

**REPORT OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON:  
GLOBALISATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
– VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH**

The Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town  
27-29 March 2001

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This conference, hosted by the Education Policy Unit of the University of the Western Cape and the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) of the United Kingdom, had a decidedly international (or global) character. It was attended by 240 delegates from all over the world.

The programme included six keynote addresses, 20 symposia (or focused dialogues) and 77 paper presentations. The addresses, symposia and papers covered a variety of themes, including the following:

- The academic labour market
- Tracer studies in Africa
- Curriculum and quality assurance
- Leadership and management
- Regional mergers, combinations and cooperation
- Lifelong learning and citizenship
- Higher education research, etc.
- These themes were addressed from the perspective of the relationship between higher education and globalisation.

Some of the outstanding presentations included the following:

- The keynote address by **Prof. Philip Altbach, Professor of Higher Education at Boston College in the US** and well-known author on Comparative Higher Education. Prof. Altbach addressed the issue of academic freedom and took the audience on an interesting tour of the world with regard to the state of academic freedom in various countries.
- **Prof. Jan Currie of Murdoch University in Australia** presented an excellent address on *Murdoch University as enterprise university: rhetoric and reality*.
- This paper provided information on the features of globalisation, globalisation events in Australia and their impact on Australian society, and how Australian higher education, particularly Murdoch University, has been influenced by globalisation.

Being part of the global village, South Africa cannot be isolated from the effects of globalisation. Many of these effects are particularly noticeable in higher education. One example is the proliferation of programmes being offered on-line in South Africa by universities from all over the world. This conference therefore provided an imperative and propitious opportunity for South African higher education managers, scholars, researchers and policy-makers to engage with an international audience on many relevant issues.

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