

Evaluation
Of the International Symposium – cum – Workshop
Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalisation and Locality:
Challenges and Options for Networking in Southeast Asia
September 18-22, 2000 in Bogor – Indonesia

Subsequent to the Symposium – cum –Workshop and before the closing ceremony, the alumni were requested to evaluate the Symposium by filling in a questionnaire, that had been prepared to ask about the perceptions of the participants.

Since the symposium had been following two closely interrelated objectives, namely the scientific exchange and the networking, it was important to prove whether the objectives of the Symposium had been clear to the participants and if so, whether the goals had been achieved at the end of the symposium and the results were satisfactory. Furthermore, it was of importance to ask about the perceptions of the participants in terms of contents of the scientific meeting and the networking groups' meeting. Finally the organisation, plan, the communication pattern and the atmosphere of the symposium were subjects to evaluation. Three open questions were put at the end of the questionnaire to find out what especially had been appreciated, what had been missed by the participants and what were their suggestions for the symposium, which will take place next year.

The results of this evaluation (N=59) are quite encouraging. The average values of the different aspects lie, with a very small standard deviation (s. Table 1, relatively high. Especially interesting is the clearness of the symposium's objectives at the beginning, which seemed not to be very easy from the organising committee's viewpoint. It was clear to the participants that the symposium aimed at the establishment and maintenance of a network in favour of scientific and organisational co-operation between individuals, universities and societies of different cultures and in accordance with the objectives of the supporting institution, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

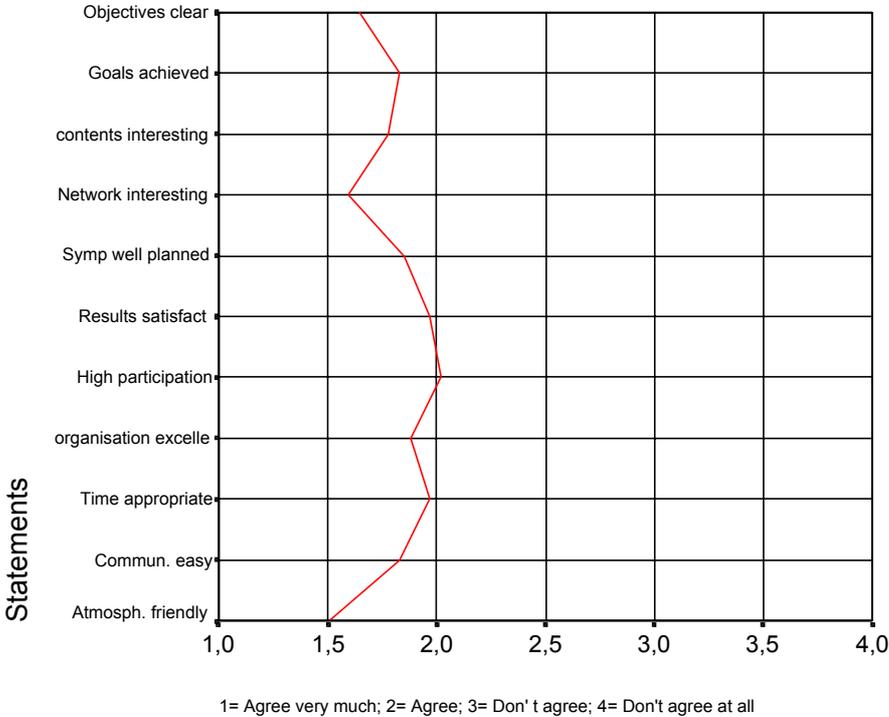
Tab.1: Standard deviation, average and median of the statements

Statement	Average	Median	Standard Deviation
Objectives were clear	1,64	2,0	0,60
Goals achieved	1,83	2,0	0,59
Contents (Sci.)	1,78	2,0	0,72
Contents (Net.)	1,59	2,0	0,59
Plan	1,84	2,0	0,63
Results	1,96	2,0	0,64
Participation	2,01	2,0	0,62
Organisation	1,88	2,0	0,61
Time schedule	1,96	2,0	0,61
Communication	1,83	2,0	0,49
Atmosphere	1,50	1,0	0,53

High values of the atmosphere of the symposium, of the contents of the networking and the clearness of the objectives are impressive, whereas the participation of the participants, the time schedule and the results lie lower from the participants' point of view.

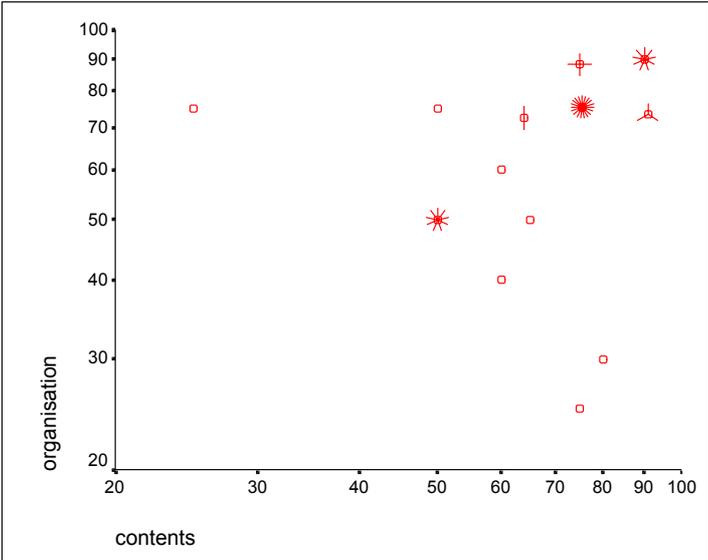
The following figure makes the profile of the evaluation in terms of the aggregated statements mentioned in the questionnaire clear once more.

Fig 1: Profile of the evaluation in terms of given statements



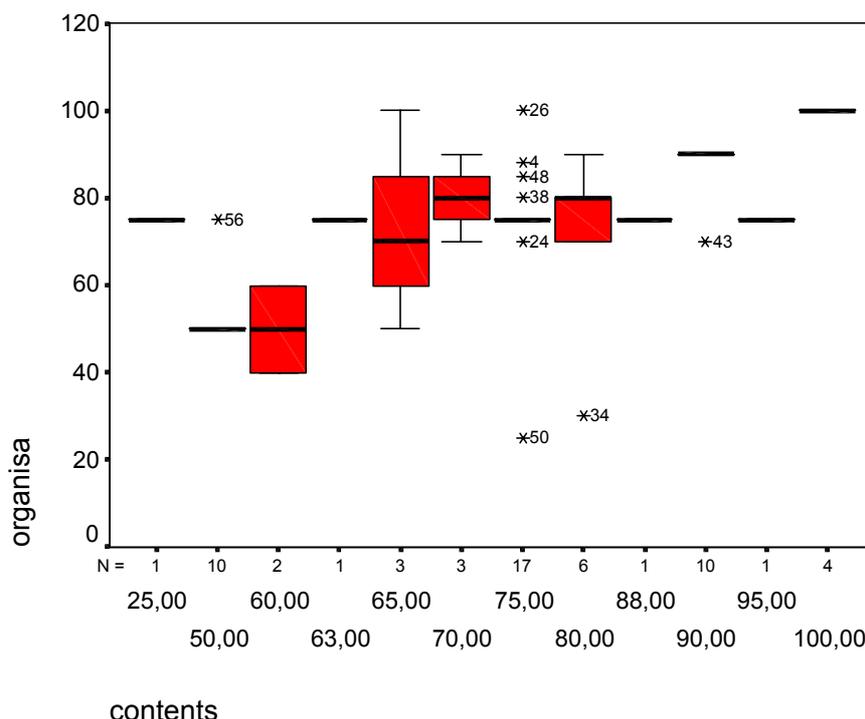
The participants were asked to identify a point on a diagram, where they liked to rate the value of the contents and the organisation of the symposium simultaneously. The results are demonstrated in fig. 2 and fig. 3.

Fig.2: Value of the contents and organisation of the symposium



The radiations in the sunflowers refer to the number of the cases. As it can be observed from the figure the highest probabilities lie at 80% each. There are also cases of 100% of the organisation and the contents visible (s. questionnaire).

Fig. 3: Boxplot of organisation and contents of the symposium



The participants appreciated very much the special attention and the full dedication of the organising committee and „the great job“ that they had done (37x), the actuality of presented papers (16x), the agenda and the comprehensive approach of the symposium (8x), the web-based collaboration and networking (7x), the achievement of goals in a short time (5x), the accommodation and the food (9x), internationality/regionalty (3x), involved organisations (2x).

The participants missed a „more advanced topic of Symposium“, more information, more participants from Southeast Asian regions, understanding of presentations, more general scientific contributions (they were partly very specific), enough time, reaction of participants after heavy issues, time for sight seeing, enough discussions and finally more cultural meetings, all similar and single statements. In thirty-six cases there were no comments on missed issues.

In 19 cases, no suggestions were made for the future. However, in 7 cases the participants claim the short time of call for papers, invitations came late. Besides this, there is a need for more information on the symposium in advance. There must be, at least, a minimum of three months for preparing themselves for the symposium. In three cases there was a wish to shorten the time of symposium to three days. Four participants appealed for a good balance between symposium and time for relaxation, shopping and sight-seeing. Three participants argued that the theme of the symposium should be broader, there should be more participation in the decision-making processes.

S. Amini, October 4, 2000