S & T Personnel: Oversupply or undersupply

Rama Thirunamachandran, Director
Research and Knowledge Transfer
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This presentation will cover

• An overview of trends in the UK
  – Report by Sir Gareth Roberts
• Underlying issues
• Actions being taken

UK Trends

• Overall: large and growing S&T student population
  – 10% growth between 1994-1999
• Significant variation between subjects
  – Growth in biological science, computing and IT
  – Downward trend in physical sciences and engineering
• A skills ‘disconnect’ between supply and demand
Evidence of S&T skill shortages

- Salary rates
- Employment rates
- Quality v quantity of skills

Underlying cases

Issues at:

- School level
- University level
- Employer level

Issues at school

- Shortage in supply of qualified S&T teachers
- Poor quality science laboratories
- Curriculum inability to inspire students
- Careers advice
Issues at University level

- Mismatch between school and university level
  S&T courses – problem of transition
- Curriculum – perceived difficulty; course content; mismatch with employer need
- Poor S&T laboratories
- Lack of advice about S&T employment opportunities

Issues for employment in R&D

- Salaries
- Training
- Career structure/prospects

Actions

- Training – particularly for S&T teachers
- Upgrade laboratories in schools and universities
- Teacher and lecturer pay in shortage subjects
- Increase PhD and Postdoctoral stipends
- Career structure in R&D