



Article from Prime Minister's Office

# Both incentives and motivation needed to ensure learning becomes reality in the workplace

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Supplying skills to the labour market, and to society at large, has been a recurring issue since the Government's National Innovation Council started meeting in 2015. When the Council met on 28 May at Harpsund, the meeting opened with the issue of lifelong learning in the workplace.

Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson summarises the discussions from the meeting: "Sweden has a strong starting position. The Swedish model means that we encourage and facilitate labour market adjustment. Both central government and the social partners take considerable responsibility in this. However, digitalisation and globalisation place major demands on skills development and learning in the workplace."

## **What is important to consider in the work going forward?**

"The discussion emphasised the importance of business managers giving skills issues greater weight and of strengthening cooperation between working life and education providers. Both incentives and motivation are needed to ensure learning becomes reality in the workplace," says Ms Johansson.

## **What will the workplaces of the future look like?**

"New opportunities to acquire new skills must be available to more people, for example through using online courses or other flexible means of

customising and making education accessible for concrete needs. But to ensure that these new skills benefit both the individual and the workplace, a good, supportive learning environment is important," says Ms Johansson.

In the current public debate, there is considerable engagement and interest in the issue of learning, lifelong learning and skills supply. Increasingly greater demands are being made today on continuous learning throughout one's entire working life, but how is this need being addressed in the labour market and at individual workplaces? What characterises a learning workplace?

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson, one of the government members of the National Innovation Council, explains more from the meeting.

**Could you give a brief summary of what the meeting concluded on this particular point? A concrete example to think about in the work going forward?**

"It was an exciting discussion, including many well-informed contributions and good, concrete proposals. Technological developments in digitalisation and automation are resulting in new demands on knowledge and skills in working life. The days when it sufficed to acquire an education at the start of one's career are gone," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

"It's clear that we need a holistic approach to education and learning, where every part is needed to ensure a good overall outcome. Continuous learning in the workplace needs to be developed and regarded more as the strategic issue it actually is.

**What is most important to ensure the success of lifelong learning?**

"From the perspective of higher education, I believe that collaboration between educational institutions and companies must improve. Close cooperation is required to develop the courses the business sector needs and help increase access to the courses currently offered. The development of courses for professionals, digital learning and skills validation opportunities are important parts of the overall picture. More people will need to change their career path or acquire new skills and knowledge throughout their working life. This is why opportunities to study at higher education institutions later in life must increase. We are now working in a coordinated way on a number of education-based reforms throughout the country and through all stages of life. One major reform is expanding higher education

throughout the country through resources equivalent to almost 25 000 new places by 2021.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

# Innovation partnership programmes impact Swedish innovative environments

Published 04 September 2017

The collaborations, initiatives and projects that have resulted so far from the five innovation partnership programmes were presented when the National Innovation Council met on Monday 28 August. Together, the project managers and the Council looked to the future and discussed critical success factors, goals and opportunities for developing these partnerships. The experiences of partnership working, where the business sector, academia and organisations work together strategically, were highlighted and discussed by the Council.

The innovation partnership programmes originated from the three social challenges that the National Innovation Council highlighted at the beginning of the electoral period: digitalisation, life sciences, and environmental and climate technologies. The Council has followed the work over the year and provided input, stressing for example the importance of joining forces to increase skills supply.

The innovation partnership programmes were launched on 1 June 2016. The partnership groups associated with the programmes focused on identifying challenges and opportunities for each programme and priority setting of important areas for joint action. Several working groups have been established and a number of concrete partnership projects have been

developed.

Within the framework of a partnership project, available public resources and co-financing from the business sector can be used jointly to meet specified priorities. Even so, the Government has provided additional funds for measures related to the innovation partnership programmes, including through the Research and Innovation Bill adopted by the Riksdag in early 2017. These funds are primarily channelled through programmes and calls for projects from the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Research Council Formas.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Education and Research

# “Space activities can and should contribute to a functioning society”

Published 23 November 2016 Updated 05 December 2016

Space is the focus of the National Innovation Council meeting on 24 November 2016. Minister Helene Hellmark Knutsson provides an update on the Government's work in the area of space. Space activities can and should contribute to a functioning society. They should also be a tool for development and innovation, leading to growth. These were the proposals of the Space Inquiry's report, which was presented to Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson in September 2015.

## What is the most important thing happening at the moment in the Government's work in the area of space?

The Research Bill is now ready for a government decision and will be presented on Monday 28 November. One important section of the Bill deals with space and its importance for environment and climate work, and how satellite data gives us better conditions to tackle the threat of climate change. On the basis of last year's Space Inquiry, we have tasked Jan Nygren with gathering knowledge about market needs and conditions for developing the Swedish space centre Espace to be able to send small satellites into orbit. Less than a month ago, I received his internal report, which we will now analyse and also discuss in the Innovation Council.

There are several exciting projects under way in the area of space, in both

Sweden and Europe, where a few processes are ongoing that will be of major significance to Swedish and European space activities in the future. The Commission presented its Space Strategy for Europe a few weeks ago, and it will be discussed at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council next week and then dealt with in the Council in the spring. Sweden will play an active role to ensure that its implementation is efficient, within budget and effective. Parallel to this, intensive work is under way at the European Space Agency, and the first ministerial meeting in two years will take place in early December to determine the programme and budget priorities for several years to come.

**The Space Inquiry proposes that space activities should be 'a tool for development and innovations leading to growth'. Can you elaborate on this and give some concrete practical examples?**

There are many examples of how space activities contribute to development and innovations that are of interest to many other sectors. Development and innovations from the space sector are often tools or levers for other societal functions. Already today, we benefit from many space-related services in our everyday lives without even realising it. Let me mention perhaps the clearest growth opportunity, namely new services and companies that can grow by creating added value from the enormous amounts of satellite data that is generated and downloaded to earth day and night. Companies with advanced services for agriculture, banking, retail trade, crisis management and navigation, etc. have grown in recent years, and as it becomes possible to gather more kinds of data, new innovative and pioneering services will be created. Another example is that the research that is possible in the weightlessness of space can lead to new discoveries in material physics or medical research, for example, which in turn provide growth potential. The advanced technological and industrial development needed to design and produce space technology also benefits other sectors of society in the long run. Finally, the interest in technology and science that space inspires among young people means that more people in the long run will study engineering or enter research.

**How can the National Innovation Council help space activities provide greater benefit for society?**

The members of the National Innovation Council have a great deal of

experience and expertise. They come from different backgrounds and areas of activity and have a good chance of seeing how opportunities created in one area – in this case space activities – can generate growth, innovation opportunities and jobs in other business sectors. The fact that the National Innovation Council has such firm political support from the Prime Minister and four ministers is a good indication that good ideas that come up during the meetings can be implemented more quickly and can contribute to Sweden's development and reindustrialisation. The National Innovation Council also receives a lot of media attention that can be focused on particularly interesting opportunities, which can have a knock-on effect and provide unexpected exchange of ideas and in the long run synergies.





Article from Ministry of Education and Research

# Research facility MAX IV in Lund inaugurated

Published 21 June 2016 Updated 21 June 2016

On 21 June, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven together with HM The King inaugurated synchrotron light source MAX IV in Lund.

MAX IV is a sort of microscope for studying the make-up, qualities and functions of various materials by means of intense X-rays (synchrotron light). The light used has an energy and intensity that is greater than at any other similar facility in the world. The laboratory is currently the world's most modern facility for synchrotron light. It is expected that 2 000 international researchers will come to MAX IV every year to conduct experiments in material and life sciences, which will benefit international research. In the laboratory, you can study atoms and molecules that are only a few tenths of a nanometre in diameter, which will provide completely new knowledge of the make-up and functioning of our world. The facility is expected to be used as a powerful research tool in biology, chemistry, physics, medicine and more. This research can later be used to produce new medicines, new smart materials, etc.

"Research ventures such as MAX IV are very important for Sweden and for the Government's ambition for Sweden to be one of the world's foremost research countries and a leading knowledge nation. Looking ahead, Max IV will provide a unique top-class research environment that can attract international researchers and also benefit Swedish research and innovation," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.



Article from Ministry of Education and Research

# Visit from Japan and Canada

Published 15 December 2015 Updated 15 December 2015

**Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson received ministers from Japan and Canada last Friday.**

Dr Tsutomu Tomioka, Japan's State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology was in Sweden in connection with the Nobel Prize; two of this year's laureates are Japanese.

The ministers discussed Japan's research successes, the fruitful research collaboration between Sweden and Japan and potential areas for future cooperation. Both countries are very positive about their collaboration, which they would like to see deepened and developed.

Japan and Sweden have had a technology and science cooperation agreement since 1999. Sweden and Japan are facing a number of common challenges, including an ageing population and the impact of globalisation, which require major research investments.

Canada's Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan also visited Ms Hellmark Knutsson. Ms Duncan was also in Sweden to celebrate this year's Canadian Nobel Prize laureate.

Ms Duncan took up her post in November after Canada's change of government. During the meeting with Ms Hellmark Knutsson, Ms Duncan spoke about the upcoming Swedish Research Bill, the role of science in decision-making and research collaboration.

The most timely area for research collaboration is polar research. Sweden and Canada have also entered into an Arctic research partnership through a joint expedition with Swedish research vessel Oden in mid-2016.



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Article from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to meet Bangladesh education minister

Published 10 September 2015 Updated 10 September 2015

Today, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will meet Bangladesh Minister for Education Nurul Islam Nahid for a meeting at the Ministry of Education and Research.

The ministers will discuss issues concerning education policy, Sweden-Bangladesh relations and education assistance.

While in Sweden, Mr Nahid will also take part in a panel debate at Stockholm University, and visit the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Karlstad University.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## Indian State Visit concluded

Published 04 June 2015 Updated 04 June 2015

On the evening of 2 June, India's President Shri Pranab Mukherjee left Sweden following a State Visit of three days. The President was in Sweden at the invitation of HM the King. The Government was represented, with the majority of ministers participating. The main themes of the visit were innovations and sustainable development, with a focus on urban development, science and research.

India is one of the leading countries in Asia, the world's fourth largest economy and an emerging global actor. The State Visit by the Indian President – the first ever – was therefore an important milestone in our bilateral relations.

The State Visit began on Sunday with the traditional welcoming ceremony at the Inner Courtyard of the Royal Palace. The King and the President inspected a guard of honour from the Life Guards and many members of the Government, as well as other Swedish public representatives, were present to welcome the President.

Monday began with a visit to the Riksdag, where the President was received by the Speaker of the Riksdag and met with Members of the Riksdag.

In the morning, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven also received the President for talks at Rosenbad. Mr Mukherjee and Mr Löfven discussed issues such as growing trade between Sweden and India and broad bilateral cooperation covering such areas as the environment, renewable energy and health. Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson, Minister for Foreign

Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan also took part in the talks.

In connection with the meeting at Rosenbad, a number of agreements between India and Sweden were signed, including a memorandum of understanding on sustainable urban development. The aim of the memorandum of understanding is to promote cooperation on matters concerning sustainable and integrated urban planning and land use, waste management, sustainable transport systems, water and sanitation.

Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan joined the President and the King later in the afternoon for a boat tour of Hammarby Sjöstad. During the boat tour, a roundtable discussion was held with business representatives on how cities can be built in more sustainable and environmentally friendly ways.

Sustainable cities in focus during the Indian State Visit

Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research, was present at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, when a number of cooperation agreements were signed between Indian and Swedish higher education institutions.

On Monday evening, the King and Queen hosted a gala dinner for the President.

## Visit to Karolinska Institutet and Uppsala University

The theme on Tuesday, the final day of the visit, was mainly research and science. Minister Helene Hellmark Knutsson was in attendance when the President and the King and Queen visited Karolinska Institutet. The focus lay on scientific cooperation, and included visits to Nobel Forum and Aula Medica. The President was also given a presentation of Nya Karolinska Solna (NKS) and Hagastaden.

Before lunch, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg took part in a roundtable discussion between representatives of the Swedish and Indian business sectors. The President and the King were also present.

Mr Damberg gave a speech entitled *India-Sweden Partnership – Co-creating a Brighter Future*.

In connection with the business forum, the President announced that Swedish passport holders will now be granted an 'eTourist visa' when visiting India, leading to more expedient visa handling for Swedish citizens.

In the afternoon, the President visited Uppsala University together with Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. Ms Wallström gave the opening address and the President held a lecture on the theme 'Tagore and Gandhi: Do they have contemporary relevance for Global Peace?'

Speech by Margot Wallström at Uppsala University

On Tuesday evening, Ms Wallström was in attendance when Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel bid farewell to the President at Arlanda airport.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Historic State Visit from India

Published 28 May 2015 Updated 28 May 2015

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will pay a State Visit to Sweden from 31 May to 2 June 2015 at the invitation of His Majesty the King. The Government will be represented, with the majority of ministers participating. The main themes of the visit are innovations and sustainable development, with a focus on urban development, science and research.

India is one of the leading countries in Asia, the world's fourth largest economy and an emerging global actor. The State Visit by the Indian President – the first ever – is an important milestone in our bilateral relations.

## Focus of the State Visit

The focus of the State Visit will be on creating conditions for greater exchange in the areas of trade and science, and strengthening Sweden's presence in the Indian market.

There is growing demand in India concerning issues such as innovation, urban development and sustainable development. The State Visit will provide the opportunity to promote potential business opportunities in these areas in both directions.

Sweden already has broad cooperation with India in a number of areas: environment, renewable energy, research, health, etc. This cooperation will be deepened further in connection with the visit, which will include the signing of a number of cooperation agreements.

## Programme points

India's President will land in Stockholm on Sunday afternoon and will be welcomed at Arlanda Airport by Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel. The King and Queen will receive the President at the Royal Mews for a horse-drawn cortège to the Royal Palace, where the traditional welcoming ceremony will take place. Representatives of the Riksdag and the Government will be present.

Monday's programme will begin with a visit to the Riksdag and a meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will then welcome the President at Rosenbad. Stockholm City will host a lunch at Stockholm City Hall, during which sustainable urban development will be the focus of discussions. The afternoon programme will continue along the same theme with a visit to Hammarby Sjöstad. Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan will take part. In the evening, the King and Queen will host a banquet at the Palace.

The theme for Tuesday will be research and science, with a visit to Karolinska Institutet, with Minister for Higher Education and Research Helène Hellmark Knutsson in attendance. This will be followed by seminars and meetings with Swedish and Indian business representatives. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg will also take part in the programme.

The programme will continue in the afternoon in Uppsala, where the President will deliver a speech at Uppsala University. Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will be present.

The State Visit will conclude late on Tuesday afternoon.

Follow the visit on social media: use #sweindia2015





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Article from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to meet Cambodia's education minister

Published 25 May 2015 Updated 25 May 2015

Today, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will meet Cambodia's Minister of Education, Youth and Sport Dr Hang Chuon Naron. They will meet at the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research to discuss higher education and research.

Since the 1980s, Sweden has provided support to programmes for increased access to high-quality primary education for poor children. We have been one of the largest donors and have played a major role in the area of education in Cambodia. In the current strategy, Sweden has decided to increase its support to include upper secondary and higher education.

Dr Naron is visiting Sweden on 25–26 May along with a delegation from the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.



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Article from Ministry of Education and Research

# New research agreement between Sweden and the United States

Published 20 May 2015 Updated 21 May 2015

Today, Sweden - via the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat - is signing a new research agreement with the United States. The agreement will result in two major joint research expeditions to the Arctic and positive synergies for Swedish polar and climate research.

"Our collaboration means that we will get more research for our money. If more countries use the Swedish icebreaker Oden, it can do polar expeditions at more frequent intervals, more measurements can be carried out and the researchers can form new partnerships. This will benefit research and the climate, and create jobs," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.