The False Wars in Science Policy-Making
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The Apparent Contradictions in Proportioning Support Between Excellence, Capacity Building and Relevance are just that: Apparent and not real.
Roles are intertwined and this is seen best in hindsight.
Yet, can we continue with the Luxury of Hindsight?

We seem to live in extraordinarily pressing times and we need to act now.
In a world beset with problems how should we plan our science-investment?

The Answer is Simple: .....
But, first a story, the story of Biology and how it is both the messenger and the message.
Cancer

Wnt and cancer

A male blue butterfly of the genus Lycaeides

Vladimir Nabokov and butterflies

"On Discovering a Butterfly."
The 1943 poem (by Vladimir Nabokov) begins

I found it and I named it, being versed
in taxonomic Latin; thus became
godfather to an insect and its first
describer — and I want no other fame.
Charles Darwin
1809-1882

Beagle trip
1835
1866
Paper on peas.

1859.
Darwin, Origin of Species.
The Indian Institute of Science, registered in 1909

Jamsetji Tata
Founder
Three new directions:
1. Undergraduate Programmes
2. New campus
3. Clinical research interactions

P. Balaram, Director, Indian Institute of Science
The History of Science Illustrates the Intertwining of Excellence, relevance and capacity building.

Seen in Hindsight. But the situation seems pressing today, is hindsight sufficient?
The Problems the World Faces, Seem Huge and Insurmountable.
Food Security

http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2012/jul/10/food-security-index#zoomed-picture
Tuberculosis
Malaria

http://www.nobelprize.org/educational/medicine/malaria/readmore/global.html
Dengue

Global evidence consensus, risk and burden of dengue in 2010

Japanese Encephalitis Virus

http://www.ufrgs.br/imunovet/molecular_immunology/pathoviruses.htm
Lymphatic Filariasis

http://www.stanford.edu/class/humbio153/InteractiveMaps/index.html
Children under 5 years with stunted growth

% Children Under 5 With Stunted Growth

- 47% in South Asia
- 39% in Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: Save the Children
Poverty
Global adult literacy according to the CIA Factbook.
Corruption
Where do we invest our modest resources?

Should we not sort out the basics before we deal with the ‘luxuries’?
This is a false choice

At least in Biology
What then is the Real Choice?
Past imperfect, Present Tense, Future Ours
The Moral Choice...
Is the Same as the ‘Knowledge Economy’ Choice
Is the same as the Capacity Building (for the Future) Choice
While We Cut Our Coat
According to Our Cloth

The Catalytic Nature of Success in Science allows us to make a great future even when life is tough!!