The K* Conference was held
April 24 - 27, 2012
in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

This report outlines the feedback and media attention received during the conference.
K* was convened by UNU-INWE with advice and support of members from the International Advisory Committee and the organizations listed below:

**Key Partners:**

**Conference Supporters:**
K* Fellowship Sponsors:

International Network INASP
for the Availability of Scientific Publications

K* Community Partners:

Martens Consulting Services - Facilitation & Leadership Development

Policy Integration Unit, Health Canada

Knowledge Mobilization Works

Hospitality Suite Sponsors:

PMA

APPLETON ESTATE

JAMAICA RUM
Organizations Represented:

Expected participants have pertinent, past or ongoing experience with the following organizations:

African Academy of Sciences, & Academy of Sciences for the Developing World
African Institute for Development Policy
African Technology Policy Studies Network
Association of African Universities & International Association of Universities
British High Commission
Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)
Canadian Water Network
Canadian International Development Agency
Canadian Institute for Health Information and Canadian Health Services Research Foundation
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Canadian Foundation for Innovation
Canadian Science Policy Conference
Charles Darwin University
CommsConsult Ltd
Development, Systems and Energy in Latin America
European Sustainability Science Group
UK Dept. for International Development
Global Development Network (GDNet Connect South)
Health Canada
International Development Research Centre
iKnowing
International Network for the Availability of Science Publications
Intermediary Organizations and Purveyors Group
Institute of Development Studies
IKMediary Network & Knowledge Brokers Forum
International Livestock Research Institute
Knowledge Mobilization Works
Knowledge Transfer Africa
McMaster University
Overseas Development Institute & Delta Partnership
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Network of African Science Academies
Neurodevnet
Natural Resources Canada
ONEMA - French National agency for water & aquatic environments
Oxford University
Pacific Institute of Public Policy
Public Health Agency of Canada
Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University, & Future Farm Industries Co-operative Research Centre, & Land & Water Australia
Science Development, Germany
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Union for African Population Studies
University of Cape Town
University of Edinburgh
UNU-VIE
Organizations Represented Cont’d:

University of Guelph
University of Western Cape
UNU-INWEH & Environment Canada
Venture Strategies for Health and Development
Wageningen University
Water and Environment Development Organization
World Association for Sustainable Development & World Journal of Science, Technology and Sustainable Development
York University & ResearchImpact
K * Conference 2012 - Closing Remarks by Mohamed Hassan

First I wish to express my sincere thanks to the staff of UNU-INWEH and especially Zafar Adeel, Alex Bielak and Louise Shaxson for inviting me to take part in this very fruitful, interactive and productive international KStar conference.

From the rich discussion during the last two days on the meaning of KStar, it appeared that it could have different meaning to different people working on Knowledge/Policy interface. As a Mathematician with interest in linking knowledge to action, I would like to think of KStar as a mechanism or a road map that would take knowledge (including frontier science, technology and innovation) from its birth place to the market place where it can provide global solutions to real-world problems for all people in all places. With this in mind, I wish to highlight three important issues to be included in the follow-up action agenda for this conference.

1. Continue to identify, compile and disseminate successful experiences in linking knowledge to policy and action, using the KStar methodology. A number of these success stories do can be found among the large pool of development oriented projects supported by GEF, UNDP, IDRC, UNU and others.

2. Develop programs that support the training of young Interdisciplinary researchers in KStar methodology.

3. Inform the UNU Council about the outcome of this conference and propose setting up a KStar working group to advise the Council on how to develop and implement aKStar initiative for the UNU system as a whole.

Last, but not least, I propose to issue a short policy relevant statement focusing on the major conclusions of the conference.

Mohamed Hassan
Chair of UNU Council;
Co-Chair IAP, the Global Network of Science Academies
As the K* Conference draws to a close, let me make a few remarks on my impressions of the very fruitful meetings we have had over the past few days.

First, I was amazed by the diversity of the participants. Rarely have I attended a conference where the participants were of such wide-ranging ages, came from such different backgrounds and professions, had such varied experience and were at such different stages of their career. This I understand was a deliberate move by the organisers. And yet, throughout the conference, there was a bond among the participants, since the common thread linking them was their interest in K*. I would like to congratulate Alex Bielak and Louise Shaxson, the Conference Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for having achieved such a feat.

I was impressed by the methodology adopted for running the conference. It created bonding among the participants, which quickly led to tangible results. Credit for this must go to Kim Martens, the Conference Facilitator. I particularly liked the Market place on Wednesday and the Open Space today. In fact, the process used in conducting the conference reflected the approaches that we wish to promote in the K* process. For once I attended a conference where there was no Power Point presentation. And yet, it was never boring and there was active participation at all times. The use of technology, and in particular the facility offered to participants who were not in Hamilton to engage online with the Conference through WebEx, was impressive.

An issue that was surprisingly not raised on the first day of the conference was the definition of K*. It was assumed that there was agreement on this. It was at dinner yesterday, after our visit to Niagara Falls, that a few of us raised the issue of defining K* and discussed whether it was wise to use a single term to describe all knowledge activities, or whether it was preferable to keep knowledge transmission, engagement, utilisation, mobilization, etc. separate. We did not come to a conclusion during the dinner but that discussion was very useful as today the matter was again raised and discussed in one of the group works. I am now convinced of the wisdom of using a single terminology - K*.

I have no doubt that the concept of K* is extremely relevant to the United Nations University (UNU). Since UNU’s mission is that of being a think-tank for formulating policies for the United Nations, and because UNU operates through a number of Institutes in specific fields spread in different parts of the world, it is important for all the UNU Institutes to promote the use of K*. There are a few of us from the UNU family attending this Conference and we seized this opportunity to discuss the matter among us. We agreed that, in our different capacities, we shall militate for the promotion of the concept of K* in all the UNU Institutes. I wish to congratulate UNU-INWEH, and in particular its Director, Dr Zafar Adeel, for having taken the lead in this matter. I hope that the initiative of UNU-INWEH will serve as a catalyst for the other Institutes, and for UNU as well, to embark on the K* process.
The concept of K* is also very relevant to African universities, an area that is of particular interest to me. Most of them pay little attention to ensuring that the research they carry out leads to solving some of the development challenges of Africa. This was an issue that was raised during a couple of the group discussions during this conference. It is interesting to note the Association of African Universities (AAU) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) are currently in the last phase of a joint and collaborative project to promote university-industry linkages. This was a project I initiated when I was at AAU. A closing conference on the project is to be held soon and I will impress on the two associations on the need to use the K* concept and process in dealing with university-stakeholder linkages.

It was such an exciting opportunity for me to participate in this conference and I wish to thank the organisers for inviting me. It was a special pleasure to meet such diverse and enthusiastic participants who I would not normally meet in my professional activities.

Goolam Mohamedbhai
UNU Council Member and Former Vice-Chair of Council; Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius; Former Secretary-General, Association of African Universities
The K* conference may have ended but collaborative activities agreed to during the last days are continuing: Most notably, a short paper positioning K* is being drafted at the request of the World Bank.

There are three key thrusts that will be taken up in addition to Green Paper (including setting up the Wiki for the Green Paper- which will be online soon), and pursuing a publication (or several) based on the conference.

1. Establishing and sustaining a global Knowledge network;
2. Assessing the impact of K* activities;
3. K* in developing countries and the democratizing of different knowledge(s)

The UNU-INWEH press release sent out before the Conference impressively generated over 2000 views on Eurekalert. Also, thanks to the wonderful Webex and Social Media coverage facilitated by OMAFRA and GDNet respectively, we can report as a minimum the following impressive stats:

**By day 1 of the conference:**
- Over 120 participants from 40 countries signed up for Webex

**By the last day of the conference:**
- 19 blogs posted on GDNet
- 19 interviews posted on YouTube
- 450+ tweets, from 61 different Twitter users, from 12 countries
As a result of the conference:

- Traffic to the UNU-INWEH website to view K* pages increased exponentially
- 12 external blogs and articles were generated
- Some very complimentary words from the “Faces of K*” and beyond

We would like to sincerely thank all of the participants (both in person and online) for taking part in three days of engaging, informative, fun, and interactive conversations.

Thanks to our key partners as well as our conference supporters and fellowship sponsors for all of the support, you helped us to achieve our vision for this conference.

Be sure to check out the photos from the conference and watch the main page for further developments, news and updates on the development of the Green Paper (and where you can go to participate).

Best wishes,

Alex Bielak (K* Conference Chair)
Louise Shaxson (K* Conference Vice Chair)
K * Conference 2012 - Blog coverage

GDNet blogs

What is KStar Initiative and why do we need it? by Alex Bielak

K* 2012 – contribute anywhere, anytime! – by Gail Wilson

Once a K* practitioner, always a K* practitioner – by Louise Shaxson
Knowledge and policy: navigating a spaghetti junction – showcasing a new book by the Overseas Development Institute – by Gail Wilson

Kstar has landed! – Interview with Alex Bielak – Andrew Clappison and Gail Wilson

Convince or collaborate? Getting the most out of K* - overview of the keynote speech by Gail Wilson

John Lavis’s reflections on how to build effective K* – by Andrew Clappison

Kstar: Lost in translation? – by Gail Wilson

Practicing Kstar: from ideas to action – by Gail Wilson

Living the Kstar lifestyle: Reflections of a Kstar practitioner from Andrew Campbell – by Gail Wilson

Effective knowledge translation: Reflections of a Kstar practitioner from Nyokabi Musilla – by Gail Wilson

From ideas to action: practical guidance for a Kstar practitioner from Laurens Klerkx – by Gail Wilson

K* and the private sector. In this short video, Jason Blackstock (Oxford University) provides an overview of today’s ‘K* with the private sector’ panel session – by Andrew Clappison

K* and ethics in the private sector - By Robyn Read, Alecia Boddie, and Zuzanna Chocie

Innovation, collective cultural memory and the natural state of knowledge – by Andrew Clappison
Jacquie Brown discusses how she will apply the lesson learning from KStar 2012 to her own work in implementing science at the National Implementation Research Network.

Managing data in a world drowning in knowledge – by Gail Wilson

Kstar with civil society: brokering relationships instead of knowledge? – by Gail Wilson

Academics need to find their place in the new ‘open knowledge society’ – by Andrew Clappison
In this video Peter Moll (International Analyst and Consultant) talks about the emergence of the ‘open knowledge society’ and what this means for academic researchers.

External blogs and articles (commentary and roundup)

Emerging Professions: Knowledge Broker (Science Careers)
Ingo Peters – K* conference 2012 wrap up
Reflections on the K* summit: beyond K-star wars? - Catherine Fisher
KM on a dollar a day – K*, Kwhat?
Global Info Flow on WASH & KM
On Think Tanks – K* (and * stands for what exactly?)
Knowledge Brokers Forum – K* day 2 highlights
Knowledge Broker Forum – K* day 1 highlights
Boris Popov - K* Conference - 26 April 2012
Boris Popov - K* Conference - 25 April 2012
Rethinking professional roles in the knowledge economy – Andrew Campbell
Making K* work for your research findings – Brendan Barrett
K * Conference 2012 - Interviews

Peter Moll: Academics need to find their place in the new ‘open knowledge society’

Andrew Clappison: Ensuring the Southern context is at the Kstar table

Take home messages of Kstar 2012 with Catherine Fisher

Bernadette Conant on Kstar with government

Learning the Kstar lessons with Jackie Olang

Ah ha! It's David Phipps on lessons learnt from Kstar 2012

Kim Martens on facilitating knowledge exchange during a conference

Charles Dhewa on 'collective cultural memory' and the 'natural state of knowledge'

Kstar 2012: Reflections on data management with Ingo Peters

Jacquie Brown - Sharing lessons from Kstar 2012

Jason Blackstock on Kstar and the private sector

Nicole Arbour on linkage and exchange

Jakob Ryhner - Why is Kstar important for the United Nations University

Andrew Campbell - funding the arrows not the boxes

Amanda Cooper on building knowledge networks

Nyokabi Musilla - Experience of a knowledge translator

Derek Brien describes the need to focus on the Kstar process

Laurens Klerkx - practical guidance for a Kstar practitioner

The Kstar conference 2012 has landed – Alex Bielak
K* Links

Note: These are external links to content not hosted by UNU-INWEH. As a result, UNU-INWEH is not responsible for any third-party links on these sites.

Buzzing about Brokers - knowledge brokers reach across silos

A post by IAC member Catherine Fisher on the Institute of Development Studies Blog about knowledge brokering at a conference held by the ESRC Policy and Research Forum.

The Guardian - In a networked world, why is the geography of knowledge still uneven?

The article posits that user-generated internet content is weighted towards the global north calling for a rebalancing of the division of digital labour.

[Video] - People are Knowledge

People are Knowledge is a film made during the course of a research project that explored how alternate methods of citation could be employed on Wikipedia. The film documents a series of specific situations with regards to published knowledge, and, subsequently, with oral citations. Credits: Priya Sen, Zen Marie, Achal Prabhala.


The Hive – a knowledge platform on Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) – will transform the way the global development community works in these situations by changing the way knowledge about these situations is generated, shared, and used. As [World Bank] World Development Report 2011 underscores, violence is a central barrier to human development across income levels and responses are compromised by lack of knowledge of context, of adaptable innovations, and of prevention across a multiplicity of variables. The Hive will convene the communities of practice within and outside the World Bank that presently work independently, and often in parallel, on FCV.

[Article] Mama always told me, "share your toys"

Sharing knowledge is central to knowledge mobilization (K Mb). Thanks to a recently published paper, David Phipps (RIR-York) is now able to share his K Mb toys.
K* Links Cont’d:

[Article] “The Diplomacy of Knowledge”
Governor General of Canada's speech at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) President's Reception 2012.

[Video] TED Talk - Chris Bliss: Comedy is translation
Every act of communication is, in some way, an act of translation. Onstage at TEDxRainier, writer Chris Bliss thinks hard about the way that great comedy can translate deep truths for a mass audience.

Chris Bliss explores the inherent challenge of communication, and how comedy opens paths to new perspectives

Summary of e-discussions on evaluating the impact of knowledge brokering
"...summarises a rich discussion which took place on KBF during October and November 2011. The discussion focused on how to evaluate the impact of Knowledge Brokering work. Members shared experience and insights about evaluating impact in order to be better able to evaluate our own work and build greater understanding of the potential of the sector."

Summary of e-discussion on knowledge brokering and intermediary concepts
"...an analysis of an international cross-sectoral e-discussion about knowledge brokers and intermediary actors that took place through the Knowledge Brokers' Forum."

[ACUNS Podcast] Big-C, Little-c, and K-Star: Why communicating science to the media is not the same as communicating science to policy makers - Alex Bielak

Thinking about Knowledge Mobilization - Dr. Ben Levin, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

We have been receiving a lot of positive feedback from those who attended the conference (in person and online), those that followed via social media, and those that found out about K* 2012 through their networks. You will find selected quotes below.

All of the comments have been truly appreciated and pays tribute to all of the hard work that was put into the organization, planning and execution of the conference by UNU-INWEH staff, our team of wonderful volunteers, our fantastic facilitator (Kim Martens), the amazing OMAFRA WebEx team, and, of course, all of the "faces of K*" that participated:

"I'm sure you've heard this from many attendees already, but it bears repeating: the conference was something special. The tone of optimism and shared enthusiasm was terrific and I felt honoured to be in the company of such brilliant minds." - I.P. (Canada)

"I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, and was great to meet so many interesting people from all over the world doing such great work" - G.W. (UK)

"I am also back ... from the amazing K* Summit ... Once again, thanks a lot for affording me a chance to meet and interact with you and other colleagues. I feel greatly honoured and look forward to fruitful collaboration." - C.D. (Zimbabwe)

"I think it was a very successful conference and I found it immensely fruitful - and enjoyable! I will certainly support any initiative for promoting K*." - G.M. (Mauritius)
**K* Conference 2012 - Feedback**

**Cont’d:**

“The K* Conference last week was a roaring success. I want to thank each of you for the excellent work and leadership shown in organizing and managing the conference. It was extremely well-organized and well-executed. The discussion space was ample— and in my opinion that is one thing more than anything else that made people happy. The fact that we had no PowerPoints and that everyone ended up having some kind of lead role kept people engaged and excited. I have not heard a single negative remark, which is huge for a meeting of this kind.” - A.Z. (Canada)

“For the participants lucky enough to be invited it was a unique and memorable event—no other forum, organisation or event could have brought together this group of people… [It] provided rich insights into the value to be gained through bringing practitioners together, sharing experiences and developing a global community of practice. I look forward to tracing the impact of this catalytic event.” - A.C. (Australia)

“It was a delight to us, as well that representatives from so many countries were able to attend and be involved. This bodes very well for the future. Congratulations to you both for organizing such a successful event and thank you again for inviting us to participate.” - A.P. (Canada)

“…thank you all for the opportunity to participate in a truly transformative experience with such wonderful people!” - B.M. (Canada)

“It is great to be building this global network of interested people.” - E.G. (Canada)

Congratulations to you both for organizing such a successful event and thank you again for inviting us to participate.” - A.P. (Canada)

“…thank you all for the opportunity to participate in a truly transformative experience with such wonderful people!” - B.M. (Canada)

“It is great to be building this global network of interested people.” - E.G. (Canada)

“Many thanks to you for the development and organization of this event, bringing people with many backgrounds together for a fruitful and enjoyable event.” - J.R. (Germany)

“I’m glad and sad! I’m glad that the event went off so well (saw some of Simon’s pictures on FB and folks watched some of the deliberations from here) and sad that I couldn’t be there!” - J.F. (Canada)

“It was a pleasure following your conference on social media - I attended the EIP network meeting in Ireland where several participants both followed the K* updates AND tweeted about their own network meeting.” - B.A. (Denmark)

“Greetings and congratulations for successful completion of the first K* conference. As someone who in creating a knowledge sharing platform at a non profit in India that works on education, we have been following discussions at K * conference through GDN blogs and other media.” - H.U. (India)
Nicole Arbour (Team Lead, Science & Innovation Network, British High Commission, Ottawa)

Nicole is responsible for liaising with Federal science and technology bodies, including science based departments and agencies (such as Industry Canada, Health Canada and Agriculture Canada, among others), funding bodies (such as NSERC and CIHR), as well as other arms-length science based institutions and funding organizations. She also covers scientific research and development within the geographical area of Eastern Ontario at academic, industry and governmental levels. Within this framework, she is working to establish, foster, and/or strengthen collaboration and partnership in science and innovation between the UK and Canada.

Nicole holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Ottawa, specializing in neuroscience and cell death. Prior to joining the Science and Innovation team at the British High Commission in Ottawa, she worked as a research scientist for a small biotech company, and led a small team of researchers in developing assays for pathogen identification.

In addition to science and science policy, Nicole enjoys gardening, cooking, writing and adventures in social media.
Alex T. Bielak*, K* Conference Chair
(Senior Fellow and Knowledge Broker, UNU-INWEH)

Dr. Alex Bielak is a member of the faculty at the United Nations University and also serves as Senior Advisor to the Chair of UN-Water. As Senior Research Fellow and Knowledge Broker in the freshwater programme at the UNU's Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH, the U.N. Think Tank on Water) Alex also leads a new Knowledge Management and Mobilization (K*) initiative for the Institute.

Previously Alex was Environment Canada's first-ever Director, Science and Technology Liaison with a mission of communicating science knowledge to targeted audiences and linking science with policy development. Before that he spent over a year as A/ Director General, S&T Strategies Directorate, where he set up the Directorate and led the team developing EC's new Science Plan. A NATO Scholar, he has also held senior positions with Canada's National Water Research Institute, NGOs, and other federal and provincial government departments.

Alex holds a PhD degree in Freshwater Biology from the University of Waterloo and has served on numerous National and International Boards and Committees. Recently appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Multi-Media at McMaster University, recognition of his professional and volunteer activities includes a UW Science Faculty “Distinguished Alumni Award” on the occasion of UW's 50th Anniversary and appointment as the first Honorary Member of the Canadian Rivers Institute in 2011.

Jason J. Blackstock* (Visiting Fellow, INSIS, Associate (Adjunct) Professor, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development at the University of Waterloo)

With a unique background spanning physics, technology development and international affairs, Jason is emerging as a leading international scholar and policy adviser on the interface between science and global public policy. Since 2008, he has developed and led research and policy engagement programs from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria) and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (Canada) that have interactively examined the scientific, political and global governance dimensions of our planetary climate and energy challenges. These programs have included internationally recognized foci on the science and policy of emerging geoengineering technologies, short-lived climate forcers and sustainable energy transitions.

Jason obtained his Master (Edinburgh, 2001) and PhD (Alberta, 2005) in physics, followed by his Graduate Certificate in International Security (Stanford, 2006) and Master of Public Administration (Harvard, 2008), and worked from 2003 to 2007 as a Research Associate of Hewlett Packard Lab’s Quantum Science Research Group. He is an Associate Professor (Adjunct) of the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development at the University of Waterloo, and in 2010 Jason was elected an Associate Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. Jason is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society at the University of Oxford (United Kingdom).
Andrew Campbell (Director, Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University)

Andrew Campbell is the Director of the Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia. He was previously Managing Director of Triple Helix Consulting Pty Ltd, a consultancy working at the interface between science and policy around climate, water, energy and food systems and the interactions between them. Andrew was the Executive Director (CEO) of Land & Water Australia for seven years to 2006, prior to which he was a senior executive in the Australian Government. He was instrumental in the development of Landcare in Australia and has written widely on sustainability issues. He has professional training in forest science and knowledge systems from the University of Melbourne and Wageningen Agricultural University in The Netherlands.

Dave Clements (Director of Corporate Strategy and Education, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI))

As Director of Corporate Strategy and Education at CIHI, David Clements is responsible for integrating the strategic, operational and tactical planning of the organization, as well as providing direction for educational and capacity-building initiatives. David has worked in health care since 1998 and has been recognized as an expert in the use of research and knowledge for health care policy and management. Over the years, he has worked for a number of national organizations, including the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (where he managed policy, planning, communications and knowledge exchange). He has worked as a journalist and as a communications and media relations advisor to senior staff at the British Columbia Ministry of Health. David is currently pursuing a doctorate in innovation studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He holds a master of public administration from the School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University with a concentration in health policy, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Victoria.
Bernadette Conant (Executive Director, Canadian Water Network)

Bernadette joined the Canadian Water Network as Executive Director in April 2003, having assisted the network in other capacities on and off since its start-up in the summer of 2001.

Before joining CWN, Bernadette was involved in groundwater issues in both Canada and the US for over 17 years, including experience in research, jobs in the public and private sector, and management of university-based research programs funded by government and industry partners. Much of this experience was focused on the practical application of research findings to decision-making for site assessment and remediation at contaminated sites. Over the past few years, she has devoted increasing time and energy to the topic of improving communication of research findings and implications among the academic and various user communities. She is pleased to be able to continue to contribute to this area through her work with CWN.

Bernadette has a degree in Earth Sciences (BSc, 1986) and Hydrogeology (MSc, 1991) from the University of Waterloo. She has made presentations on groundwater and remediation issues at a variety of venues, including invited talks at conferences in Canada, the US and Japan, as well as presentations to both state and regulatory officials in the US. Bernadette has served as a guest lecturer in graduate courses and short courses. She is author of a number of publications, including refereed journals articles, a book chapter, a US EPA report, and conference abstracts and proceedings.

Amanda Cooper* (KNAER Program Manager, Research & Knowledge Mobilization and RSPE Research & Program Coordinator)

Amanda Cooper specializes in research-practice-policy relationships. Her interests professionally and academically revolve around improving research use in public services. Currently, she is managing the Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research (KNAER), an ambitious effort to improve knowledge mobilization in education across Ontario.

Amanda has also been the coordinator for the Research Supporting Practice in Education program at OISE, since its inception in 2007. There is growing awareness that research mediation by intermediary organizations is integral to knowledge mobilization. Amanda’s doctoral research analyzes efforts made by 44 knowledge mobilization intermediaries (third party, research brokering organizations) that facilitate linkages between research producing contexts and research using contexts to increase research use and its impact in education across Canada.

She provides talks, workshops and consulting on knowledge mobilization for researchers, practitioners, policy makers, intermediaries and other organizations across sectors.
Catherine Fisher (Capacity Support Coordinator, Institute of Development Studies)

Catherine works within the Impact and Learning Team at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. She is interested in the intersections between research, policy and practice, and the role of K* actors within those processes, with increasing focus on learning and decision making behaviours. She has worked in and alongside the IDS based Knowledge Services for over 10 years where she has worked on a range of information intermediary and knowledge sharing projects including Eldis, GDNet, IFIwatchnet and AfricaAdapt.

More recently, Catherine has been active in convening and supporting learning between K* practitioners and connecting theory and practice about the role. In 2006, she founded the IKMediary Network and more recently has played an active role in the Knowledge Brokers Forum (KBF) including facilitating a recent debate about Monitoring & Evaluation of KB work.

She has organised a range of international events aimed at information and knowledge intermediaries including the Power of In-Between conference in South Africa, and helped design and facilitate a workshop for Climate Change Knowledge Brokers in 2011. Drawing on this experience she has published widely on the theory and practice within K* including:

- Knowledge Brokering and Intermediary concepts: summary of KBF e-discussion
  Fisher, C. (2010) Five characteristics of effective information intermediary organisations and how to ensure you have them

Sherine Ghoneim* (Global Development Network [GDN] – Cairo, Egypt)

As director of GDN (Cairo office) and the GDNet Program, Dr. Ghoneim has more than 15 years of experience in the field of knowledge networks and research communications capacity building. Within GDNet, a knowledge hub that brings together and communicates policy-relevant research from the Global South, she is leading to position the program as an internationally recognized focal point/knowledge broker for development research to inform policy debate.

Prior to GDN, she was the Information and Communications Manager at the Economic Research Forum from 1996 – 2001.

In 2000, she obtained her Ph.D. in Information Management from the Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine, University of London, U.K.
Elin Gwyn* (Research Analyst, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs)

Elin is a research analyst in the Research and Innovation Branch at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) Program is a program focused on accelerating the transformation of knowledge from research into use and was launched in 2008 under the OMAFRA/University of Guelph Agreement.

The program reflects the Canadian government's interest in gathering the full benefits of research knowledge and builds on several decades of shared agriculture extension experience. A key component of this partnership is a $5,000,000 KTT Program. Elin, in partnership with her colleagues, is tasked with assisting the development and delivery of the KTT program in partnership with the University of Guelph.

Elin enjoys working knowledge translation and transfer as K* is called at OMAFRA to enhance the use of research knowledge for policy, for practice/program and for commercialization. Elin has led the development of the KTT website as a basic tool and information for researchers and others interested in KTT. She bases much of her work on finding ways, within individual research projects, the KTT program and under the research themes, to encourage the achievement of seven KTT best practices.

Mehrdad Hariri (Senior Research Analyst McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health)

Mehrdad is a Senior Research Analyst at the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship under Dr. Thorsteinsdóttir with a research focus on Canada's collaborations in health biotechnology with China. In the past few years Dr. Hariri has focused his efforts on the intersection of science and policy. Using the 2008 federal election, he, along with his colleague, founded the weblog "Science Canada", with the goal of presenting and reviewing science related materials published in Canadian media. It was an opportunity to measure the presence, or lack thereof, of scientific issues in Canadian public sphere.

In 2009, he initiated the idea of a national forum on science policy in Canada, and led a group of young and passionate scientists to organize the 2009 Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC), where he is currently the Chair. The CSPC brings together many distinguished personalities from academic, government, industry, and non-profit sectors, from Canada and abroad, with common interests in science and policy.

Mehrdad has a D.V.M in veterinary medicine from Tehran University and MSc in cell biology from Université de Montréal. He is trained in various disciplines: veterinary, cell biology and functional genomics. He has served at the executive boards of several community and cultural organizations with various mandates. He is passionate about interfacing science, policy, and public affairs.
Katrina Hitchman* (Manager of Knowledge Mobilization and Training, Canadian Water Network)

Katrina joined the Canadian Water Network in February 2009 to assist in the development and management of CWN’s evolving research consortia program. As CWN expands its capacity for engaging with – and promoting interaction between – the end user and researcher communities, Katrina is focused on involving key players from these communities, developing knowledge translation tools for researchers and end users, and evaluating and sharing the success of CWN’s knowledge mobilization work. Pursuing her interest in knowledge mobilization processes, Katrina has conducted and led several qualitative studies, including a comparative analysis examining the structures and functions of Canadian and international organizations that share CWN’s mandate of using research to inform practice and policy.

Katrina holds a Masters and PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of Waterloo, as well as an Honours Bachelor of Arts from Mount Allison University.

John Holmes (Senior Research Fellow University of Oxford)

John Holmes research is concerned with improving the use of science in environmental policy making and regulation. His work at the University of Oxford (UK) addresses a range of issues associated with science-into-policy processes including the framing of research questions and consequent development of effective research programmes, processes to enhance the interaction of the science and policy communities, mechanisms for translation from research results to useful policy inputs, and issues of transparency and stakeholder engagement.
Jeff Kinder* (Manager, S&T Strategy, Natural Resources Canada)

Jeff has over twenty years of experience in government science and in Science and Technology (S&T) policy in the United States of America and Canada. His experience in the U.S. includes work at the National Science Foundation, the National Academies’ Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy, and research in applied ocean acoustics at the Naval Research Laboratory. In Canada, Jeff has worked as Senior Policy Advisor in Science and Innovation at Industry Canada and in support of the Council of Science and Technology Advisors (CSTA), the external board that advised Cabinet on the management of federal S&T from 1998-2007. He is currently Manager, S&T Strategy, at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). Jeff’s research and teaching focuses on S&T policy, government laboratories, innovation systems, and the integration of science and policy. He is the co-author with Bruce Doern of Strategic Science in the Public Interest: Canada’s Government Laboratories and Science-Based Agencies (University of Toronto Press, 2007) and is working on authoring a history of the Science Council of Canada. He holds a PhD in Public Policy, an M.A. in Science, Technology and Public Policy and a B.S. in Physics.

Laurens Klerkx (Assistant Professor, Wageningen University)

Laurens is assistant professor at the Communication and Innovation Studies Group at Wageningen University (Netherlands). He holds a MSc in Tropical Agriculture, and a PhD in Communication and Innovation Studies. His research takes place in the realm of agriculture and the life sciences and focuses on: demand articulation and multi-stakeholder negotiations for demand-driven research and innovation; newly emerging intermediary structures for matching demand and supply for knowledge and other resources to support innovation (innovation brokers); how such innovation brokers affect the dynamics in innovation networks and how they are perceived by ‘traditional’ knowledge intensive service providers (such as research institutes and consultants) and innovating firms; the structural dynamics of innovation networks over time and corresponding role divisions in innovation networks.

Besides being active in academic research and teaching, Laurens’ work informs policy makers, through contributions in policy and practice oriented publications and oral presentations for organizations like the World Bank, the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
**David Phipps** (Director, Research Services & Knowledge Exchange, York University and Leader, ResearchImpact)

Dr. Phipps received his Ph.D. in Immunology from Queen’s University (Kingston, Ontario) and undertook post-doctoral studies in HIV research at the University Health Network (Toronto). After leaving the lab he built a career managing academic research holding successively senior positions at the University of Toronto Innovations Foundation (Manager of Biotechnology and Life Sciences), Canadian Arthritis Network (Director of Business Development) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Director of Partnerships). In 2001 Dr. Phipps completed his MBA from the Rotman School of Management (University of Toronto).

Dr. Phipps is the Director, Research Services & Knowledge Exchange at York University where he manages all research grants and contracts including knowledge and technology transfer. Dr. Phipps is leading York’s Knowledge Mobilization Unit (ResearchImpact) that provides services to researchers, community organizations and government agencies who wish to use policy and practice related research to inform public policy and social programming.

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**Gerd Schönwälder** (Director, Policy and Planning Group at the International Development Research Centre)

Gerd Schönwälder is the Director of the Policy and Planning Group at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). He oversees IDRC’s strategic planning and management functions, including policy analysis, knowledge gathering and brokering, and networking on corporate issues. He formerly led IDRC’s Peace, Conflict, and Development (PCD) program, which supports research on peace building and conflict prevention in the developing world.

Before joining IDRC, Gerd Schönwälder was the Deputy Director of the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), an Ottawa-based think tank on western hemispheric issues. He previously spent several years in Brussels as a European Union official, covering such aspects of the EU’s external relations as development and economic co-operation, trade issues, and the enlargement of the European Union to the east.

Gerd Schönwälder holds a PhD in political science from McGill University and has written on local government, social movements, and public insecurity. He is currently interested in democratization, citizen participation, and the changing international assistance landscape. His latest (co-edited) book is entitled *Economic Liberalization and Political Violence: Utopia or Dystopia?*
Louise Shaxson*, K* Conference Vice-Chair
(Senior Research fellow at RAPID, Overseas Development Institute (UK); and associate of Delta Partnership)

Louise is a senior research fellow at the Overseas Development Institute, UK’s leading think tank on international development; and an associate of Delta Partnership, an international management consultancy company based in London. Her particular area of interest is evidence-based policymaking and the links between knowledge and policy.

She has authored and provided guidance on the provision of expert scientific advice to senior policy officials, what constitutes robust evidence for policy making, advised on horizon scanning projects and has published several journal articles and book chapters relating to evidence-based policy making. She has co-authored a forthcoming book on Knowledge, policy and power in international development: a practical guide which will be published by The Policy Press/University of Chicago Press in 2012.

Over the past few years, Louise became acquainted with a group of Canadians who shared her interest in evidence-based policy and, in particular, knowledge translation and brokering. Most recently, she was involved with CSPC where she gave a presentation on the distribution of responsibility in policy delivery and related issues at the Canadian Science Policy Conference in Montreal, October 2010.

Nik Soni (Senior Advisor, Ministry of Finance (Vanuatu) Chairman, Pacific Institute for Public Policy)

Nikunj Soni is the Board Chair of the Pacific Institute of Public Policy, which he founded in 2007. He has worked extensively on economic and public financial management issues across the Pacific since 1996, and has authored papers on a wide variety of topics ranging from revenue reforms, expenditure management, macroeconomic modelling to more general development papers on issues like drivers of change and governance reform. Nik has held a wide variety of senior advisory and in line positions in the region including as the Director General of the Ministry of Finance in Timor-Leste. He has an MPhil from Oxford, and outside of public policy is also the chair of the largest renewable energy NGO in Vanuatu. He is currently a senior treasury advisor to the Vanuatu Government.
Eliya Zulu (Director, African Institute for Development Policy)

Eliya Msiyaphazi Zulu is the Executive Director of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) whose mission is to inform public policy and planning with research evidence. Before co-founding AFIDEP, he was the Deputy Director and Director of Research at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) where he headed the Policy Engagement and Communications Unit and the Urbanization and Wellbeing Research Program. Zulu is the elected president of UAPS, the Union for African Population Studies and the Director of Development Policy in the California-based non-profit organization Venture Strategies for Health and Development. He has over 20 years experience in developing, managing, conducting research and capacity building programs, and engaging with policy makers in issues regarding international development, population change, urbanization, health systems and policy analysis. He has been a Principal Investigator and participated in a number of international research programs; published over 50 peer-reviewed papers, pro-actively promoted evidence-based policies and served in many international panels on population change issues. Zulu earned his PhD in Demography at the University of Pennsylvania, a Masters in Population and Development at the Australian National University, and a Bachelor of Social Science in Economics and Applied Statistics at the University of Malawi.