

ReMade@ARI Talks

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Light Sources Meet Their Responsibility – Outreach To And Inclusion Of Africa

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Multi-disciplinary multi-user facilities like BESSY II are intrinsically drivers welcoming scientists from around the globe and from a variety of research fields (including physics, chemistry, energy research, biology, medicine, cultural heritage, and more).

A look at the worldwide (science and education) landscape reveals a massive imbalance of possibilities. Inequality, poverty, social exclusion and lack of opportunity are strongly interlinked and have one cause in missing opportunities starting from primary schools to universities. Research and education – as important pillars of sustainable development, gender equality, self-determination, self-empowerment – and an alignment of opportunities are the godparents of a peaceful future and of a way to solve global challenges. However, in the past decades, low-and-medium-income-countries were basically excluded from knowledge circulation; most of the knowledge exchange – for example at conferences – took place in the northern hemisphere, coincidentally where almost all large-scale research facilities are located.

In this presentation I would like to shed light on three aspects:

1. Overcoming social and economic imbalances by research and higher education

Globalization brings us all closer together. At the same time, we face a lack of equal opportunities around the globe, disintegration, national self-interest, and in parts a breaking apart of international cooperation. In the project “Light Sources Meet Their Responsibility – Outreach To And Inclusion Of Africa”, I will try to illustrate how international collaboration can build bridges, where the mission of the advancement in science is intermixed with a firm societal commitment.

2. Sustainability of outreach, inclusion, and cooperation programmes

Personal contact is a key ingredient. A proactive offer to deliver information and the willingness to discuss and listen are only a starting point. Here I describe sustainability measures, like twinning programmes, *Country of Honour* activities, internships, and more.

3. IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Discrimination

Fighting any kind of discrimination and going into bat for equal opportunities and inclusion is a prerequisite for successful cooperation. Although science is ruled by objectivity and rationality, thus expected to be impervious to unequal treatment, discrimination still occurs (though mostly un mindfully, unintentionally, and non-deliberately). I will briefly discuss a toolbox of best practices addressing all dimensions of diversity.