

# Fighting Brain Drain; Driving Brain Circulation



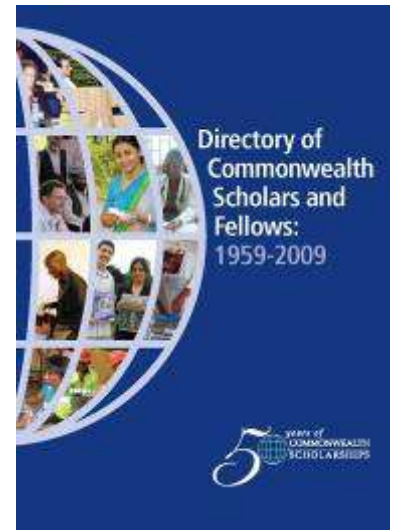
Mr Richard Middleton

Commonwealth Scholarship  
Commission

April 2010

# Commonwealth Scholarships

- Established by Commonwealth Education Ministers – 1959
- An international plan – awards have been offered in more than 20 countries
- CSC manages the UK contribution
- UK has provided 17,000 of 27,000 awards since the Scheme started
- Development-focused – main funding from DFID



## We Offer...

- Master's and doctoral Scholarships in the United Kingdom
- Split-site doctoral Scholarships
- Distance Learning Scholarships
- Short-term Fellowships  
– Academic and Professional



# Assessing impact: Recent Evaluation Surveys

Over 2,200 alumni responded to a 2008 evaluation survey. Of those:

- 88% are based in their home country, and of the remainder, a fifth are based in their home region.
- The majority are working in the public sector – particularly higher education
- 97% reported being able to utilise the skills gained during their award in their work
- 93% reported that they accessed equipment and expertise not available in their home country.



# Reducing Brain Drain: Possible Strategies

- Formal obligations and sanctions – do they work? (e.g. bonds from home government, threat of report to immigration authorities)
- Educate within the country – people who don't leave don't have to return! (Distance learning, split-site awards where only one year of PhD spent abroad)
- Work with existing partnerships
- Involve countries and institutions in selection process
- Provide a range of opportunities



# Issues and Opportunities (1)

- How is expertise gained on overseas awards utilised on return?
- Can we predict which groups are most likely to return?
- What benefits do developing countries get from continuing exposure to northern experience?
- How can these be realised to mutual benefit?



## Issues and Opportunities (2)

- What models exist to provide more training in the south?
- What should be our approach to alumni who don't return?



# Thank You

Further information from:

CSC Secretariat

Woburn House

20-24 Tavistock Square

London WC1H 9HF UK

**[richard.middleton@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:richard.middleton@cscuk.org.uk)**

**[deborah.bennett@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:deborah.bennett@cscuk.org.uk)**

Website: **[www.cscuk.org.uk](http://www.cscuk.org.uk)**