

ABSTRACT OF TALK – “Perspectives of Good Quality, High Impact, and World Class Research”

In many leading universities, emphasis on research cannot be undermined. More often than not, controversy exists on how to attain and measure the quality and impact of research. While world-renowned universities like MIT, Harvard, Berkeley, Princeton, Cambridge, and Oxford have their roots in research excellence, other universities are still striving hard to climb into the "Research Hall of Fame".

Research can exist in many forms. Both positive and negative types of research can create impact. Choices on embarking which type of research are crucial. Incremental research may not bring high returns or high impact. Research that addresses hype or myth may sometimes bring greater impact but they also entail high risks of failure. Large scale research entails high cost, long periods, and multiple parties. Some research fulfill national objectives while others seek for the next frontier in their fields.

In this talk, perspectives on quality, impact, and measures will be presented. Experiences and views from American, Swiss, and Swedish academia will be discussed in this seminar. Possible ways to ensure uniformity in measure and consistency in quality and impact will be presented. Finally, comments on striving for a world class university will be made.