

## **Industry-Academic Relations: An Assessment of the Linkages Between Academia, R&D Institutions and Industry**

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Despite the cultural differences between university and industry, the mutual benefits from cooperation between these organizations have long been recognized in the advanced countries. Recently, this type of collaboration has been receiving attention in the developing countries. Some study therefore be initiated to evaluate the existing collaboration between developed and developing academic institutions in the country and some enterprises in its neighborhood, using questionnaires and interviews.

The major ties between the universities, the industries and research institutions were found to be in consultancy activities such as training workshops, short courses and student industrial training. However, little or no research ties or joint ventures were observed in developing academic institutes; this is probably for reasons such as communication gap, cultural differences and lack of research facilities and infrastructure. Effort should therefore be made by both the government and the university to remove these obstacles. This could be achieved by setting up a hybrid coalition between academia and industry and research institutions. The centers and units in the university, created to promote such collaboration, should be encouraged to improve upon their performance. The culture of relationship between academia, industry and R&D institutions is to go a long way to best serve the community and industrial problems in the country. This is high time when the academia, industry and R&D institutions should come closer and develop the model centers in science, engineering and management and other areas of interest. This cultural relationship should be encouraged in all academic and R&D institutions. The strength which academia and R&D institutions have is not being utilized properly. The close cooperation of Academia and R&D institutions can play a major role to bridge this gap of lack of relationship in between knowledge carrying community and knowledge user communities. This relationship will help in developing and sustaining the quality human resource to serve better the academia, R&D and industry together to work for common goal of solving the bigger problems of common interest. The AOGS forum can play a very vital role in developing the culture of academia, R&D and industry relations in countries which have yet to realize this goal of mutual cooperation for overall and sustainable development in using Science and Technology to best serve the human kind in 21<sup>st</sup> century.