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa (ROSTA) in conjunction with Tshwane University of Technology and the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The theme of the conference was the "Relevance of Science, Engineering and Technology Training to the Development Challenges in Africa". Its main goal was to provide a forum for the discussion of issues pertaining to the relevance of current science and engineering curricula with particular reference to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development

ANSTI established COVIDSET as a forum for university leaders responsible for science and engineering education to meet and discuss strategic issues on these topics. COVIDSET is a forum both for the exchange of ideas and experiences as well for the sensitization of University Leaders on trends in science and engineering education in the region and globally.

More information on the conference can be accessed at http://ansticonference.org/2007/



Mosibudi Mangena, Minister Science and Technology, South Africa

Discussions with Nicaraguan CONICYT on a national science, technology and innovation agenda

On October 23rd, representatives from the National Council on Science and Technology from Nicaragua (CONICYT for its name in Spanish) and Gustavo Crespi, ITS' Senior Program Officer based in Montevideo's Regional Office, met to discuss a proposal aimed at the formulation of an strategy to develop science, technology and innovation in Nicaragua. CONICYT invited to the meeting diverse specialists from government, business and the academy to build a group of experts who will support the Council in the formulation of the strategy.

The progress of the discussion between CONICYT and IDRC was briefed to the Nicaraguan government Vice-President, Mr. Jaime Morales Carazo. Mr. Morales received members of the CONICYT, the Nicaraguan Scientific Association and IDRC, and formally delivered a petition for support in the definition of a science, technology and innovation agenda for Nicaragua.

More information on the CONICYT is available in Spanish at www.conicyt.gob.ni. The meeting report can be found at

http://www.conicyt.gob.ni/Documentos/CONICYT-CIID%20_2_.pdf.



ITS' Gustavo Crespi (center), Dr Ernesto Medina Sandino (left) Dean Universidad Americana, and Dr. Jorge Huete (right) Research Director, Univerisdad Centro Americana—UCA