

Scientific Diasporas: From Brain Drain to Brain Gain



*Fondation "Partager le Savoir"
Sharing Knowledge Foundation*

From Brain Drain to Brain Gain , WMO, 12-13 Jan 2009 Robert Klapisch

- Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends, welcome.
- Most of you have already attended meetings in our “Sharing Knowledge Series”, the latest one being at Chania (Greece) in April 2008.
- In contrast to the broad multi-disciplinary Chania type, the present one belongs to a new series, which we started in 2007 focusing on a single topic on which we try to achieve results:
 - Geneva, June 2007: “Managing Water in the Middle-East”
 - Montpellier, December 2007 “Internet for Africa”
- These two meetings resulted in recommendations, which in turn have resulted in progress being achieved on very concrete issues.
- This has encouraged us to launch a new action on the important question of mobility of scientists and we are encouraged by your response in agreeing to attend.



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Mobility of Scientists

- From time immemorial, students went to to far off lands where they could get the best training.



- Le Roy Ladurie tells the voyage of Thomas Platter who in the 16th century travelled from Basel to Montpellier to study medicine.
- This was more difficult (during French religious wars at the time) than coming today from Rabat or Kinshasa!
- I believe that to be able to travel to develop one's knowledge is a fundamental right and no government should prevent it.
- But there is more: we now live in a world where science is becoming global.
- From particle physics, to climate change, to global health or geophysics, it has become impossible for a scientist to progress in isolation.



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Is Mobility of scientists an obstacle to development?

- We will hear from you of different experiences
 - Studies abroad, or travelling to meetings
 - Careers as expatriates (from a few years to a complete career)
- Experience of countries such as China and India show that, on balance, scientific mobility can be a powerful factor in the scientific development of a country
- This is not to say that a well thought policy is not necessary, and our goal is to define with you, some rules to attain a win-win situation:
 - for Scientists
 - for their Country of Origin
 - for their Host Country



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I look forward to a very interesting meeting and can assure you that we will do our best to translate your recommendations into results
Our Foundation is able to function and develop only because of the support that we get, both from academic institutes and enterprises.
Let me thank them to-day on your behalf.



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**More information on the activities of our Foundation,
can be found on our site.**

www.partager-le-savoir.org

or

www.sharing-knowledge.org

THANK YOU



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