



This edition of Mindspace will be dedicated to the highlights from the World Bank Global Forum on Building Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction, which was held recently in Washington, in an effort to share some of the insights of the esteemed group of speakers at the event. Only a couple of the many impressive presentations have been highlighted but all the presentations made at the Forum can be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.worldbank.org/STIGlobalForum>.

Delegations from more than 20 countries, business representatives, scientists and development experts met in Washington, DC, to discuss how countries can build the science, technology and innovation capacity they need to reduce poverty, improve quality of life, and achieve higher rates of economic growth. The GRA partnered with the World Bank in preparing for this Forum and as a result has received excellent exposure for the Alliance brand.

The Forum was organised around four constellations of issues:

- Reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: the role of STI capacity;
- Adding value to natural resource exports through STI capacity building;
- Latecomer strategies for catching up – linkage, leverage, learning and STI capacity building; and
- The role of STI in the development process.

The two and a half day event was crammed with high-level speakers covering the academic, policy, STI and hands-on case study viewpoints.

The keynote address for the conference was made by the GRA President, **Dr Ramesh Mashelkar**, and dealt with "Scientific and technological opportunities and challenges for development". This major contribution

was afforded a substantial timeslot of 45 minutes in a very busy programme and was very well received.

Dr Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, said "There was no explicit mention of science and technology in the Millennium Development Goals. These are very, very important objectives and they drive and should drive the great majority of our work in the World Bank and other development institutions..." He concluded his talk by saying the subject matter of the Forum was "incredibly important".

Dr George H Atkinson, Science and Technology Adviser to the US Secretary of State, an individual with vast experience, presented his personal view of the globalisation of science and technology.



Dr Ramesh Mashelkar



Dr George H Atkinson

Dr Atkinson presented the lessons learned in the recognition of 21st century global challenges for S&T as follows:

- The characteristics of societies in the 21st century are changing rapidly from those in the 20th century and in directions that make designing a successful S&T innovation system exceptionally difficult. New concepts are needed!
- Global leadership in S&T depends on how well the educational, research and innovation communities recognise and respond to a highly competitive and potentially aggressive 21st century global S&T environment.
- Risk-taking research that accepts a reasonable degree of failure, both for short-term applications of S&T and for long-term commitments to S&T research, is a critical element in 21st century S&T innovation.

- Public policy directs society's investments – advancing public private partnership is the key to sustainable results
- Public advocacy is needed – around educational excellent and national competitiveness.



Dr Richard Adams

Dr Richard Adams, Senior Vice-President : International Relations of Battelle and a GRA Principal made an incisive contribution to the final session of the Forum which was a roundtable discussion focussed on harnessing R&D capacity from OECD countries (MNCs, Foundations, Academia, and Government Institutions).

Plenty of food for thought!



Mr Wayne Johnson

Mr Wayne Johnson, Vice-President of University Relations Worldwide for Hewlett-Packard, gave an overview of the University Relations programme of HP which is aimed at expanding the company's capacity for innovation and contribution and fosters new opportunities through its global

network of relationships with key academic, government and industry organisations. Mr Johnson left the forum delegates with some thoughts to take home as follows:

- Industry exists to serve shareholders – so shareholders must hold industry accountable
- There are truly global problems to solve – water, energy, health, agriculture, biodiversity
- Engineers are critical to solving all problems – they must be seen as a critical national resource

Other GRA executives at the Forum included **Dr Alfred Gossner** of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, **Dr Steve Morton** of CSIRO, **Dr Gerry Stokes** of Battelle and **Mr Kagiso Keatimilwe** of the CSIR in South Africa.

The concluding key note address was made by **Prof Calestous Juma** of the Harvard University.



Science, Technology and Innovation Global Forum

By hosting the Global Forum on STI capacity building, the World Bank heralded a new global focus on STI for development. The meeting represented an important shift in the World Bank's lending priorities. For more than two decades, the need for developing countries to build their scientific and technological capacity remained overshadowed by other goals, including more direct attacks on poverty. But science is now very much returning to the international fore.