



NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: 24th September 2009

All Enquiries: Dr David Docherty
Chief Executive

Tel: 0207 383 7667 Fax: 0207 383 3433
cihe@cihe-uk.com www.cihe-uk.com

Rewarding research connected to impact and global challenges

CIHE supports the emphasis in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) consultation published by HEFCE on strengthening the 'research environment' and encouraging wider engagement by universities beyond their institution and research disciplines. This will be crucial to expanding the outward reach of our universities, not just as a civic responsibility but as part of contributing to our global competitiveness.

Recent CIHE research shows that research problems in business often require innovative and inter-disciplinary expertise. Dr David Docherty, CIHE Chief Executive said: 'The challenges of climate change, the digital economy, 'new' manufacturing and advances in health care will demand university-business collaboration. Hence the impact may be co-created and co-owned through collaboration by researchers from different disciplines within institutions and with others externally. It is important for the REF to reward this behaviour appropriately and not encourage universities researchers to jealously guard "their research outputs and impacts" for themselves.'

CIHE welcomes the broad intentions of the REF to promote greater collaboration on research between universities and business, and for universities to evidence this through measures of social and economic impact. CIHE's Associate Director for Knowledge Exchange, Philip Ternouth, warned though that universities need to move away from the traditional measures of number of patents, licence income and technology transfer toward a more open-ended set of measures not quantified only by data but by the strength of the relationships that exists between organisations, and more importantly, between individual academics and their partners in business.

Notes for Editors

CIHE

The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) is a high-level network of leaders from a wide range of global businesses, universities and colleges. As a strategic leadership network it leads in developing an agreed agenda on the learning issues at higher education level that affect our international competitiveness, social cohesion and individual development.

Notes for Editors

Enquiries: Dr David Docherty, Chief Executive
The Council For Industry and Higher Education
Studio 11, Tiger House, Burton Street, London, WC1H 9BY
Tel: 020 7383 7667, Fax: 020 7383 3433, Email: cihe@cihe-uk.com