Impact Report

The Trinity International Development Initiative

2008 - 2011
The Trinity International Development Initiative

The Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI) is the hub of international development at Trinity College.

The Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI) was established in 2007 by researchers, working on international development issues, from across TCD’s three faculties, with the aim of coordinating and promoting Trinity College Dublin’s expanded engagement with research and teaching in international development.

The initiative is currently funded by Irish Aid and the Higher Education Authority (HEA) under the Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and Higher Education and Research Institutes 2007-2011. TIDI is funded as one of the work packages in the project which is entitled “Doctoral Training for Development in Africa”. TCD received a grant of 1.5 million euro for this project. The Schools of Medicine, Psychology and Natural Sciences and the Institute for International Integration Studies provide matched funding and staff time-in-kind to the project. Central college deferred 5% overhead and the Schools deferred all of their overhead (15%) to go back to the project.

The Doctoral Training for Development in Africa Project is an amalgamation of three work packages with the following objectives:

1. To establish North-South doctoral training partnerships and programmes
2. To develop and deliver educational activities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at TCD and
3. To develop the platform of TIDI

TIDI was created as a new institutional platform to manage the multi-disciplinary programme of TCD’s research, teaching and outreach activities in international development. TCD’s investment in such an institutional platform aims to consolidate its already considerable engagement in the area of international development.

Since its inception TIDI has been established as a vibrant organisation within Trinity College Dublin and a valuable resource and contact point not only for researchers within TCD but also for external stakeholders. TIDI has developed strong links with development researchers in other universities, in addition to NGOs and other development organisations. Within college, TIDI has developed:

- The annual PhD Module “Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions”
- The annual Trinity Development Research Week
- The TCD/UCD Development Research Seminar Series
- A vibrant calendar of events with high profile speakers including:
  - Dr. Mary Robinson
  - Prof. Amartya Sen
- A strong online presence including the TIDI website, Facebook and Twitter pages
- Strong partnerships with the internal and external international development community
TIDI's Mission

The purpose of the Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI) is to maximise Trinity College Dublin’s contribution to understanding and addressing the major global development challenges of our time through research, teaching and outreach activities.

TIDI’s Vision

The vision for TIDI is that TCD will be internationally renowned for excellence in development research and education and for the provision of practical solutions to real-world challenges. A vibrant outreach programme will raise awareness among the wider community of development issues and of TCD’s role in addressing these.

TIDI’s Objectives

1. Promote and raise the profile of TCD’s research in international development
2. Enhance the quality and quantity of research on international development across a wide range of disciplines
3. Increase the number and enthusiasm of students at all levels and from both (the global) North and South, learning and undertaking research on international development
4. Undertake outreach activities to promote the above and to:
   a. Deepen and increase the number of teaching and research partnerships with universities and other institutions in low- and middle-income countries.
   b. Increase understanding by the public, government and other stakeholders of the issues and the existing state of knowledge.
5. Firmly establish TIDI as a valued and sustainable resource for all those working on, or interested in, international development at TCD, and a point of engagement for external stakeholders

TIDI’s Core Work

TIDI’s impact is spread across its three key areas of activity:

1. Research
2. Teaching and Training
3. Outreach
**Governance**

The Trinity International Development Initiative is grounded in the TCD Strategic Plan 2009-2014 Item 5.4: “Develop and integrate the College’s international activities in health, development, human rights and cultural diversity. As part of the grand challenge in research of making internationally significant contributions to the creation of a sustainable society, we will promote and strengthen current activities, such as the South Asia Initiative, the [Trinity International Development Initiative](#), the initiative on Climate Justice and the International Doctorate in Global Health, all of which engage Trinity’s expertise in solving pressing world problems. We will continue to facilitate opportunities for migrants to study in Trinity, and to extend Trinity’s academic reach by associating scholars from developing countries with the College. Funding for these initiatives is partly dependent on continued success in philanthropic fundraising”.

**TIDI Steering Committee**

The TIDI Chair and Steering Committee is appointed by the Provost. TIDI reports to the Vice-Provost for Global Relations (formerly the Registrar). The TIDI Steering Committee is made up of representatives of the three TCD faculties, representatives of the Centre for Global Health and Institute for International Integration Studies and additional development projects. There is also an undergraduate and a postgraduate student representative.

- Chair: **David Taylor**, School of Natural Sciences (Health Futures Project)
- Jane Ohlmeyer (VP Global Relations)
- Robbie Gilligan (FAHSS)
- Gus Bell (FEMS)
- Helen Sheridan (FHS)
- Martina Hennessy (Irish Aid/HEA project)
- Padraig Carmody (Master’s in Development Practice)
- Eilish McAuliffe (CGH)
- Louis Brennan (IIIS)
- Clionadh Raleigh (MSc Environment and Development)
- Postgraduate Representative
- Undergraduate Representative

**International Advisory Group**

- Chair: **Dr. Mary Robinson**, Mary Robinson Foundation Climate Justice
- Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University
- Dr. Olive Shisana, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
- Prof. Adrian Hill, Oxford Jenner Institute
- Prof. Nana Poku, University of Bradford
- Tom Arnold, CEO Concern Worldwide
- Prof. Finn Tarp, UNU-WIDER
- Prof. Thandika Mkandawire, London School of Economics
- Prof. Tom Quinn, Johns Hopkins University

**Current Staff, 2011**

- TIDI Coordinator, Sarah Glavey
- TIDI Executive Officer, Nonie Gaynor
- TIDI Research Assistant, Sarah Doyle
- Irish Aid/HEA Doctoral Programme Officer, Dr. Ogenna Uduma
TCD Research Partnership Agreements

- Memorandum of Understanding with Makerere University, Uganda (TCD School of Medicine)
- Memorandum of Understanding with Gulu University, Uganda (TCD School of Medicine)
- Memorandum of Understanding with University of Rwanda (Master’s in Development Practice)

In addition TCD has signed a number of project-specific Research Partnership Agreements including with:

- Partners in The International Doctoral School in Global Health (Indigo)
- The African Economic Research Consortium
- Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources
- Partners in the Healthy Futures Project (FP7 funded)

Associated Researchers

According to the college-wide audit carried out by TIDI in 2008, there are over 100 researchers at TCD who are active in international development research. A full list of these is available at http://www.tcd.ie/tidi/about/associated-staff.php

Researcher Networks/Institutes

- Institute for International Integration Studies (FAHSS)
- Centre for Global Health (FHS)
- Climate Justice Network (FEMS and others)

Research Proposals Supported

- MacArthur Foundation 2009 – Joint Master’s in Development Practice with UCD and University of Rwanda - €640,000 awarded (Teaching proposal).

- Erasmus Mundus 2011 – PI Ken Irvine – for resubmission in 2012
- Irish Aid/HEA 2011 – PI Martina Hennessy – awaiting outcome
- Irish Aid/HEA 2011 – PI Laurence Gill – awaiting outcome
- DFID – Climate Knowledge Network – PI Carol Newman – awaiting outcome
- IRCHSS – PI Clionadh Raleigh – awaiting outcome
- Marie Curie ITN – PI Anna Davies – due for submission in Jan 2012
PhD Research

TIDI has delivered the annual multidisciplinary PhD module ‘Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions’ to a total of 87 students since its inception in 2009. Of these 30 have been from the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Science, 35 from the Faculty of Engineering Mathematics and Science and 22 from the Faculty of Health Sciences. See Appendix below for a list of PhD researchers and their topics.

Publications

TIDI is working with the TCD Library to compile a comprehensive list of publications relating to international development. Sample publications include:

FAHSS


FEMS


FHS

Joint Publications

TCD has a track record of worldwide research collaborations and joint publications. A proportion of these are with partners in low-income countries. TIDI aims to increase the number of joint publications.

TCD Worldwide Collaborations (Joint Publications 2002-2007)

Looking Forward:

TIDI aims to support TCD researchers by
- Assisting in identifying research funding opportunities in collaboration with TCD Research Office.
- Supporting the development of research proposals.
- Managing research projects that are successfully funded.
- Disseminating research outputs.

TIDI will also collate and maintain up-to-date information on development related research at TCD, in collaboration with the Library and Research Support System.
Teaching and Training

TCD offers instruction relating to international development at all education levels within the university. TIDI has led on several innovative additions to teaching within doctoral, master’s and undergraduate programmes.

Doctoral Training:

Annual PhD Module “Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions”

The Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI) offers an annual module for Ireland-based doctoral students entitled “Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions: A multidisciplinary module for Ireland-based doctoral students”.

This is a multidisciplinary module which aims to provide training in the methodological challenges of conducting research in developing countries and to raise awareness among Ireland-based doctoral students about cross-cutting development issues that shape the research environment.

The module is offered in compressed format each November to doctoral students from any discipline who are conducting researching (or preparing for research) in the developing world and/or on topics relating to international development. Other students (e.g. Master’s students) who are considering undertaking research in developing countries are also welcome to apply. While the module is largely aimed at TCD students, a limited number of places are made available for students from other institutions.

Master’s Training:

TIDI Welcome Seminar for TCD Masters Students in Development

In September 2011 TIDI introduced The International Development Student Welcome Seminar. This event aims to bring together students from the three primary development-related Master’s courses within TCD. This is the first time that students of development have come together in this way. Through this session students have the opportunity to network and interact with other students and development researchers. In 2011 seminar was delivered by CEO of Oxfam Ireland, Jim Clarken. Students had the chance to receive first-hand exposure to Oxfam Ireland, the role of research in informing development practice and the work of a development practitioner. This event is also an opportunity for students to learn about TIDI and what the initiative can offer during their postgraduate training.
Undergraduate Training:

Support to Undergraduate module ‘Global Determinants of Health and Development’ taken by all 3rd Year Medical Students

Since 2008, all third-year medical students have been offered a compulsory module entitled ‘Global Determinants of Health and Development’. This is intended to provide a context for their Summer electives which they undertake after third year – approximately 70% of students work in low-income countries. The module is made up of five workshops and common plenary sessions. Guest lectures have been delivered by the International Red Cross, Medicins Sans Frontiers, Suas Educational Development and Concern among others. Student assessment involves the production of a conference-style group poster which is judged by a panel of researchers and NGO colleagues. The winner of the poster competition determines the destination of a donation from the School of Medicine to a charity of their choice.

TCD Students in International Development

Development-related Postgraduate Courses at Trinity College

- INDIGO (International Doctorate in Global Health) (PhD)
- Global Health (M.Sc.)
- Environment and Development (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
- Master in Development Practice (MA)

Many other postgraduate courses are also directly related, for example:

- Master in Laws (LL.M.)
- Master in Education - Foundation Studies Specialism (M.Ed.)
- Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (M.Phil./P.Grad.Dip)
- International Peace Studies (M.Phil./Peace Studies)/P.Grad.Dip
- Race, Ethnicity, Conflict (M.Phil.)
- Applied Social Research (M.Sc.)
- Biodiversity and Conservation (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
- Engineering (Environmental/Structural & Geotechnical/Transport) (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
- Disability Studies (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
- Economics (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
- Environmental Sciences (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
- Finance (M.Sc.)
- International Politics (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)
Masters Students

1. TCD/UCD Masters in Development Practice

   The MDP has been running for two years

   1. 2010/2011 intake 20
   2. 2011/2012 intake 26
   **Total Students:** 46

2. MSc in Global Health

   1. 2005/2006 intake 16
   2. 2006/2007 intake 18
   3. 2007/2008 intake 21
   4. 2008/2009 intake 14
   5. 2009/2010 intake 24 (21 f/t, 3 p/t)
   6. 2010/2011 intake 19 (3 continuing, 2 p/t, 14 f/t)
   7. 2011/2012 intake 20 (1 continuing, 4 p/t, 14 f/t, 1 off books)
   **Total students:** 132

3. Masters in Environment and Development

   The MSc in Environment & Development has been running for three years

   1. 2009/2010 intake 14
   2. 2010/2011 intake 15
   3. 2011/2012 intake 10
   **Total Students:** 39

**Total number of Students Enrolled in Development Masters Programmes 2011:** 105

PhD Students

**Total number of INDIGO Students:** 12

**Total Number of PhD Students who have attended the TIDI PhD Module:** 87

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 seminars</td>
<td>9 seminars</td>
<td>12 seminars</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 attendees</td>
<td>35 attendees</td>
<td>22 attendees</td>
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Looking Forward:

TIDI aims to support teaching and training in international development at TCD by:

- Coordinating and facilitating teaching in international development at doctoral, master’s and undergraduate levels.
- Facilitating educators at TCD to host targeted training courses in international development (these will generate income and be self-financing).
- Collaborating with the TCD/UCD Innovation Academy to introduce partnerships and project work relating to international development to their curriculum.
Outreach

TIDI’s programme of outreach activities includes:

- Annual module for TCD PhD students from all disciplines “Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions”, 2.5 ECTS awarded

- The annual Trinity Development Research Week

- The annual TCD/UCD Development Research Seminar Series

- A vibrant calendar of events with high profile speakers including:
  - Dr. Mary Robinson
  - Prof. Amartya Sen

- The annual Africa Day celebration held on May 25th at Trinity College Dublin.

- A strong online presence including the TIDI website, Facebook and Twitter pages

- Strong links with the internal and external international development community including representation of TCD within national and international networks.

- Partnership visits to African university partners to develop joint research and teaching programmes.
**TIDI Programme of Events: Attendance Figures 2008/2011:**

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<tr>
<td>TCD/UCD Development Research Seminar Series</td>
<td>13 seminars</td>
<td>12 seminars</td>
<td>5 seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity Development Research Week</td>
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<td>November 2009:</td>
<td>4 events</td>
<td>7 events</td>
<td>15 events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional TIDI Events</td>
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<td>2008/2009:</td>
<td>11 events</td>
<td>14 events</td>
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<td>2010/2011:</td>
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**Total Number of TIDI Events 2009/2011:** 128

**Total Number of Attendees at TIDI Events:** 5,937

Figure 1: Attendance at TIDI Events
TIDI Website

The TIDI website is an important channel of communication both internally, within college, and externally. The website is interactive, containing a wide range of information on TIDI, its governance structure, the events that it organises and projects it supports. Content is regularly updated and the website itself was redesigned in 2010 to be more user-friendly.

- The TIDI Website ranks No. 1 in Google search results for “International Development + Dublin”.
- TIDI has recorded a total of just under 15,000 visits in 2010/2011.
**TIDI Fortnightly Bulletin**

The TIDI Fortnightly Bulletin is one of TIDI’s key offerings, providing a service to the development community both within TCD and externally. The bulletin provides information on upcoming development-related activities both at TCD and outside college including seminars, conferences, funding opportunities, internships, scholarships and more.

*The TIDI Bulletin currently has a circulation of 1,354 subscribers.*

TIDI Bulletin Subscribers:

- 2009: 800 subscribers
- 2010: 1000 subscribers
- 2011: 1354 subscribers

**Social Media**

Since its inception, TIDI has adapted to the changing online communications landscape and the evolving needs of its audiences, in particular TCD students. With this in mind TIDI has established a dynamic Facebook page and Twitter account.

**Facebook Statistics:**

- Increase of 119% New Likes in 2011
- 22,818 Post Views since inception
- Demographic:
  - 79% of TIDI’s Facebook Followers under 34 years of age
  - 38% of followers aged 18-24
  - 41% of followers aged 25-34
More recently TIDI has also created a Flickr account for uploading photos from TIDI’s activities.

Partnerships and Networks

TIDI plays a role in managing relationships with partners, both nationally and internationally, including partners involved in key projects such as the Irish Aid/HEA funded project ‘Doctoral Training for Development in Africa’ and the Master’s in Development Practice. In addition TIDI staff represent TCD within networks including: Development Studies Association Ireland, Irish African Partnership for Research Capacity Building, Eurolife, European Academic Global Health Alliance, Network of Humanitarian Work Psychology.

TIDI Leads Partnership Visit of TCD Researchers to Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Researchers from TCD’s three faculties with President Admasu of Addis Ababa University and colleagues. In December 2011, TIDI led a delegation of five researchers to Ethiopia to investigate the feasibility of developing the existing partnership between the universities to incorporate further joint research and teaching programmes. The visit was funded by the TCD Association and Trust. It is intended that a memorandum of understanding will be developed between the two institutions and signed in 2012.
**Looking Forward:**

TIDI will to continue to promote TCD’s profile in international development by:

- Developing networks with key research institutions internationally
- Identifying and developing strategic teaching and research partnerships e.g. with Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- Hosting a programme of high profile development research and practice seminars to engage the development community and the general public.
- Increasing TCD’s representation in key national and international networks such as the Development Studies Association of Ireland and the European Academic Global Health Alliance.

**What is Unique about TIDI?**

TIDI is an ambitious and innovative initiative which is unique in a number of ways:

- **Its depth and breadth** – the initiative is multi-disciplinary and crosses all faculties within the university
- **The strong links it fosters across the development network** - since its inception TIDI has formed a large number of links internally and externally between TCD researchers, researchers in other universities, the NGO community and the wider development community
- **The initiative is a collaboration** between academic units at TCD including the School of Medicine, the Centre for Global Health, the Institute for International Integration Studies, the School of Psychology and the School of Natural Sciences
- **The diversity of the work TIDI undertakes** – from large scale public events and seminars to coordinating doctoral programmes and supporting research
- **Its expertise in establishing and coordinating an international PhD programme** – with knowledge of the international student experience from admission and visa applications to accommodation, stipends and foreign travel.
- **It’s strength in working in partnership** with others – from researchers and institutes to other universities and NGOs
- **Its unique knowledge base of developing partnerships and MOUs with Southern universities** – including Makerere University in Uganda, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, the University of Malawi and Ibadan University in Nigeria.
- **Innovative teaching programmes** developed by TIDI – these are offered to students of all levels, such as the module for PhD students ‘Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions’.
- **Its success in assisting TCD to coordinate research bids** – including the successful bid to the MacArthur Foundation as well as bids to Erasmus Mundus, Irish Aid/HEA and others.
- **Success of the TIDI fortnightly bulletin** - the TIDI Bulletin is regarded by many in the development arena as a valued source of information on development-related activities
- **Leadership potential of TIDI** - potential to be seen as the leading resource and source of information on international development in Ireland
Sample Testimonials

8-12 November 2010: PhD Module “Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions”
“The course exceeded my expectations. I have learnt much throughout the week that will benefit my research design, fieldwork and analysis. I feel better equipped to undertake research in a development setting”

TCD PhD Student

25th May 2011: Africa Day
“...I wanted to thank you very specially for the excellent support, planning and organization of all the Africa Day event. All worked beautifully. Every detail was taken care of.”

Marcella Villarreal, FAO, Rome

5th July 2011: Book Launch of “The New Scramble for Africa”
“.....I was delighted with the event. My sincere thanks. “

Dr. Padraig Carmody, Lecturer, TCD

MSc Student perspective

“Undoubtedly TIDI has been a tremendous aid to both myself and my classmates in networking, discovering opportunities available to us and most of all finding support and encouragement amongst our peers. Needless to say TIDI has been an invaluable part of my MSc and would be a grave loss to any student studying in development related courses. I sincerely hope that TIDI events and fortnightly newsletters can continue to benefit other students in the coming years”

Ciara Commins, MSc Environment and Development Student, TCD
TIDI Budget

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<td><strong>Activities Budget</strong></td>
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<td>Partnership Building and Networking</td>
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<td>Outreach and Dissemination</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Notes to accompany budget:

1. TIDI Chair buy-out of teaching time
2. See below for description of TIDI full-time roles
3. Teaching and Training budget includes the annual module offered to PhD students and set-up costs for additional training offerings (which will become self-funding).
4. Partnership Building and Networking budget includes attendance at briefing sessions for EU and international funding opportunities, one partnership visit per year, and funding to participate in additional networking opportunities on behalf of TCD.
5. Outreach and Dissemination budget includes the annual Trinity Development Research Week, TCD/UCD Seminar Series and Africa Day.
6. Consumables budget includes office and staff training costs.

TIDI Core Staff – Roles and Responsibilities:

**International Development Research Manager** (Administrative Officer Level)
Chief responsibility to support TCD researchers working on international development research.

- Work with TCD Research Office to identify funding opportunities
- Support development of research proposals.
- Project management for grants acquired
- Coordinate and facilitate teaching and training offerings.

**International Development Research Officer** (Executive Officer Level)
Chief responsibility to support research administration and the delivery of TIDI’s teaching, training and outreach activities.

- Support dissemination of research activities including maintenance of TIDI website and social media
- Organise TIDI’s programme of outreach activities
- Support partnership and networking activities.
- General administrative support to TIDI’s activities.