

## **IAU project 2009-2010 on The Changing Nature of Doctoral Programmes**

### **Initial Conclusions**

Some of the Initial conclusions and recommendations of the IAU Study and Research Seminar that took place at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria, are listed below:

#### **I. Deliberations on the Place of Doctoral Programmes in the Institutional Research Strategy** called for:

- A better defined strategic planning of Doctoral Programmes within the overall strategic development of each institution;
- The development of strong national research agendas;
- A research mapping exercise at both the institutional and the national levels;
- Better networking and access to research outcomes among sub-Saharan Africa HEIs.

#### **II. Debates on Doctoral Students' Supervision, Career Development and Monitoring**, called for:

- The rethinking of doctoral students' supervision of at sub-Saharan HEIs;
- Development of institutional incentives and administrative follow-up mechanisms in order to assist and coordinate the work of the supervisors better;
- A code of ethics to assist the supervisors in their work;
- The establishment of career resource centres at the institutional level which would also include a career monitoring service as well.

#### **III. Discussions on the Internationalization of Doctoral Education and Strategic Planning and the Role of Data Collection** stressed that:

- Integrated institution-wide and comprehensive information data management systems were an essential tool for strategic planning and institutional management;
- Information management is imperative not only to improve the overall organization and management of Doctoral studies and programmes, but also the internationalization strategies of the institutions themselves;
- Better data collection and management would also lead to a better understanding of what funding mechanisms are required to develop doctoral programmes further;
- Systematic information on collaborations and partnerships in which the HEIs are involved would allow further development of inter-institutional and international collaboration;
- African higher education institutions need to improve their level of knowledge and understanding about each other; in particular, communications between HEIs across the linguistic divides needs to be improved for a better integration of the wealth of knowledge available across the continent, as was the case all through this project.