

On the internationalisation of Norwegian research.

Kristin Clemet, Cabinet Minister.

The development of new knowledge has at all times taken place across national borders. The individual craftsman, artist and researcher has moved, learnt from colleagues in other countries and shared his knowledge with others. In this way ideas have been exchanged, skills have been strengthened and knowledge has been built up. Today international contact is more important than ever for research and it is a necessary condition for the further development of the common store of knowledge on which all researchers and nations are dependent. At the same time international research co-operation contributes to increased communication and understanding between countries.

One of this Government's objectives is to put more Norwegian researchers at the forefront of research. As a small country with limited research resources in an increasingly internationalised knowledge market, Norway is totally dependent on international research co-operation. Furthermore with our resources we have a duty to participate in the global development of knowledge.

Norwegian researchers must travel abroad, become visible and create international networks for themselves. At the same time we must make it easier for foreign researchers to come to Norway. We must exploit the coming end of a generation in Norwegian research to create a new generation of researchers with international networks. Norwegian students go abroad as never before. It is therefore important that those who go on to a research career should be encouraged to continue their contacts with communities abroad.

International R&D co-operation proves to advance the quality of our own research. Contact with the international research front is both a stimulus and a corrective. Creating meeting places where Norwegian and foreign researchers can co-operate is therefore of fundamental significance. The Centre for Advanced Study has been, and is, one of the most important instruments of quality in Norwegian basic research. The Centre has become a meeting place for outstanding researchers from many countries, and it has shown results on a high international level. The Centre possesses many qualities that we covet in Norwegian research. Therefore it is important for the Centre to show itself. This jubilee publication is an excellent contribution.

Congratulations on your 10th jubilee!