

# Culture, International Research Agreements, and Collaboration

By James Casey

One of the central factors impacting the successful negotiation of international research agreements and collaboration is *culture*. Recognizing this, the *International Research Collaborations* project (“I-Group”) of the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) held its second workshop at the National Academy of Sciences on July 29-31, 2013. The workshop “*Culture Matters: An Approach to International Research Agreements*” brought together a broad range of U.S. Government, higher education, and private sector participants to consider cultural dimensions in this space. The workshop followed the very successful July 2010 workshop “*Examining Core Elements of International Research Collaboration: A Workshop*.”

Bringing together nearly 80 participants, the workshop encompassed four tracks and examined their relationships with culture, research, and agreements: 1) People/Human Subjects; 2) Environment and Natural Resources; 3) Science, Engineering, and Manufacturing (SEM); and 4) Agriculture and Animal Issues.



(L to R) Pat Schlesinger, UC Berkeley, Bob Hardy, COGR, and Jim Casey, UNC – Chapel Hill



NCURA members Pat Schlesinger, John Carfora, and Jim Casey moderated plenary sessions centered on wealthy vs. poor underdeveloped countries, urbanization/ecological sustainability/social resilience, and intellectual property, respectively. Participants were highly energized, the discussions were vigorous, and participants are looking forward to future follow-on activities. ■

If you would like to further explore materials from the 2013 and the 2010 workshops, please visit [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/guirr/PGA\\_050827#culture](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/guirr/PGA_050827#culture)



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