

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

**Endogenous Development and Transdisciplinarity in Higher Education—
Exploring the Future of Dialogue Between Western Academic and
Endogenous Scientific Traditions**

CAPTURED, Cochabamba Bolivia, November 2011

An increasing number of universities and institutes of higher learning offer education and transdisciplinary research, which are building on indigenous cultures and related endogenous knowledge. This is done in the context of a dialogue between Western academic and indigenous scientific traditions, based on a mutual learning process. This is seen as a constructive response to the still dominant spread of Western sciences resulting in mono-culturalization and neo-colonization. Higher education based on transdisciplinarity and dialogue between different scientific traditions aims at enhancing the emancipation and cultural vitalization, taking into account the rich diversity of scientific traditions all over the world.

The international programme “Capacity and Theory Building for Universities and Research Centres in Endogenous Development” (CAPTURED) is part of these efforts. The programme is led by the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Ghana, the Agroecology Programme (AGRUCO) of the Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS) in Bolivia, and the Foundation for the Revitalisation of Indigenous Health Traditions (FRLHT) in India.

CAPTURED’s main goals are to develop new innovative forms of higher education that contribute to revitalize indigenous ways of knowing based on a dialogue between Western and endogenous scientific communities and to jointly build, through this theories on endogenous development and strengthening the institutional capacities of the related universities in research and training.

CAPTURED in close cooperation with other like-minded institutes and organizations that have outstanding experience in linking higher education with endogenous sciences organizes an international conference that aims at sharing experiences, identifying future challenges and build strategic alliances for enhancing endogenous education, research and development.

The conference will focus on:

1. Sharing of achievements, potentials and limitations and future challenges for further growth and improvement of university based programs of endogenous development between the institutions of CAPTURED and invited organizations.
2. Strengthening of existing relations and build new strategic alliances with key players related to higher education oriented towards the promotion of endogenous development.

Specifically, the conference will offer the opportunity for sharing experiences and exploring future activities by discussing:

- Models and experiences of establishing transdisciplinary dialogue between endogenous and Western scientific traditions
- Approaches in theory building on indigenous ways of knowing and indigenous sciences
- The methods of transdisciplinary research in endogenous research
- How to relate endogenous and Western scientific knowledge in view of an intra and intercultural dialogue and the co-evolution of sciences
- The state of the art in endogenous studies and identify the need for further research
- The methods and materials of teaching used in endogenous education
- How to get accreditation and acknowledgement in formal educational systems
- Capacity building of researchers and teaching for staff in endogenous education and research

Participants of the conference:

- CAPTURED researchers in Africa, South America and Asia
- Staff and students of universities that have programs on endogenous learning and research: Specifically experiences of indigenous learning and research centers from Africa, India, South America, Australia and North America.
- Scientists of mainstream universities who have experience sharing and learning together with indigenous communities
- Field based organizations linked to knowledge institutions and universities who are working in the direction of endogenous development
- Funding and policy making agencies related to education, development and research.

The conference will be hosted by AGRUCO of the Universidad Mayor San Simon in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, committed their sponsorship and support to the international conference including cooperation in getting visa and other consular procedures, required to guarantee the presence of the participants to the event.

The conference will include plenary presentations, as well as workshops during which specific topics will be dealt with and in which specific recommendations for future action will be formulated. Field visits to rural areas in Bolivia, meetings with indigenous researchers and leaders of rural communities with which AGRUCO cooperates since many years are part of the program.

Further information: www.captured-la.org CONTACT: agruco@agruco.org

Duration 3 days and field excursions 4 days after conference