

The South Face

- The Voice of the South -

*Reporting from the South Intellectual Platform Workshop
10-11 July, Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland*

The South Intellectual Platform is an important milestone in the series of events which unfolded 50 years ago when the statesmen and eminent personalities from the South gathered at Bandung in Indonesia.



The workshop is being held at a critical juncture. The cold war has ended but we are in the throes of a new struggle whose characteristics we are yet to understand. New opportunities and risks that have emerged in the last 15 years including the domination of the neo-liberal paradigm, the emergence of the WTO, 9-11 and the War on Terrorism, the reform of the United Nations, the growth of the knowledge economy and the rise of China, India and Brazil-all of which have generated new dynamics that need to be appropriately assessed.

- Chief Emeka Anyaoku

The South Commission Report still holds valid. We are moving towards a multi polar world. We may not be able to change the world but we can change ourselves within the world

- Aldo Ferrer

The Cold War is over, the Washington Consensus is in trouble and therefore this is the right time to get started with the South Intellectual Platform.

- Solita Monsod



There exists a collective imperialism where WTO is a ministry of colonialism and IMF is a colonial monetary authority for the rest of the world.

- Samir Amin



The divergence of development among developing countries is a striking feature. There is a need to broaden the definition of development.

- Jose Antonio Ocampo

Development is a radical structural change of the economy. Earlier crisis had come as a loss of employment, but now it comes as a loss of income.

- Erik Reinert



There is a need for a new anchoring of development at the national level. The wave of democratization of the 80's could have brought back the development agenda but that was not the case. Most new democracies were choice-less democracies.

- Thandika Mkandwire

In the South we do not have to start from scratch every time - more than research we need advocacy.

- Cecilia Lopez Montano

Globalization is not inevitable – it can be renegotiated. Though the old world is dying, the new world is not yet born. There is always the danger of the old world resurrecting.

The knowledge hegemony has destroyed the capacities, strengths and will of south universities and researchers. Earlier the UN used to be the focal point for planning and policy advice-but after the structural adjustments, the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO have become the focal point.

- Martin Khor



Migration is a big concern due to the outflow of labour and the high national dependence on foreign remittances.

- Norman Girvan

In the final analysis we have to have a common understanding of development. We cannot matter at the global level unless we make certain progress at the national level.

- Bagher Asadi





Thinking about development in the last 50 years has been shaped by ideologies and not by outcomes. There has been no unlearning when outcomes did not match the ideologies. These unlearnings need to be brought into the development discourse.

- Deepak Nayyar

The challenge for the South is that when some Latin American countries are moving back into G77 groupings, some of the elites of Asia should not move in the opposite direction.

- Kamal Malhotra

Empowerment of women is a key stimulus for development

- Mariama Williams



There is a need to have a reflection on the report of the South Commission, especially on the content, the process and the outcome.

- Tariq Banuri

The "Big South" now holds a big chunk of the global economy whereas the rest of the South is not in such good shape.

The South should be a big producer and disseminator of information. We should not be looking at "More with More", but at "More with Less".

- Keith Nurse



The geopolitical situation of the South has never been better.

- Giovanni Arrighi

Neo-liberal forces have destroyed the old social order of the South. There is a need for the South to find social anchors.

- Oupa Lehulere

