

# MASTS International Collaboration & Networking

## - where should MASTS go from here?

MASTS Annual Science Meeting  
Workshop 10:50-12:50  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**Recommendation bullet points from workshop** (report for MASTS Directorate, Executive Committee, Science Board and Graduate School to consider in formulating strategy)

- In terms of 'international' collaborations' probably most important current and future avenue in MASTS is through EU Framework consortia – however this Workshop was considering more the potential academic collaborations with other countries around the world. MASTS needs to consider both these routes in its networking strategy.
- Once MASTS has started formulating 'international' strategy directions then we should re-engage with guest speakers (Brian Dornan – SG International Division; Conor Snowdon – British Council, Scotland) and other contacts to consider further specific advice about funding possibilities and programmes given in their presentations (see presentations and web-links).
- An inventory of what different MASTS members are already doing or planning for overseas linkages would be useful (preliminary survey has already collected some information) and many more activities were mentioned during workshop. MASTS Directorate to consider how best to capture this information and structure this database.
- Prioritisation of specific countries/regions should take place for taking forward as coordinated MASTS actions (as opposed to individual institutional collaborations which will be going on anyway). These might be with a chosen 'TWIN' developing country which Scotland might 'adopt' politically and for marine research and training. Another form might be through sectoral link interests: oil, fisheries, renewable, aquaculture, etc. Numerous other target countries/regions were discussed but one which should be considered is Brazil - with recent news of interest in high numbers potentially for PG training. Another obvious one suggested was Norway.
- Important use of Graduate School activities to involve overseas PG students to act as ambassadors for longer term linkages (e.g. twin-site PhD students, USA-Scottish student exchange examples given). Internships.
- For marine resource development research/training relevant to developing countries (of interest to DEFRA, DfID, SG programmes), importance should be placed on integrating socio-economic studies as one of the various disciplines on offer. Potential to attract in colleagues from such disciplines within existing MASTS institutions or to link in with SIRE Pool for example.
- How best to use MASTS Visiting Fellow scheme and budget to promote MASTS wide relevant collaborations.
- One idea we might consider at some point is for MASTS to develop a flier, profiling its breadth of expertise and experience in overseas countries to distribute to overseas aid agencies (DFID, IRD, NORAD, GIZ, DANIDA etc.), international organisations (UN, World Bank, FAO) and consultancies.