

## **WTMC workshop**

### **Research for Development**

**13-15 October 2010 , Soeterbeeck, Ravenstein**

In October 2010 WTMC offers an extra workshop to anticipate an increasing demand from PhD students for enrolment in the WTMC training program. WTMC invited two guest coordinators to convene the workshop, Dr. Harro Maat and Dr. Rob Hagendijk. The first is a WTMC graduate and the second a former WTMC training programme coordinator. Both are experts in the workshop's theme: Research for Development. There is a long tradition in promoting science and technology for development. Colonial powers and, subsequently, international development institutes heavily relied on scientific research and science-based technologies for economic exploitation and social development. Building higher education facilities and research capacity in the developing world and sending experts for technical assistance programmes were the main mechanisms. Nowadays, targeted, donor-driven projects implemented by international teams of experts are the dominant format.

The theme of this workshop, research for development, tries to capture three different aspects of the historical development and contemporary situation. The first is the global developmental agenda, in particular dealing with North-South inequalities. What does it look like? How does it change and why? And what has STS to contribute to a more profound understanding of how the global development agenda, including research for development, comes into being? Research for development refers, secondly, to practical, goal-oriented research activities for marked-out locations and areas. How do various sciences engage with such practical endeavours and what are forms of involvement for STS research and consultancy? How, for example, are local and global actors and institutes involved in this? How are research priorities and technological solutions formulated and implemented? A third purpose is an interrogation of the assumed positive effects of research for development. Who is involved, what are the unintended consequences, and which alternative options are available? How can the STS agenda help to understand the dialectics between institutionalized science and local, indigenous knowledge and culture? And what is the role of hybrid science and technology? These three groups of questions will be addressed in a set of focused thematic presentations, discussions and activities. In addition, the workshop will provide a first introduction in the research methods and concepts relevant for 'research for development'. These methods will be drawn from the STS methodological and conceptual toolbox and from other fields of research, such as anthropology or Development Studies.

Confirmed speakers (so far) are Wiebe Bijker and Paul Richards. A limited number of places is reserved for non-WTMC students from the South.

The registration form for the workshop is available online at [http://www.mb.utwente.nl/steps/forms/WTMC\\_October\\_workshop\\_2010.doc/](http://www.mb.utwente.nl/steps/forms/WTMC_October_workshop_2010.doc/). Please register by 15 May 2010.