

A scenic view of a snow-covered mountain landscape. The foreground is a snow-covered slope with scattered evergreen trees. In the middle ground, there are more snow-covered hills and a valley with a lake. The background shows distant mountains under a bright sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the top part of the image.

Research knowledge in a global perspective, a public good or part of a knowledge apartheid.

*Professor Rune Nilsen
University of Bergen, Norway*

IATUL 14.06.07, Stockholm



Norway, west coast

- 150 years ago, one of the poorest regions in Europe.
 - Leprosy - the indicator disease of **poverty**:
 - Highest prevalence
 - Discovered the bacillus 1876
- Research and knowledge based Water power development: Ferrosilicium, Aluminum, Nitrogen.....
- Research based fishery development
- Research based oil and gas development
- **From a poor back yard to a rich knowledge society**

Why this title - and me?



Professor, Center for International Health(1988-)

- Research Center and International Research School
- The most important research agenda in South:
- Demand on excellence and citations
- Research partnership in Africa and Asia
- Access to research literature very limited in South:
 - Dependant on "AID"
 - Ignorance from North
 - No institutional memory of and access to "own knowledge"



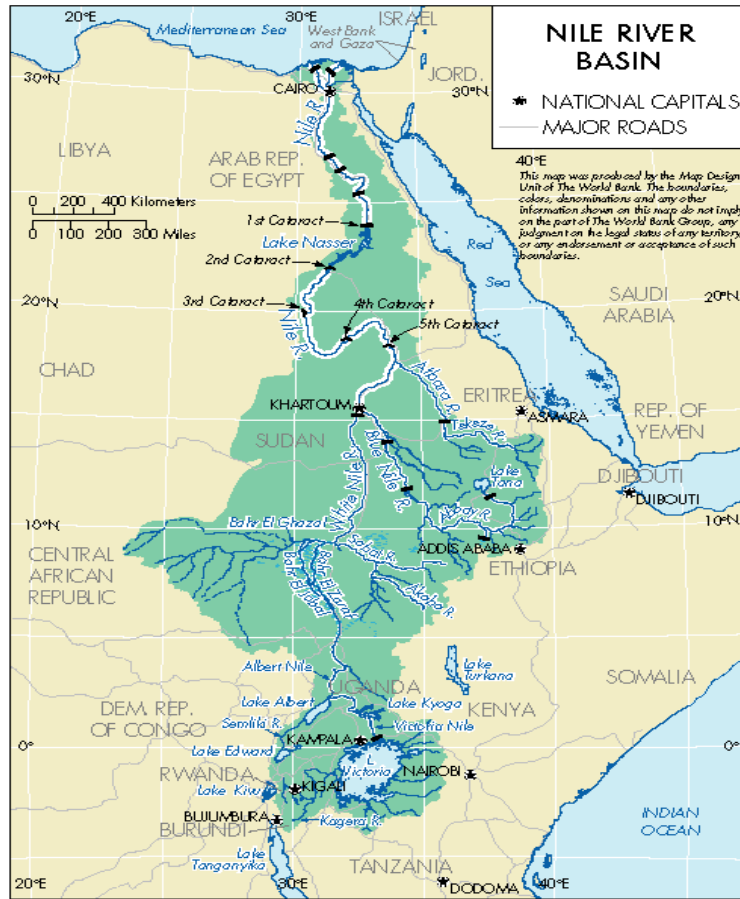
Personal background

Deputy Rector (Vice Chancellor) (2001-2005)

- Evaluations, demands for "Academic Impact"
 - "Lack of citations and high quality publications"
- Budget demands and increased cost for literature
- Lacking institutional memory of own knowledge
- "Open Access" initiative
- Budapest (2001)-Berlin
 - Limited Norwegian involvement- except in Libraries
 - International: NIH...USA, UK, Finland, Ukraina...
 - So: Rectors Conference, + some universities.... and Parliament White Paper (20-2005)
 - EUA Task force (2006---



- ◆ Burundi
- ◆ D.R. Congo
- ◆ Egypt
- ◆ (Eritrea)
- ◆ Ethiopia
- ◆ Kenya
- ◆ Rwanda
- ◆ Sudan
- ◆ Tanzania
- ◆ Uganda



Challenges

- ◆ War and exploitation
 - ◆ Population growth
 - ◆ Climate change
 - ◆ Environment degradation
 - ◆ Exploited natural resources -by others
 - ◆ Lack of collaboration
 - ◆ Poverty, Poverty.....
- “Outside the international knowledge society”**





Personal background

Director "Nile Basin Research programme" (2006-):

- Research center for the 10 countries around The Nile
 - All 10 governments, WB
- Enormous knowledge demand and needs
- Very few senior researchers in very important fields
- Almost total lack of access to international literature
- Very, very few real long term partnerships in research
- A lack tools and legal rights to have an institutional memory of owns knowledge.....
 - Often available in "North" but not in "South"



Personal background

Director "Nile Basin Research Programme "
(2006-):

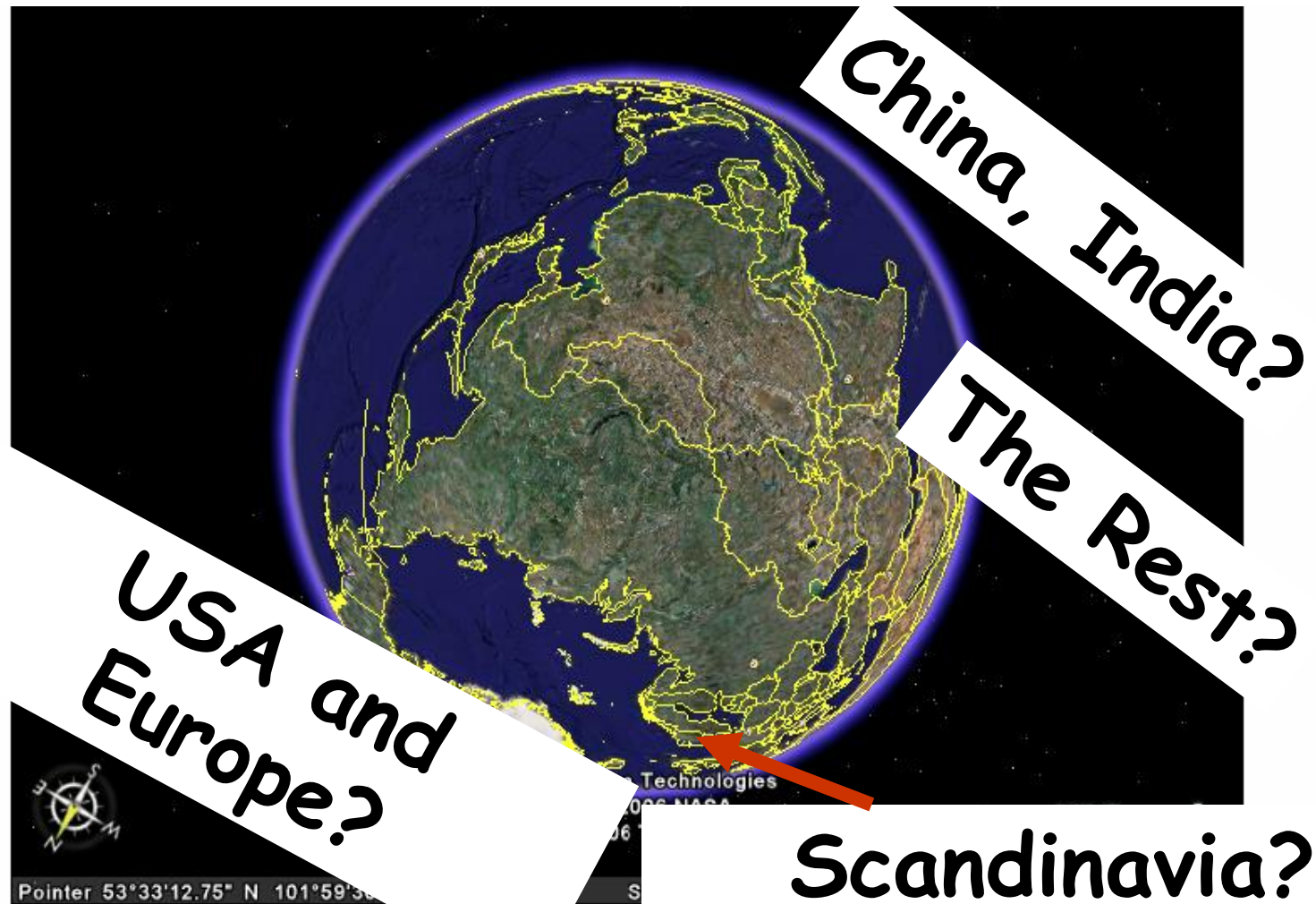
- A framework with a heavy need for:
 - Research and research training
 - Leadership development
 - Knowledge on key issues of the countries
 - Mobility without Brain drain
 - Research publications as a Global Public Good: Health, energy, culture, language.....



What are we talking about?

- **Research:**
 - Part of a research front
 - International standards of quality
 - Research projects and publications
- **Research publications:**
 - Giving New knowledge
 - Reach the international research community ... And the global public
 - Quality controlled by the international research community (Peer Review)
- **Valid and important elements in North,**
- **but from NORTH not considered relevant for SOUTH?**

The International Research Community; What?





Research in a global perspective

- **Research agenda:**

- Global important research questions not raised in North:
- Editor: "*This publications is good, but our readers are not interested in the subject*" ...children, orphans, AIDS, Africa
- Health 10/90 dilemma (WHO)
 - NRC <4% used for the "90%" problems
- Climate studies, very few competent researchers in Africa
 - UN climate panel: Africa most affected
- Oil-Gas; Biotechnology; ICT...underinvested



"10/90 Dilemma in health science"

- *Every year the world spends \$50-60 billion for health research and development.*
- *Only 10% of this is used for research on the health problems of 90% of the world's people.*

The 10/90 Report on Health Research, 1999
Global Forum for Health Research

10/90 dilemma: dilemma in all fields:

health, technology, law, literature, social science and economy....

and Knowledge management and access to literature



October 2004: First edition PLoS Medicine

- “The most reliable medical information on the Internet - the contents of peer-reviewed medical journals - is hidden from the public and most of the world's physicians.
- Although most medical journals are available online, their publishers limit access to those who choose, and can afford, to pay for access. This should not, and need not, be so.”



Research in a global perspective

• Journals, and books

- How many journals and publishing houses in South are indexed and “qualified” and used by North?
 - Do we serve on editorial boards, as referees??
 - Do we subscribe?
 - Do we read and cite?
 - Will a PhD with an article from East African Medical Journal count negatively! Yes!
- Accessibility of “globally ranked journals” in South
 - Expensive, ...and problems of “Bundling”
 - Very selective, by donors
 - Depending on donors: WHO, INASP, bilateral



10/90 dilemma: from 1999 to 2004

Access to knowledge:

- **HINARI**, Health InterNetwork Access to Research
 - free or low cost electronic access to published information (in journals) in biomedicine and related social sciences.
- **INASP-Health**, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Information
 - Increased access to information for health care providers and researchers
- **SHARED** Scientists for Health and Research for Development
 - sharing of information on projects, people, and organizations



Research in a global perspective

- Charters of universities, strategies, degree and quality control systems:
 - Processes made available in South?
 - "Global Bologna", London, May, 2007, Minister meeting addressed this
- "Europe shall be the leading Knowledge region and Knowledge economy" Lisbon declaration
- "The NILE BASIN COUNTRIES should be a knowledge region"
 - Acceptable question?
- Or
- **Already accepted a "KNOWLEDGE APARTEID"**



Main goals:

- Research publications as "**Global Public Good**"
- Research publications giving "**Academic impact**"
 - Accessible
 - Read and cited
 - Institutional
- Or do we accept a *Global Apartheid* on Knowledge
 - One standard and accessibility for North?
 - And a lower standard in South?



Research publications

- OPEN ACCESS approach is the main way to open up
- Stimulate for more OA journals , -also from South
- Establish and use Institutional repositories for all publications in NORTH
- Invite South Institutions and Researchers to use North IR
 - Example Makerere University IR, Uganda



Uganda Scholarly Digital Library



Search DSpace
 Go
[Advanced Search](#)

Makerere University Research Repository >

The Uganda Scholarly Digital Library (USDL) at Makerere

USDL is a collection of scientific research publications from the major science institutions and organizations in Uganda. The pilot phase of the project is based on publications from the Science Faculties at Makerere University, thus the name "Makerere University Research Repository".

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Academic Apartheid, - where do we go?

- **Argue politically for a global agenda on research and higher learning**
 - Global Bologna
 - 10/90 dilemma, initiative WHO/WB
 - Copyright policy development according to OA
 - Stimulate for mobility and not Brain drain
- **Access to knowledge through Open Access**
 - OAJ and IR actively developed and filled by researchers in NORTH
 - IR in South institutions



Academic Apartheid, - where do we go?

- **Real partnership between universities in SOUTH and NORTH**
 - A partnership based on institutional long term commitment
 - On research and capacity building
 - On knowledge management and research publications
- **The academic growing apartheid can be stopped**
 - The challenges on the global climate changes, and some health problems show the possibilities
 - The Open Access movement gives added hopes

Global Knowledge Societies
can break the walls of the
"SCIENTIFIC APARTHEID"

