



# The University and the City: Ideas for Mutual Engagement

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Seminar with the University of  
Botswana and City of Gaborone

8 October 2007

# Outline

- **Strong interest globally regardless of level of development (eg new OECD report)**
- **University of Botswana clearly committed to ‘Engagement and Entrepreneurship’ in *Shaping our Future***
- **A privilege working with BIUST on ideas for the future of Palapye: and tonight, joining a conversation on Gaborone**
- **City is both an urban area and a jurisdiction**
- **Made complex here by being the capital city and the first university (cf. ANU and Canberra, UPM and Putrajaya)**

# The university in the city and the city in the university

- **Economic, social, cultural and environmental impact of universities**
  - Universities now want more real-world linkages
  - So are looking for new forms of engagement
- **Services the city provide the university**
  - Cities recognise universities as leading institutions for the knowledge economy
  - So are looking for best practice in city hosting
- **Together, mutual engagement on new terms**

# University in the city: economic impact

Economic impacts when measured can surprise (e.g. Boston, Philadelphia, London, Melbourne):

- Contributions to the city's human capital, productivity and earnings
- Research and innovation
- New business development
- Employment
- Procurement of goods and services
- Student client and visitor spending
- Contributions to community resilience

# University in the city: social, cultural and environmental

Interesting to 'map' and measure institutions' wider contributions to provide a basis for urban engagement and building capacity

- community service
- knowledge and information e.g. access to libraries, conferences, public lectures, publishing;
- arts and culture including major events
- architecture and urban precinct developments
- international activities that contribute to the region
- sporting services, facilities and events
- marketing and promotion
- The professions
- Health and wellbeing

# Innovation cities: key drivers

- Knowledge institutions
  - No university monopoly
  - Convergence as companies make campuses and universities become more like businesses)
- Linkages, forward and backward
- Agglomeration economies, clusters: skills, capital, linkages
- Information intensiveness, connectivity
- Density, scale, urban design
- Livability
- Culture, tolerance, key champions

# City in the university: good university hosting practice

- Recognise knowledge institutions as economic drivers and social resources
- Ensure special municipal requirements met, including in urban developments e.g. GA Tech)
- Collaboration and communication
- City knowledge management, perhaps part of an international cities network

# Cities to learn in

- Learning quarters
- Learning centres
- Local community learning hubs
- Innovation Hub (e.g. Gaborone)
- Workplace learning
- Adult and continuing education

Table 3: Typology of City Learning: Agencies and Networks

Modality	Example	Characteristics of Learning	Observations & Lessons
Organized Agency			
Dedicated Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curitiba,</li> <li>• Ho Chi Minh</li> <li>• Bilbao</li> </ul>	Full or part time staff dedicated totally or mostly to city questions	Self-starters create their own tools
Close, but Not Dedicated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shanghai, Tangn</li> <li>• Tampere, Finland</li> <li>• Metro Research Institute, Budapest</li> </ul>	Closely connected and frequently consulted, but independent agencies	City agency is secondary, i.e., a tool for, or consequence of, LED
City and Regional Development			
One or many in Europe and US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birmingham, UK</li> <li>• Seattle, Silicon Valley</li> <li>• Minneapolis, South Florida, USA</li> </ul>	Assembly of knowledge intensive firms, distressed by universities; special purpose learning events	Deliberate efforts to form a nexus or shared learning
Individual Cities			
Cities One on One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICMA City Links</li> <li>• Federation of Canadian Municipalities</li> <li>• Sister Cities</li> </ul>	One on one exchanges over one to two years	"Vibrancy requires long-term commitment" (Khung 2002).
City Networks Active			
Cluster or Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNESCO World Heritage Cities</li> <li>• Bertelsmann Cities of Change</li> <li>• ICLEI</li> <li>• Metropolis</li> <li>• World Technopolis</li> </ul>	City members of a class involved in more or less sustained, regular program of exchanges, punctuated by intermittent technical meetings and visits	External agent provides a forum for a designated 'class' of cities in formal network
City Networks Passive			
City Network Conveners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCLG,</li> <li>• InfoCity,</li> <li>• Asia City Net</li> </ul>	Apex agencies convene and work on class action basis	External agent for open network of cities, broad agenda
City Network Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Habitat Best Practice</li> <li>• LOGIN</li> </ul>	Largely "passive" networks.	External agent, learning depends on initiative of cities.

# Some cities that learn

- Bilbao
- Seattle
- Mashhad / Metropolis
- Sister cities
- UNGCCP

# What the City of Gaborone might consider

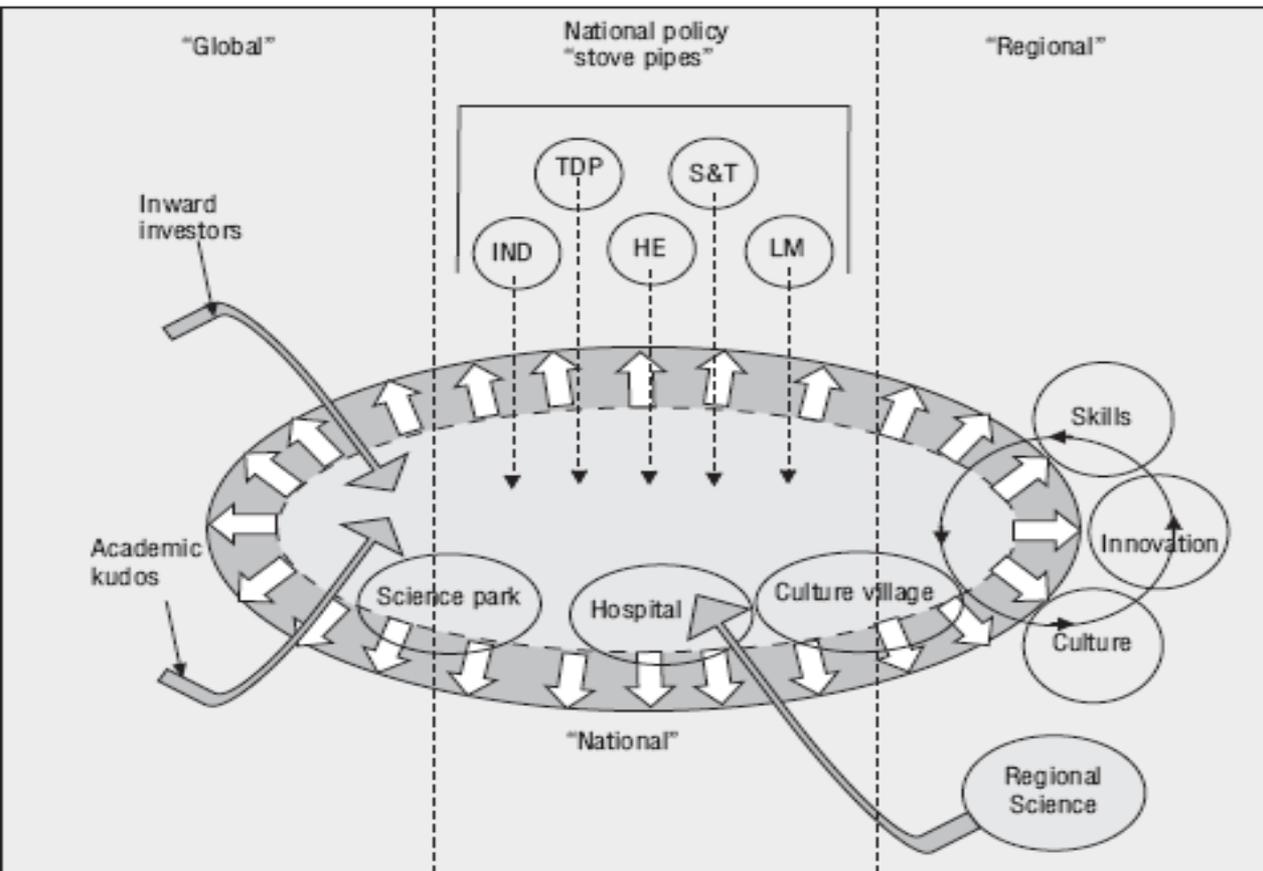
- Good precinct planning (avoid aggressive university expansion, gentrification and displacement of other places)
- Help make campus boundaries permeable, multi-site university developments effective e.g. downtown business centre
- Actively recognise cluster of knowledge institutions in Gaborone
- Ensure City decision-making timely
- Good place management: Develop or support informal learning quarter as well as formal Innovation Hub
- Build learning centres, be tolerant of university incubators
- Work together to put Gaborone on the map internationally – also with BEDIA et al
- Use sister cities networking?

# What the University of Botswana might consider

- Defining, mapping, measuring (examples)
- Engagement in PDs, promotion criteria (3<sup>rd</sup> practice)
- Budget, office? But also find, recognise and support champions
- Policy on paid outside work, IP ownership
- Consider wide definitions of research and scholarship
- More open campus/sites?
- Gather then define programs of engagement
- City as subject of research (eg Prof Mosha on municipal finances)
- High level coordination committee
- Annual? “town and gown” event with leaders (eg UM)
- Back equity-based programs

# One model of university engagement (OECD 2007)

Figure 2.3. Regionally engaged multi-modal and multi-scalar HEI



# Conclusion

- University founded on rural contributions  
'Motho le motho kgomo'
- Its new direction is making an urban contribution as well
- This will include a mutual engagement with Gaborone the urban area and the jurisdiction
- Thank you for the privilege of joining your conversation