



**ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries**

**WED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2007 -
WELLBEING IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

This conference held at the University last week 28-30 June was a great success. It put on the international agenda the idea that human wellbeing should be, and can be, the central goal of economic and human development. 180 people attended the conference, from 21 countries with every continent represented. 65 speakers presented papers in 5 Plenary and 15 parallel sessions over the 3 days.

The Friday plenary session on 'Wellbeing as a Goal of Public Policy', featured Felicia Huppert from Cambridge, Nic Marks from the New Economics Foundation and two speakers from DEFRA, the UK Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs. It was chaired by David Walker, the Social Policy Editor of The Guardian, who subsequently wrote an article featuring it in Guardian Unlimited:

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/futureforpublicservices/story/0,,2116754,00.html>

A final round-table on Saturday morning on "Can wellbeing make a difference for global poverty reduction?" proved to be very popular. Chaired by Lawrence Haddad, Director of the Institute of Development Studies, it featured Santosh Mehrotra, Planning Commission, Government of India; Selim Jahan, from the United Nations Development Programme in New York, and Luc Christiaensen, Senior Economist in the East Asia division of the World Bank.

Feedback has been very positive, for example: 'Great conference. Every session I attended was of value - some outstanding. Discussion of some vitally important and powerful issues. Stimulating! Vitalising!'

The conference was organised by the research group Wellbeing in Developing Countries (WeD) at the University of Bath, funded by Economic and Social Research Council.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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