

## UKFIET REVIEW – MAY 2011

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The survey was undertaken to help guide UKFIET into the third decade of its existence. Approximately 50% of the Forum's membership responded.

While most respondents cite benefits attributable to membership of UKFIET, the survey has elicited a wide range of suggestions regarding the objectives, priorities and ways of working which should inform the future development of the Forum. A few of these comments are quite hard-edged in their perceptions and current assessment of UKFIET.

Based on the main findings from the responses to the nine core questions of the survey, the following conclusions and questions are made to help guide debate within UKFIET:

1. UKFIET's stated objectives are broadly in line with the rationale for being a member of the Forum.
2. The sample of past members is too small to draw any hard and fast conclusions as to why UKFIET has lost some of its members.
3. In moving UKFIET forward the balance between staged events, networking, and influencing the direction of aid and other related policies needs assessment.
4. UKFIET is heavily dependent on the good offices and support of a core group of people and institutions. Can this be sustained? Is this a model that can take UKFIET forward?
5. Clearly UKFIET benefits from a small group of proactive contact points but there is a strong sense that UKFIET could do much more to be inclusive and a better communicator. But has it the capacity to undertake the types of activity which some of its membership propose? The more critical comments about UKFIET ways of working are few in number but need to be addressed.
6. There is no shortage of ideas as to what UKFIET could and should do. In essence UKFIET is being asked to do more across a wider spectrum of issues and activities. How practical an agenda is this?
7. There are challenging questions about UKFIET's capacity and ability to work more intensively and/or differently. This will require an honest debate within UKFIET governance forums.
8. If UKFIET is to be much more representative of education and development constituencies across the United Kingdom some fundamental questions around membership criteria (organisational/individual) and subscriptions policy require attention.
9. Attention is drawn usefully to where UKFIET sits in relation to other like-minded organisations and how it does or should define its comparative advantage.

### **A RATIONALE**

The United Kingdom Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET) celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.

This survey is a contribution to the current debate within the Forum about how to move it forward in ways which add value to education and development research, consultation, capacity and action.

Much has been achieved under the auspices of UKFIET since 1991 in facilitating an informed debate on education and development in the UK and beyond, and in contributing through research and dialogue to the development of UK aid for education strategies.

But the world of education and international development is changing fast. There are many more organisations and groups active and competing in a crowded playing field than 20 years ago. The need to define and demonstrate a distinctive contribution is important if members and prospective members are to invest increasingly scarce human and financial resources in support of a programme of activities that relies heavily on voluntary contributions.<sup>1</sup>

This year will also see a request from UKFIET to DFID for a new two year tranche of financial support. In the current climate of austerity the UKFIET submission will need to be hard edged in its definition of programmes and activities that meet well defined, clearly expressed needs and deliver realistic outcomes.<sup>2</sup>

The results of this survey should help to clarify what it is that UKFIET members require of the Forum and to elicit views on ways of working that are practical, realistic, well targeted and well communicated.

## **B PROCESS**

A survey instrument (**Annex A**) asking nine major questions was sent by e-mail in early January 2011 to 24 current members, six past members and to one prospective member, based on a membership list dated January 2011 (**Annex B**).<sup>3</sup> Each email was addressed personally to the listed UKFIET contact point. It was requested that returns be sent to Steve Packer by 31 January. A further week was allowed for late returns.

The survey could also be completed on line using the UKFIET website at <http://www.ukfiet.org/>

Returns were processed during the second half of February.

The questions are broad and largely open ended, so the quantification of results is not a priority in the summary analysis of the returns that follows.

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<sup>1</sup> For example: BAICE, GCE, CEC, DSA, NORRAG.

<sup>2</sup> Soon after the drafting of this report, DFID indicated that after the current tranche of funding further support would not be available.

<sup>3</sup> The results of the Survey have shown that this list needs updating and greater accuracy regarding who exactly are points of contact.

## C RESPONSE<sup>4</sup>

Eighteen responses were received (**Annex C**), three of which came from one institution, the University of Bristol. If the Bristol return is treated as one (although each respondent had different points to make), then there were 16 replies, a return of 51.6%. One of the 16 replies was an individual return from the ex chair of UKFIET (and BAICE). There was a 50% return from the current membership.

In addition there were three short comments from an ex- UKFIET contact point, a new contact point, and from the current acting Chair of Trustees.

## D MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings from the survey are grouped under each of nine main questions.

### 1 WHY IS YOUR ORGANISATION A MEMBER OF UKFIET? (16 responses)

Replies to this question are brief and general. Some responses are historical in nature, highlighting the reasons for founding or joining UKFIET in its early years but the majority of the answers are expressed in the present tense.

Respondents see UKFIET primarily as a networking and discussion resource on education and development. Attention is drawn to the benefits of *greater exchange between academics, researchers and practitioners*. Special interest and advocacy groups point to gaining from the *wider professional network which UKFIET provides.... offering ... complimentary networking opportunities*. For researchers, UKFIET offers the chance to *keep abreast with developments in research and policy*; for aid agency and consultancy practitioners it provides a forum to share *best practice and international expertise*. For some, it provides one means of influencing DFID policies. For DFID itself, UKFIET *helps to ensure that DFID is informed by current research into key policy issues*. For Action Aid, membership of UKFIET was helpful as a means of establishing links with university researchers.

Some bodies recognise the strengths that result from having overlapping memberships. Engagement with the UKFIET Conference (usually called the Oxford Conference) is mentioned by three of the respondents.

**The responses to Question 1 suggest that UKFIET's stated objectives are broadly in line with the rationale for being a member of the Forum for 50% of its membership.**

### 2 IF A PAST MEMBER AND NO LONGER AFFILIATED, WHY DID YOUR ORGANISATION LEAVE UKFIET? (Four responses)<sup>5</sup>

Each response is specific to the circumstances of the organisation in question. One of two universities to reply states... *we do not have ready access to funds that can pay for our membership, and as all of us are also members of BAICE as individuals ... we couldn't defend the 'value added.'* The other university left UKFIET a couple of years ago ...*a result of an internal reorganisation that meant there was no longer a cost centre with a major focus on international and comparative education and there was not enough money in the new larger centres to justify the affiliation fee.* Action Aid states – very honestly – that it thinks that

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<sup>4</sup> It is not possible to assess the degree to which the responses reflect the views just of the UKFIET contact point, a group of interested individuals or a wider organisational view. By inference, the first category is dominant.

<sup>5</sup> Seven organisations are listed (January 2011) as having being past members

it is still a member but *we have not been very active recently.*

**This is too small a sample from which to draw any hard and fast conclusions**

### **3. WHAT BENEFITS HAS YOUR ORGANISATION DERIVED FROM UKFIET? (18 responses)**

For some respondents this question provides an opportunity to extend their answers to Question 1.

Benefits are stated most directly in terms of participation in UKFIET **events**. The biennial UKFIET (Oxford) Conference receives particular attention. It is a gathering which fulfils a number of functions for UKFIET members. For one university, it is a forum *for the presentation of our research on education and development*. For a consulting firm it is a *place for meeting potential partners and consultants*. For another, *it is an important means of keeping up to date on movements in policy, research and practice ...to network with other member organisations and individuals working in this field ...to disseminate information on our research and to engage in debates on policy and practice*. For DFID, *it enables interaction with education specialists globally*. For NORRAG, the conference is a platform for holding open meetings that have given *visibility and provided feedback* from a large group of participants about how we [NORRAG] are doing. These activities have often fed into special issues of journals such as Compare. And for BAICE, *the biennial conference has broadened [its] outreach ...and enabled its own (now biennial) conference to thrive. The BAICE presidential lecture within the UKFIET programme has enhanced the prestige of both entities. Compare ... the BAICE journal has been an UKFIET conference publication from the mid-1990s, publishing a series of special issues, numerous stand alone articles and the presidential address.*

Events other than the biennial conference are mentioned too, including the annual launch conference of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (a joint venture with the UK National Commission for UNESCO), and the recent meeting of the DFID supported research consortia for which *UKFIET provided a neutral umbrella, a recognisable 'brand name' as well as suggesting a list of invitees.*

The universities welcome the fact that these events provide opportunities for doctoral students to disseminate their research work and meet with a cross section of other researchers and practitioners.

One university respondent notes *that many events are co-organised by other organisations with which we also have links... e.g. the UK National Commission, which limits the direct benefit attributable to UKFIET.*

Eight respondents cite the benefit that accrues from UKFIET's links with **DFID**. The British Council, for example, *values the opportunity to engage with DFID in collaboration with other education professionals, particularly when new policies/ strategies are being produced*. UKFIET was seen by one university as a "channel" that facilitated diverse academic feedback on the 2010 DFID education strategy *Learning for All*. Or, as one consultancy firm puts it, UKFIET provided a *collective voice through which to engage in policy dialogue*. It is useful, says another university *to have a stakeholder group recognised by DFID*. DFID itself acknowledges the inputs of UKFIET and its members into the development of education strategies generally.

Some respondents detail the more general benefits of UKFIET **networks and contacts**. *Action Aid states...we have better connections today with academics working on education... we have developed some strong partnerships, for example, with the Institute of*

*Education [University of London], facilitating more links with national universities in African countries,... a good example for future practice.* CEC recognises the value of networking with organisations that have education interests beyond Commonwealth countries as well as being able to join or inspire UKFIET policy and advocacy initiatives.

**In moving UKFIET forward the balance between events, networking, and influencing the direction of aid and other education and development related policies should receive attention.**

#### **4. WHAT CONTRIBUTION HAS YOUR ORGANISATION MADE TO UKFIET? (18 responses)**

Responses to this question show a varied range of professional and voluntary contributions that have and are being made by UKFIET member organisations (primarily through their contact points) during the 20 year life time of the Forum. This support includes the development, organisation and management of UKFIET; assistance in promoting and providing logistical support for UKFIET events; inputs in to the development and the implementation of the UKFIET biennial and the EFA GMR conferences; and technical and logistical contributions for UKFIET's work on DFID-related, policy development. More specifically:

- Input into the initial design of UKFIET (e.g. Bristol, NORRAG)
- Serving as a Trustee and/or on UKFIET's Executive Committee (e.g. Cambridge and Cambridge Education)
- Provision of an UKFIET Secretary (CfBT)
- Provision of student representatives (BAICE)
- Technical advice on UKFIET becoming a non-profit making company limited by liability (CEC)
- Assistance with accounting and bookkeeping (Cambridge Education)
- Attendance at UKFIET AGMs (e.g. Nottingham)
  
- Publicising and promoting UKFIET events (British Council)
- Provision of venues for UKFIET events (Institute of Education, London University)
- Co-hosting of events with UKFIET (e.g. BALID)
  
- Convening and contributing to UKFIET conference symposia and specialist sessions (nearly all UKFIET members)
- Sponsoring conference attendees (e.g. BAICE, British Council)
- Conference planning (e.g. BAICE, CEC)
- Administrative support for the UKFIET biennial conference (e.g. CfBT)
- Subsidies for attendance at the UKFIET biennial conference (e.g. BAICE)
- Direct grant funding for the UKFIET conference and for the EFA GMR launch conference (DFID)
  
- Contribution to UKFIET orchestrated DFID strategy development process (nearly all UKFIET members).

Much of this assistance is voluntary, but there are venue and administrative costs incurred in the management of major set piece events, notably for the biennial conference. In some UKFIET member organisations a number of people make a contribution to the Forum; in others – it would seem - the majority, the burden is borne by UKFIET's contact point.

**UKFIET is heavily dependent on the good offices and support of a core group of**

people and institutions. Can this be sustained? Is this a model on which to move UKFIET forward?

#### 5. HOW MIGHT UKFIET AND ITS ACTIVITIES BE BETTER KNOWN WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION AS A WHOLE? (18 responses)

This question elicited three types of response. **First**, some UKFIET members referred to their own **internal efforts** to publicise UKFIET and its activities. One university respondent states that *we publicise it [UKFIET] within the Faculty of Education and more widely*. BALID indicated that *BALID members are already familiar with UKFIET through personal interaction and attendance at conferences, so this is not an issue for us*. NORRAG carries a link on its website home page to the NORRAG section of the UKFIET conference page. There are regular mailings to all staff at the Institute of Education in London. In CfBT, UKFIET is well understood *within our international teams ... staff attending UKFIET events feedback key messages to the rest of the organisation ...and in the past UKFIET newsletters have been distributed among teams*. CEC circulates information about UKFIET events. Action Aid would like to use UKFIET channels more proactively to project its own research, monitoring and programme outcomes.

One respondent highlights the important role of the named UKFIET representative/alternate in attending UKFIET meetings, disseminating information throughout his/her organisation and feeding information back to UKFIET about its own activities.

A **second** set of answers referred to ways in which **UKFIET** itself could be more proactive. A number of specific suggestions were made in this regard:

- An occasional electronic publication would be useful (British Council)
- The creation of thematic knowledge management groups in key and emerging areas in education and development (DFID).
- Regular updates on what academic research is being undertaken with analysis of key international policy implications (DFID).
- Organise meetings around critical areas and high level questions where knowledge and innovations produced in the UK can be discussed and extended (DFID).
- Do more for doctoral students in terms of organising events and providing a forum for home and international students (Bristol).
- It would be good for postgraduate students to be more aware of what UKFIET is doing. International offices of Further and Higher Education institutions might be engaged more systematically (Nottingham)
- Develop a better website with an e-mail distribution list updating members of key developments and events (Bristol)
- Providing outcomes reports or summaries from events with key messages that can be forwarded quickly within organisations to *encourage greater engagement and increase visibility within member organisations* (CfBT).
- *Make a splash at other events*, e.g. BERA and UCET (Sussex)
- Resuscitate the UKFIET newsletter (annually) (CEC)
- Monitor the specialist interests of different members and cater periodically quite explicitly to each (ex Chair BAICE/UKFIET)
- Place news from members on UKFIET's own agendas and in communication with its constituency (ex Chair BAICE/UKFIET)

A small group of respondents offer a **sharper critique** of what UKFIET needs to do more generally. These comments provide the **third** set of answers to question 5. One member states *... in times of austerity ... UKFIET needs to make clearer what the substantial benefits to organisations and individuals are, and to provide working examples of where UKFIET has made a difference ... I have heard more than one person say they aren't sure what UKFIET*

*is actually for, or what the consequences would be if UKFIET disappeared.*

Another member suggests the need to *communicate a clearer sense of purpose and one that appeals to the constituency that UKFIET is trying to reach.* An additional comment from a different respondent notes that *UKFIET has a broad constituency, so it is vital that it is able to represent diverse views and opinions and can avoid the dominance of a small number of individual voices.*

**Clearly UKFIET benefits from proactive contact points but there is a strong sense that UKFIET could do much more to be more communicative and inclusive. But has it the capacity to undertake the types of activity which some of its membership propose? The more critical comments are few in number but need to be addressed nevertheless.**

## **6. WHAT ARE THE ISSUES IN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH UKFIET SHOULD PRIORITISE? HOW MIGHT IT DO THIS? (18 responses)**

This question elicits the most detailed response of any. Some respondents focused on specific education and development topics, and many related understandably to their own organisation's concerns. But much of the commentary was on ways in which UKFIET could and should act in more proactive and strategic ways.

By way of introduction, one respondent challenged UKFIET *that experts are always drawing up lists of priorities. We are good at knowing what should be done and have been in UKFIET meetings where people with the best will in the world and despite their professed value positions, do sound a little patronising. I think we have to challenge ourselves to think differently about education and development, including our own role. For an organisation concerned with education and development that is based in UK, I don't think that challenge ever goes away*

The list of **topics** identified to be deserving of attention is long and largely familiar. In no particular order of priority:

- Education in systems emerging from conflict (British Council)
- Education and the impact of climate change (British Council)
- Education financing. *The focus needs to shift from aid to domestic taxation and macro-economic policies in low income countries. UKFIET ... dialogue should go beyond the aid agenda and look at how the Treasury, Foreign Office, Bank of England etc can play a more effective role* (Action Aid).
- Human rights frameworks: *the legally binding commitments ...rather than the weak promises made in Jomtien and Dakar* (Action Aid)
- The education of women and girls. *Reach out to feminist academics And NGOs working on women's rights to facilitate a new dialogue around the role of education in transforming patriarchal societies* (Action Aid).
- Education beyond an exclusive focus on primary education (BALID)
- Quality and assessment in international education; the quality of education at all levels (DFID, Institute of Education, Bristol)
- What works in teacher education in low income countries (DFID)
- *Keep on with EFA* (Institute of Education, London)
- Education and health (Institute of Education)
- Development issues in UK schools (Institute of Education)
- Building research and policy capacity in low income countries (Bristol)
- The impact of global economic, political and environmental forces on education and development strategies (Bristol).

- Skills development – functional and transferable skills – and post primary education (balancing the *role and value of secondary education with technical and vocational education*) (CfBT)
- Security, education and development (Sussex)
- *Enduring exclusions* – poverty, gender etc (Sussex)
- *Interface between investment in education the UK and development elsewhere* (Sussex)
- The exchange of international students at higher education levels. *Scholarship programmes such as the Commonwealth scholarship programme is important not just those from developing countries ... but also for students from wealthier countries such as Canada and Australia. We need lobbying support for this.* (CEC).

In seeking to summarise the challenge for UKFIET in determining policy related priorities one respondent notes ... *a bifurcation of focal policy issues, each of which should be pursued, is (i) the promotion of increased quality, quantity and diversity of provision at different levels for those without and (ii) at a later stage, advocating that the knowledge acquired be converted to social transformation purposes through enhanced opportunities and the removal of barriers to them (e.g. gender, ethnicity, class, age, etc)* (ex Chair BAICE and UKFIET).

In identifying ways in which UKFIET should **work more strategically** three main suggestions are made.

**First** continuing engagement with DFID on aid and education is seen as important. This should include ongoing dialogue on new and emerging aid policy as this relates to education and on future research and evaluation practice. Regular contact with DFID advisers is valued.

**Second**, some respondents urge that UKFIET gives more attention to a broader range of education, aid and development partners; *government, NGOs and private. UKFIET is uniquely placed to be a critical friend to bilateral and multilateral aid organisations, NGOs and INGOs, digging deeply into how aid contributes (or doesn't) to development in and through education, how research can inform this, and whether they/we are setting the right goals and asking the right questions.*

Further comments include the need to work with other aid and development stakeholders such as the UK National Commission for UNESCO.<sup>6</sup> As agendas move beyond a rather narrow view of the MDGs, *particularly around skills, higher education and teacher education, it may be important for UKFIET to revisit its capacity to engage with issues and players across the whole education and training sector.* The internationalisation of higher education is also mentioned in this context.

**Third**, there are propositions for greater interdisciplinarity, *championing work on education and development from all the social science disciplines... so more work on methods of research would be a good thing.* It is contended that there is room for building bridges with other development research/analysis/policy organisations, to build *links between research, policy and practice.* For example, *links with the Development Studies Association could be stronger.* And UKFIET should be *alert to opportunities to piggy back* on the international education component of national education conferences (e.g. BERA, EAD/DSA) and do more in continental Europe.

**These returns suggest no shortage of specific ideas. In essence they want UKFIET to do more and to do more across a wider spectrum of issues and activities. How practical an agenda is this?**

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<sup>6</sup> Since the survey was undertaken the UK National Commission for UNESCO has been through a major process of reform.

## 7. WHAT NEW WAYS OF WORKING WOULD GIVE UKFIET GREATER RELEVANCE, INFLUENCE AND PROFILE? (15 responses)

This question also led to a variety of responses and there is some overlap with the comments arising from question 6.

In making a range of suggestions some members do recognise the limitations of the human capacities that can be brought to bear to organise and manage UKFIET activities. *To expand its current programme of activities ...would need a stronger core of support which has financial implications.* One member suggests that UKFIET depends on the networks members bring and that it will stay this way *unless there is a step change in resources to maintain a secretariat.*

One thread that runs through some of the responses is the lack of a more critical voice. For example *...the close relationship with DFID is in some ways the best and worst thing about UKFIET. The [UKFIET] conference, for example, is a great platform for important research funded by DFID, and DFID policy and practice. But where are the critiques?* A related suggestion is *that we should focus less on identifying what needs to be fixed in big general terms and more on how we can help professionals in various positions within education systems to find and put into action solutions. That doesn't preclude sharing findings from research and ideas about what has and hasn't happened elsewhere but that needs to be presented as belonging to a specific context rather than telling professionals and policy makers in low income countries what to do. Some more debate and thought around what kind of action is appropriate for international actors with whom we interact, such as DFID, would be useful.*

Some members point to the importance of some strategic relations with other bodies. For example, Action Aid sees potential for stronger links between UKFIET and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). *There is a lot of work done by researchers and academics that could be relevant for this campaign – and the campaign may be a useful way to elevate the profile of some policy research insights.*

Members working closely with the UK National Commission for UNESCO are concerned that it may fall should the UK government lessen its engagement with UNESCO. In such a scenario – especially in relation to skills development – there would be merit in UKFIET engaging with potential partners such as the Association of Colleges and City and Guilds.

Some university members stress the importance of working more with doctoral students.

A number of members refer to modalities. *The one day conference/symposium is a good one.* There is scope from time to time to convene shorter panel discussions on a new important topic (particularly when it is aid relevant) *... the ODI and Chatham House models for this are worth thinking about.* A related suggestion is to hold a *more focused event between the UKFIET conferences with fewer higher quality contributions.* DFID would like UKFIET to bring key thinkers together from different parts of the education community. To the extent possible more meetings should be held outside of London including the use of video conferencing. More use should be made of press releases in advocacy and lobbying work. And there should be an increase in the range and number of regular UKFIET publications, especially on line.

Better use should be made of technology including: webcasts (audio and video). UKFIET should use Skype to facilitate the management of its activities and to encourage *greater dialogue between events through blogging and greater use of its website and technology.*

One specific UKFIET management point comes from NORRAG which argues that there should be more ... *targeting of institutional members so that they have particular tasks as part of the annual or biennial plan. This should also go for Board members. What are we each responsible for .... 23 institutional members could each be asked at the beginning of the year which of their planned activities could be co-sponsored or co-branded with UKFIET. With all 23 UKFIET members, members of NORRAG ...we could therefore organise one of our NORRAG cluster meetings in the UK, with the expectation of having discussion around key themes ... probably in the piggyback mode.*

**This is a challenging set of responses especially in relation to UKFIET's capacity and ability to work more intensively and/or differently. This needs a very honest debate within UKFIET governance forums.**

#### **8. HOW SHOULD UKFIET WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND/OR THEIR INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS? (15 responses)**

Most answers to this question are brief. A few responses reflect uncertainty as to how UKFIET operates; for example ... *I cannot answer this without knowing what it is everybody actually wants from UKFIET...* and ... *there has been a major change in the leadership and governance of UKFIET and I am not aware of what changes have already occurred ... and ... I am not familiar with its inner ways of working.*

The most critical comment suggested that it [UKFIET] ...*has a reputation as a rather bureaucratic organisation ...asking ...what can be made appealing, to ensure confidence in the sustainability of the Forum? And as there are perennial challenges with recruiting officers for UKFIET ...it's worth asking why it's always such a challenge.*

Issues around capacity are raised too... *does it have the resources to do more than it does ... or ...that depends on its capacity.*

Better communication is a point made by some respondents but in fairly general terms. Some specific suggestions include:

- *It would be good if member meetings could have greater "blue skies" and/or practical element. In this vein one respondent suggested that UKFIET could have an influential role in mobilising thoughts and informing strategy to looking beyond the 2015 MDG agenda and start shaping now what the future focus may look like*
- *Information on significant new research papers and email bulletins*
- *Members should have their UKFIET identity reinforced ... holding member workshops once or twice a year ... if carefully constructed should be conducive to the emergence of constructed UKFIET identity*
- *... words like "stimulating debate" [and] "challenging" need to go along side "channelling advice" and "achieving influence"*
- *For institutional members that are universities, events that are open and useful for research students serve us well and help both staff and students to extend their networks in the field ... not all in London*

Only NORRAG looks at ways by which it could help UKFIET reinforce its work through, for example ... *we should carry encouragement in the next issue of NORRAG News about the OXCON conference.*

CEC raises the question as to why there *has been no reduction for members of UKFIET organisations to UKFIET conferences.*

**In effect these responses add to or amplify the comments made in answer to question 7, on issues of capacity and communication.**

## **9. HOW COULD UKFIET MANAGE THE PRACTICALITIES OF MEMBERSHIP MORE EFFECTIVELY? (12 responses)**

While two respondents ask for greater efficiency in issuing subscription reminders and chasing non payment, one reply to the question asks *what would happen if membership were free? Are the fees (or the current levels of fees) essential to the health of the organisation?* The thrust of this argument is that UKFIET should be inclusive, so ... *perhaps membership should be free and symposia more expensive?*

The Institute of Education in London refers to sources of funding for UKFIET membership. For a long time a personal consultancy fund was used but *more recently I have arranged for this responsibility to be take on at the Centre.... but the continuation of this arrangement will depend on future role holders ... and the ability of whomsoever is the UKFIET rep to work with the Assistant Director of the Institute.*

In a separate note from the University of Leeds the point is made *that I am the only person in my School with interests in education and development. This presents a serious barrier to institutional affiliation to UKFIET. Whatever I have done I have done personally including funding a one-year subscription.*

One practical suggestion in this area is ... *perhaps we should ask Companies House and the Charities Commission about the range of options and which seems to cause the least hassle.* In this context, the Institute also makes the point that *that few understand the difference between institutional membership and individual membership ... where there are very few staff in an institute working in Education and Development this is not an issue ... it can be more of an issue in a very large institute.*

**If UKFIET is to be much more representative of education and development constituencies across the United Kingdom some fundamental questions around membership and subscriptions require attention.**

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY**

Respondents were offered the chance to make additional comments. The summary points that follow include comments from ten people, three of whom did not complete the questionnaire (from the University of Leeds, the new contact point at the Institute of Education London and the Acting Chair of the UKFIET Trustees).

In no order of priority:

- *It seems to me that UKFIET has existed because it serves the needs of the individuals involved rather than providing a service to the organisations ... that aspect is incidental. Consequently ...I think we need to know who else is doing what in similar realms ... is there a unique space (selling point) for UKFIET?*
- This point is made by another (ex) member in relation to the UK National Commission for UNESCO. *I think UKFIET needs to some strategic thinking regarding the potential comparative advantages and synergies between the two organisations if UKNC continues ...and see what of UKNC's work it might take on if UKNC ends.*
- Similarly, *at a personal level I get the same benefits from BAICE*
- *With various cuts and shifts in focus it is probably more important than even that UKFIET speaks*

- *While UKFIET's main policy role relates to DFID and developing countries, it will also want to make representations from time to time to other parts of Government like FCO, DfE, DBIS, UK Border Agency/Home Office on such matters as*
  - *Development education and education for international understanding*
  - *Development studies and area studies in tertiary education*
  - *Policies on fees and admissions of international students*
  - *Visa policies*
  - *Trade in education services*
  - *Support for British Council and BBC World Service etc*
- *My personal feeling is that it is better to have a website which holds relevant information, rather than regular mail outs to members, as most people are suffering from email overload.*
- *The Oxford Conference is beginning to suffer from too many papers/presentations of variable quality*
- *My personal feeling is that it is better to have a website which holds relevant information, rather than regular mail outs to members, as most people are suffering from email overload.*
- *Information about changes in contact point details is not internalised within UKFIET administrative systems quickly and efficiently.*

**Many of these comments could be relocated under the headings provided by the nine questions. But particular attention is drawn usefully to where UKFIET sits in relation to other like-minded organisations and how it does or should define its comparative advantage.**

## ANNEX A

### TAKING UKFIET FORWARD: 2011 AND BEYOND

***YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ARE NEEDED!***

#### **A MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

<http://www.ukfiet.org/>

UKFIET provides a pro-active forum for universities, non-governmental organisations, consultancy groups and professional associations, working for education and development internationally, to share ideas, knowledge and expertise. The Forum's diverse membership is engaged in research, training, teaching, and advocacy as well as providing a significant advisory resource to policy makers and practitioners in government, development agencies and non-governmental organisations in the United Kingdom and beyond.

#### **2011**

2011 will be an important year for UKFIET as it celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It will hold the 11<sup>th</sup> UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development in Oxford from 13-15 September on *Economics, Environment and Emergency*. It will implement its new, two-year rolling programme; and submit a new funding proposal to DFID.

As a contribution to these and other activities your assistance is sought in completing this short review questionnaire.

At a time of cutbacks, sustaining interest in education and development internationally will become that much harder. More specifically, ensuring that UKFIET adds value to policy and practice at home and internationally will require a keen awareness of the interests and capacities of its membership.

Your answers to the questions posed below and any additional views that you and your colleagues may have about the future of UKFIET will be important in defining proactive ways of moving forward.

#### **Completing the Survey**

Please send your completed survey to Steve Packer at [stevepacker@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:stevepacker@blueyonder.co.uk) by 31 January 2011. Given the need to obtain as complete a return as possible you will receive a reminder during the second half of January.

Alternatively please fill in the form on the UKFIET website at <http://www.ukfiet.org/>

**UKFIET SURVEY 2011**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Position in Organisation:</b>
<b>Organisation:</b>	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number(s):</b>	

**Why is your organisation a member of UKFIET?**

**If a past member, and no longer affiliated, why did your organisation leave UKFIET?**

**What benefits has your organisation derived from UKFIET?**

**What contribution has your organisation made to UKFIET?**

**How might UKFIET and its activities be better known within your organisation as a whole?**

**What are the issues in education and development which UKFIET should prioritise? How might it do this?**

**What new ways of working would give UKFIET greater relevance, influence and profile?**

**How should UKFIET work more effectively to serve the interests of member organisations and/or their individual staff members?**

**How could UKFIET manage the practicalities of membership more effectively?**

**OTHER COMMENTS**

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. ALL BEST WISHES FOR 2011**

## ANNEX B

### UKFIET Representatives Distribution List (as at January 2011)

#### Existing members

	Organisation	Address	Name (key contact in bold)	Email
1	Action Aid	Action Aid Hamlyn House Macdonald Road Archway London N19 5PG	David Archer	<a href="mailto:david.archer@actionaid.org">david.archer@actionaid.org</a>
2	BAICE	BAICE c/o 15 Canonbie Road London SE23 3AW Tel: 0208 6998398	Lore Arthur	<a href="mailto:E.H.Arthur@open.ac.uk">E.H.Arthur@open.ac.uk</a>
3	BALID	BALID 36 Causton Street London SW1P 4AU	Ian Cheffy	<a href="mailto:treasurer@balid.org.uk">treasurer@balid.org.uk</a>
4	Book Aid International	Book Aid International 39 - 41 Coldharbour Lane Camberwell London SE5 9NR	Clive Nettleton	<a href="mailto:clive.nettleton@bookaid.org">clive.nettleton@bookaid.org</a>
5	British Council	British Council Bridgewater House 58 Whitworth Street Manchester M1 6BB tel 01619577836	Peter Fell	<a href="mailto:peter.fell@britishcouncil.org">peter.fell@britishcouncil.org</a>
6	Cambridge Education	Cambridge Education Demeter House Station Road Cambridge CB1 2RS	<b>Felicity Binns</b>	<a href="mailto:felicity.binns@camb-ed.com">felicity.binns@camb-ed.com</a>
			Jawaad Vohra	<a href="mailto:Jawaad.vohra@camb-ed.com">Jawaad.vohra@camb-ed.com</a>
7	CfBT	CfBT 60 Queens Road Reading Berkshire RG1 4BS	Harvey Smith	<a href="mailto:hsmith@cfbt-africa.com">hsmith@cfbt-africa.com</a>
			Susy Ndaruhutse	<a href="mailto:sndaruhutse@cfbt.com">sndaruhutse@cfbt.com</a>
			<b>Stephanie Wies</b>	<a href="mailto:SWies@cfbt.com">SWies@cfbt.com</a>
8	Commonwealth Secretariat	Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HX	Virgilio Juvane (temporarily in charge)	<a href="mailto:v.juvane@commonwealth.int">v.juvane@commonwealth.int</a>
9	Council for Education in the Commonwealth	Council for Education in the Commonwealth Commonwealth House 7 Lion Yard Tremadoc Road London SW4 7NQ	<b>Kees Maxey (secretary)</b>	<a href="mailto:kees.maxey@geo2.poptel.org.uk">kees.maxey@geo2.poptel.org.uk</a>
			Richard Mawditt (treasurer)	<a href="mailto:richardmawdittinbath@bopenworld.com">richardmawdittinbath@bopenworld.com</a>
			Thelma Henderson	<a href="mailto:thelma.henderson@warwick.ac.uk">thelma.henderson@warwick.ac.uk</a>
			Peter Williams	<a href="mailto:peterrcwilliams@onetel.com">peterrcwilliams@onetel.com</a>
10	DFID	DFID 1 Palace Street London SW1E 5HE	Sally Gear	<a href="mailto:s-gear@dfid.gov.uk">s-gear@dfid.gov.uk</a>
11	Education Action	Education Action CC3.10 Kennington Park 1-3 Brixton Road London SW9 6DE	Alan Wells	<a href="mailto:alan.wells@education-action.org">alan.wells@education-action.org</a>

12	ID21	ID21 Institute of Development Studies University of Sussex Brighton BN1 9RE	Sandra Baxter	<a href="mailto:s.baxter@ids.ac.uk">s.baxter@ids.ac.uk</a>
13	Institute of Education	Institute of Education 20 Bedford Way London WC1H OAL	<b>Angela Little</b>	<a href="mailto:a.little@ioe.ac.uk">a.little@ioe.ac.uk</a>
			Geeta Kingdon	<a href="mailto:g.kingdon@ioe.ac.uk">g.kingdon@ioe.ac.uk</a>
			Moses Oketch	<a href="mailto:m.oketch@ioe.ac.uk">m.oketch@ioe.ac.uk</a>
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			Karen Edge	<a href="mailto:k.edge@ioe.ac.uk">k.edge@ioe.ac.uk</a>
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15	Open University	The Open University Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA	<b>Freda Wolfenden</b>	<a href="mailto:f.j.wolfenden@open.ac.uk">f.j.wolfenden@open.ac.uk</a>
			Lore Arthur	<a href="mailto:E.H.Arthur@open.ac.uk">E.H.Arthur@open.ac.uk</a>
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17	Society of Education Consultants	Society of Education Consultants 25 Dickenson Road London N8 0RR	Bill Rigby	<a href="mailto:rigby@voice.karoo.co.uk">rigby@voice.karoo.co.uk</a>
18	University of Birmingham	University of Birmingham Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2TT	Michele Schweisfurth	<a href="mailto:m.schweisfurth@bham.ac.uk">m.schweisfurth@bham.ac.uk</a>
19	University of Bristol	University of Bristol Senate House Tyndall Avenue Bristol BS8 1TH	Leon Tikly	<a href="mailto:leon.tikly@bristol.ac.uk">leon.tikly@bristol.ac.uk</a>
			<b>Michael Crossley</b>	<a href="mailto:m.crossley@bristol.ac.uk">m.crossley@bristol.ac.uk</a>
			Angeline Barrett	<a href="mailto:Angeline.Barrett@bristol.ac.uk">Angeline.Barrett@bristol.ac.uk</a>
20	University of Cambridge	University of Cambridge The Old Schools Trinity Lane Cambridge CB2 1TN	Chris Colclough	<a href="mailto:CC413@cam.ac.uk">CC413@cam.ac.uk</a>
21	University of East Anglia	University of East Anglia Norwich NR4 7TJ	<b>Anna Robinson- Pant</b>	<a href="mailto:a.robinson-pant@uea.ac.uk">a.robinson-pant@uea.ac.uk</a>
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22	University of Glasgow	Department of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE) Faculty of Education University of Glasgow University Avenue Glasgow G12 8QQ	Mike Osborne	<a href="mailto:m.osborne@educ.gla.ac.uk">m.osborne@educ.gla.ac.uk</a>
24	University of Reading	The University of Reading Whiteknights Reading Berkshire RG6 6AH		<a href="mailto:n.rassool@rdg.ac.uk">n.rassool@rdg.ac.uk</a>
25	University of Sussex	University of Sussex Sussex House Brighton BN1 9RH	Fiona Leach	<a href="mailto:f.e.leach@sussex.ac.uk">f.e.leach@sussex.ac.uk</a>

			Pauline Rose	<a href="mailto:p.m.rose@sussex.ac.uk">p.m.rose@sussex.ac.uk</a>
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Jo Heslop (Membership Secretary)	Institute of Education	<a href="mailto:j.heslop@ioe.ac.uk">j.heslop@ioe.ac.uk</a>
Lore Arthur	BAICE	<a href="mailto:E.H.Arthur@open.ac.uk">E.H.Arthur@open.ac.uk</a>

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## **ANNEX C**

### **Respondents**

#### **Universities:**

Bristol (three separate replies), Cambridge, Institute of Education University of London, Nottingham, and Sussex.

#### **Consultancy/international education and development organisations:**

British Council, Cambridge Education, and CfBT.

#### **International NGO:**

Action Aid

#### **Special interest research and advocacy bodies:**

BAICE, BALID, CEC, id21, and NORRAG.

#### **Government Department:**

DFID

#### **Ex-chair UKFIET/BAICE**

#### **Additional Commentary:**

University of Leeds, Institute of Education University of London and the acting Chair of Trustees

NCER indicated its inability to respond