

**THEMES &
SUBTHEMES**

- **Dynamics of Diaspora**
Rethinking Development Vis-à-vis Globalization and Diaspora, Emergence of Knowledge Economy and Human Mobility
- **Financial Capital**
Trans-border Flow of capital, Diaspora Investment, Remittance and Development back home
- **Human Capital**
Diaspora Knowledge Network in the emerging Economy, Collaboration in the areas of Skill Transfer, Knowledge, Training and Country specific Experiences
- **Social Development**
Diaspora Contribution to Education, Health, Diaspora Philanthropy, Disaster Management, Gender and Cultural Development
- **Diaspora and International Relations**
Diaspora promoting International Relations, Development lobby/ Pressure groups, soft power/ cultural diplomacy.
- **Road Map Ahead**

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**International Conference on
Diaspora and Development:
*Prospects and Implications for Nation States***

14-15 October 2011

Organised by

**School of Extension and Development Studies &
School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies,
Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi-68, India**

About IGNOU

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1985 (Act No.50 of 1985). IGNOU, the National Resource Centre for Open and Distance Learning with international recognition and presence, provides seamless access to sustainable and learner-centric quality education, skill upgradation and training to all by using innovative technologies and methodologies and ensuring convergence of existing systems for massive human resource required for promoting integrated national development and global understanding.

School of Extension and Development Studies (SOEDS)

SOEDS was established in 2007 with an aim at providing quality education and training in various aspects of extension and development studies, ie economic, social and human development, by offering programmes leading to the award of Certificate, Diploma, Post Graduate Diploma and Post-Graduate Degrees in relevant subjects.

The thrust areas of the School are Extension Education, Livelihood Education, Development Studies and Empowerment Studies

School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies

The School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) was established in 2007 with a mandate for promoting academic study and research within and across conventional and emerging disciplines. It has moved to fulfil this goal by instituting innovative courses and programmes devoted to the study of social anthropology, labor and development, language and linguistics and Peace and Conflict among others. It has also promoted course offerings in the ODL mode in the sphere of Folklore and Cultural Studies, besides a new modular offering in the study of Philosophy at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Important Dates:

- Last date for Submission of Abstract: May 15, 2011
- Last Date for Submission of Full Paper: July 15, 2011
- Screening and Selection of Paper and Intimation to the participants: 30 July, 2011
- Date of Conference: 14-15 October 2011

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International Conference on **Diaspora and Development: Prospects and Implications for Nation States**

Concept Note

Rapid changes in social, political, economic and cultural spheres in the present time have development implications that affect the nations. Human mobility is more rapid than ever before. Today, the diasporas are potent socio-economic, political and cultural forces quite visible globally. Towards the end of 20th century, there were about 150 million people living outside their country of origin, substantial parts among them being diasporas. Demographers believe that there would be increased migration towards many developed countries (including China) in the near future due to aging populations, changes in demographic attitudes and consequent need for more emigrants to sustain their economies. Many developing countries will cater to the manpower needs of these countries in various ways to support basic services in healthcare, education and other services. The real development challenge is, how to position diaspora in the new development strategy?

Mobility of human beings and international migration is an inevitable phenomenon. The UNDP Development Report 2009 "Development on the Move" emphasized a lot on the impact of people who are always on the move. Mobility of people across the border is also linked to the overall development of the society. As the development scenario is changing, it is important to understand the mobility of people in the new context that has been created by the technological progress especially in the domain of ICT and transport facilities. It is evident that digital interactive media such as internet, mobile and T.V. provide a new interactive space for the diaspora and transnational communities to experience and connect life in a manner that was not available a few years ago. ICT mediated interaction have economic and social aspects that deeply influence society.

Developing Countries face different challenges in the emerging scenario than the developed countries. Quite contrary to the idea of brain drain that dominated the development debate in the 60s and 70s among the scholars and policy makers of developing countries, diasporas in the age of internet are seen as resources who accumulate human, financial, and social capital for the development of their home communities. Governments and development agencies of countries of origin in many developing countries have been playing a growing role in channeling the initiative, energy, and resources of diasporas into economies and societies and institutionalizing the linkage of the diaspora to the socio-economic activities of their home countries. Transnational communities establish and reinforce multi-sectoral links between countries of origin and destination. Many Asian and African countries have taken initiatives at the top level to provide institutionalized platform to facilitate the diasporas to play development role back home.

Apart from the many national efforts, several international agencies such as UNDP and Non-Government organizations have also initiated effort to link the diaspora to their home countries and channelize the resources.

Over the years developing countries have channelized financial resources from their diaspora. Financial capital accumulated by diasporas abroad is often repatriated to the country of origin in the form of remittances or direct investments that benefit the home community and the population as a whole. Human capital which plays an important role and can be easily transferred across border with the use of ICT creates opportunity in many sectors such as higher education, training, Research and Development etc. The cumulative experience of diasporas that establish themselves in more developed countries is always an asset. These forms of human capital can contribute to the development of the home country through return of skills by return migration or "virtually," by using communications technologies in the host country. Social capital in the form of migrant networks with links to both host and home countries can provide developing countries with access to more developed markets. Access can be instrumental in orienting foreign direct investment towards the home country. Diasporas often organize themselves and form associations that are able to promote the flow of investments and know-how to their home countries.

Diasporas and their impact on development is a complex and multi-dimensional issue. This is mediated through varieties of social and cultural factors. Many of the diaspora anchor the regional, linguistic and ethnic factor. For example Indian diaspora has a strong regional affiliation. The development impact of the diaspora is uneven across the region. The policy challenge is how to create a greater inclusiveness in the development.

Objectives

It is expected that the Conference will critically examine the development scenario have a comparative understanding of development across the different nations *vis-a-vis* diaspora. The conference will bring together policy makers, educationist, and development planners at both macro and micro level to engage in a more meaningful dialogue.

The objectives of the conference are:

- to contextualise and conceptualise diaspora in the changing development scenario
- to assess the micro and macro level impact of the diaspora– national, regional, sectoral and community level
- to assess the possible roadmaps to engage diaspora in the development process

- to provide fresh ideas and policy inputs to the governments, development agencies working at national and international level

Call for Paper

Papers are invited from academicians, Consultants, Government and Non-Government agencies, persons from Corporate and industries etc. Abstract approximately 250 to 300 words to the Conference Coordinator or Joint Coordinator at Email: diasporaconferenceignou@gmail.com

Travel Support

Depending on the availability of funds, travel charges will be provided to those whose papers are accepted for presentation. However, the Organising Committee will appreciate if individuals can manage for their travel.

Venue

The conference will be held during 14-15 October 2011 at Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maindan Garhi, New Delhi, India. It is about 15 k.m. from Indira Gandhi International Air Port, New Delhi and well connected Globally. October sees the end of the monsoon but it is reasonably pleasant.

Accommodation and Local Hospitality

Accommodation and Local hospitality will be provided to all the delegates.

Pl. type the following information at the top of your abstract

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