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18 August 2014

UNESCO senior official to discuss higher education's role in 'knowledge economy'

Dr Rajesh Tandon to present UCT Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture on 26 August 2014 at 18h00 in Kramer Lecture Theatre 3, Middle Campus

In an age where global regimes of intellectual property rights are incentivising private gains from knowledge production, how has higher education been positioning itself? Dr Rajesh Tandon, Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community-based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, will address this question when he presents the University of Cape Town Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture, titled "Knowledge Democracy: Reclaiming Voice for All".

Dr Tandon will speak on Tuesday, 26 August 2014, at 18h00 in Kramer Lecture Theatre 3, Cross Campus Road, Middle Campus, UCT.

According to Dr Tandon, development in the 21st century has been driven by the "knowledge economy"; governments are developing policies to harness knowledge for economic growth.

In his lecture, he will raise a series of questions on how meaningful and contextually appropriate the concepts and tools utilised to produce knowledge in higher education institutions are. He will also explore how widespread the practice of co-construction of knowledge is, and look at how future generations of higher education students may learn from local indigenous practices.

Media who wish to attend the event, should RSVP to Kemantha Govender by 25 August 2014 at kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za or 021 650 5672.

About Dr Rajesh Tandon

In addition to being the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Co-Chair, Dr Tandon is the co-editor of the Global University Network for Innovation Report on "Engagement, Knowledge & Higher Education: Rethinking Social Responsibility" (2014). He is also the co-founder and president of Participatory Research in

Asia (PRIA), New Delhi. Under his leadership and over the past 32 years, PRIA has been working towards empowering the poor and marginalised to collectively claim their rights and organise for self-reliant development.

A pioneer in innovative methodologies in participatory research, participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation, Dr Tandon has over the past 35 years provided leadership to the governing boards of dozens of national and international civil society organisations. These include the United Nations Development Programme, The World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Volunteers, World Health Organization and International Labour Organization.

Dr Tandon has contributed frequently to scholarly journals, practitioner manuals and audio-visuals. He authored and co-edited several books, of which the most recent include: *Globalising Citizens* (2010), *Civil Society & Governance* (2003), *Reviving Democracy* (2003) and *Voluntary Action, Civil Society & the State* (2002).

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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