IAU project 2009-2010 on The Changing Nature of Doctoral Programmes
Initial Conclusions

Some of the Initial conclusions and recommendations of the IAU Study and Research Seminar that took place at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria, are listed below:

I. Deliberations on the **Place of Doctoral Programmes in the Institutional Research Strategy** called for:
- A better defined strategic planning of Doctoral Programmes within the overall strategic development of each institution;
- The development of strong national research agendas;
- A research mapping exercise at both the institutional and the national levels;
- Better networking and access to research outcomes among sub-Saharan Africa HEIs.

II. Debates on **Doctoral Students’ Supervision, Career Development and Monitoring**, called for:
- The rethinking of doctoral students’ supervision of at sub-Saharan HEIs;
- Development of institutional incentives and administrative follow-up mechanisms in order to assist and coordinate the work of the supervisors better;
- A code of ethics to assist the supervisors in their work;
- The establishment of career resource centres at the institutional level which would also include a career monitoring service as well.

III. Discussions on the **Internationalization of Doctoral Education and Strategic Planning** and the **Role of Data Collection** stressed that:
- Integrated institution-wide and comprehensive information data management systems were an essential tool for strategic planning and institutional management;
- Information management is imperative not only to improve the overall organization and management of Doctoral studies and programmes, but also the internationalization strategies of the institutions themselves;
- Better data collection and management would also lead to a better understanding of what funding mechanisms are required to develop doctoral programmes further;
- Systematic information on collaborations and partnerships in which the HEIs are involved would allow further development of inter-institutional and international collaboration;
- African higher education institutions need to improve their level of knowledge and understanding about each other; in particular, communications between HEIs across the linguistic divides needs to be improved for a better integration of the wealth of knowledge available across the continent, as was the case all through this project.