

UKFIET NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007

UKFIET

UK FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION - CAROLINE DYER

My usual reminder of the importance of institutional reps remembering to circulate the Newsletter internally comes at a critical juncture for UKFIET.

As David Theobald notes in his report, we will soon be looking to appoint new Officers to take up positions of responsibility. We hope to attract people who will engage with UKFIET in its many facets, and continue to shape the organisation's development. Please take this opportunity to remind individual colleagues of the contributions they can make and highlight the benefits – now and in the future - of your institutional affiliation to UKFIET. The Newsletter generally seems to be well appreciated and it too thrives on contributions made by those of you who read it! UKFIET would like to record its gratitude to Tess Hornsby Smith at the University of Leeds for her excellent design innovations. The next Letter will be in the Autumn and I will circulate you all in advance with the copy deadline. Meanwhile, a reminder of the current editorial address: c.dyer@leeds.ac.uk.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CHAIR'S REPORT - DAVID THEOBALD

I am very pleased to inform members that we have two new Trustees:

◆ **Prof. Angela Little**,
Chair, Education and International Development, School of Lifelong Learning and International Development, Institute of Education, University of London

◆ **Prof. Kenneth King**,
Former Chair, UKFIET, Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Hong Kong and Professor Emeritus in the Faculties of Social and Political Studies and Education, University of Edinburgh.

We will have our first Trustees meeting on March 9 to review our roles and responsibilities in accordance with our registration with Companies House and the Charity Commissioners, consider the adoption of additional Trustees, review and update the UKFIET development strategy. We will also be

planning for the succession of current officers (Chair and Secretary) who will leave office in September 2007 after the AGM at the Conference.

When the issue of elections in UKFIET is raised there is usually a deafening silence with people looking elsewhere and thinking, "Who - me?" The future of UKFIET is linked to renewing the small group of officers who plan and arrange communications, colloquia, consultative meetings with government and other organisations, and organise the biennial conference. My co-officers have worked very well these past 18 months while I have been working in Nigeria and I owe them many thanks. So come and talk to us about the organisation and how you could contribute to its continuing success. I am not sure you can directly substitute UKFIET for America in John Kennedy's famous 'do not ask what America can do for you' quotation, but I hope you get the idea.

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- Chair's Report
- UKFIET Conference
- DfID News
- Conference Reports
- New Learning Opportunities
- Commonwealth News

THE UKFIET CONFERENCE

Going for Growth? School, Community, Economy, Nation 11 – 13 September 2007

Planning for the UKFIET conference is accelerating in the months leading up to the event. Going for Growth? School, Community, Economy, Nation will be held on 11 – 13 September 2007 at the University of Oxford Examination Schools, Oxford, England.

Hurry! Hurry! Deadline for abstracts is 2 March 2007

Haven't got your abstract in yet? Put together your 500-750 words and submit it via the conference website (www.cfbt.com/ukfietconference)

Abstracts can be submitted to one of 16 sub-themes or to the 'no preference' section of the website. The conference convenor will finalise the allocation of abstracts. Details of the sub-themes are on the website.

Conference Highlights

Researching growth in education and development: methodological considerations and directions

An opportunity for research students and others to engage in presentation and discussion of research methods and methodology in this field.

Symposia and round table discussions

Research Programme Consortia in education (DFID-funded):

research to date on access, quality and outcomes (headed by Sussex, Bristol and Cambridge Universities)

UNESCO: meeting the EFA targets

Commonwealth Education Fund: civil society advocacy in education

Africa-Asia University

Dialogue for Basic

Education

Development

And others!

*Call for papers – Deadline
for abstracts 2 March 2007*

BURSARIES

UKFIET expects to be able to offer a small number of bursaries to support attendance by international research students in the UK and participants from overseas. Details will be available shortly on the website www.cfbt.com/ukfietconference

ORGANISERS

Conference manager: Sarah Jeffery, CfBT sjeffery@cfbt.com

Conference convenor: Fiona Leach conference@ukfiet.org

WCCES CONGRESS XIII IN SARAJEVO

A reminder that the World Congress of Comparative Education Societies 2007 Congress will be held in Sarajevo September 3-7. The theme is 'Living Together: Education and Intercultural Dialogue'. Details of the various thematic groups within this are on the website www.wcces2007.ba. Abstracts should be submitted by March 31st.

Double conference discount

If you want to go to both WCCES and UKFIET conferences, you can get a 10% discount off each of them. Please address your queries to the respective conference organisers or to Chair of the Congress Standing Committee, Lynn Davies, at L.Davies@bham.ac.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Methodological Issues and Challenges: Doing Education Research with a Comparative Perspective

May 9-11, 2007, Lund University, Sweden

Increasingly methodological issues and challenges in education research are becoming a major concern as education becomes more standardised to meet policy makers' goals. With the Bologna process in relation to higher education systems and national reforms of the compulsory education system, the need for reliable and policy-oriented comparative analysis is imperative, not least in light of EU's increasing demands for comparable research results. Unfortunately, there are large methodological issues and challenges that remain to be resolved. The purpose of the seminar is to bring together well-known international and Swedish scholars in the field of comparative education to discuss the issues and challenges to be met and to provide a forum for discussion as to how these issues can be resolved. Invited scholars include:

Professor David Phillips, Oxford University, who will speak about policy borrowing in education

Emeritus Professor Francois Orivel, University of Burgundy, who will present and discuss the kind of tools used by economists for the Education of All objective in developing countries

Professor Claude Diebolt, Université Louis Pasteur de Strasbourg,

who has worked and written extensively on the comparative use of cliometrics

Dr. Michele Schweisfurth, University of Birmingham, who will discuss Global Citizenship Education

Doctoral student **Jason Nicholls**, Oxford University, who will discuss philosophy and comparative methods

Professor Paul Vedder, Leiden University, who will discuss the use of comparative methods within the framework of cultural studies and education

Associate Professor Mina O'Dowd, Lund University, who will discuss the use of visual representation as a research method

Professor Mark Bray, Director, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning, Paris, who will discuss units of analysis in comparative studies

The Seminar is open for students, teachers, researchers and others in the Social Sciences and other relevant fields, who are interested in methodological issues in comparative studies. Participation is **free of charge**.

Further information: www.pedagog.lu.se

Contact information: mina.odowd@pedagog.lu.se

DFID NEWS



HEAD OF PROFESSION FOR EDUCATION POST STILL VACANT

The post of DFID Head of Profession for Education remains to be filled. The last recruitment round was not successful and the vacancy will be advertised again shortly. Richard Arden is temporarily filling the position.

NEW ON THE ELDIS WEBSITE

DFID has recently commissioned nine Key Issues Pages through the Eldis website:

Aid Effectiveness and Education

<http://www.eldis.org/education/aideffectiveness.htm>

Economic Growth

http://www.eldis.org/education/economic_growth.htm

Education and Governance

<http://www.eldis.org/education/governance.htm>

Education Financing and Public Expenditure Management

http://www.eldis.org/education/education_financing.htm

Education in Fragile States

http://www.eldis.org/education/fragile_states.htm

Human Resources and Education

http://www.eldis.org/education/human_resources.htm

Non-State Providers and Education

<http://www.eldis.org/education/NSPs.htm>

Post-Primary Education

<http://www.eldis.org/education/post-primary.htm>

Social Protection and Education

http://www.eldis.org/education/social_protection.htm



DFID PUBLICATIONS NOW ONLINE:

No 60 *Education Reform in Uganda- 1997-2004: Reflections on Policy, Partnership, Strategy and Implementation*, by Michael Ward, Alan Penny and Tony Read.

No 61 *The Role of Open, Distance and Flexible Learning (ODFL) in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Mitigation for Affected Youth in South Africa and Mozambique*, by Pat Pridmore and Chris Yates: looks at how such learning can be used to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on young people, through an examination of programmes from Mozambique and South Africa.

No 62 *Using Distance Education for Skills Development* by Reehana Raza and Terry Allsop: examines programmes and institutions, such as open universities, in South Asia, where distance learning is now well established.

ONLINE SOON

No 63 *Field-Based Models of Primary Teacher Training- Student Support Systems* by Elizabeth Mattson: argues that distance learning will not be effective without mentoring and other support at school level. It also provides a very useful summary of recent distance teacher education programmes in Africa.



REPORT ON SWAPS AND FAILED STATES

UKFIET Colloquium 14 December 2006, York University, King's Manor campus

Bill Rigby and Roy Carr Hill

Sector wide approaches (SWAPs) have become the dominant aid modality since the 1990s. Originally introduced as appropriate for states with sound financial and government structures, SWAPs have progressively been used in situations where these criteria are not necessarily met and have to be built up. This practice, in the view of some commentators, leads to outcomes which frustrate the

objectives of the support programme itself.

The colloquium speakers' recent experience included East Africa, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan. They have worked in the development and implementation of sector wide programmes for over a decade and expressed a range of views on their applicability with failing states.

Presentations were given by Roy Carr-Hill (York University), Mike Kiernan (independent), Lyndsay Bird and Janice Dolan (Save the Children (UK)), Ian Smith (independent) and David Connolly (Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit, York University).

The attendance of 23 was impressive, given the limited publicity of the event, and represented a wide range of experience in the field. There was strong support for further meetings on allied themes in the Region. This was an exciting day on an important topic and we intend to publish full proceedings.

The event was co-organised by Voice International - 'Education for Sustainability' and you can find a fuller report of the event and lots of photos at their website: (www.voice-international.net).

REPORT FROM "WRITING THE WRONGS" WORKSHOP

The "Writing the Wrongs" High Level Workshop on Adult Literacy took place last week in Abuja, Nigeria, co-hosted by ActionAid International and the Minister of Education in Nigeria.

Over **60 participants from 24 countries** gathered in Abuja from 12-16th February 2007, including Ministers of Education, Permanent Secretaries, Directors and Managers of National Literacy Programmes, United Nations officials, donors and leading civil society organisations.

The **Call For Action** that was agreed by all participants on the last afternoon, lays out a strong agenda for action on adult literacy at national and international levels.

The **participants** in this meeting came from: Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Thailand, UK, France, Germany, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Mali, Benin and Nigeria. However, the messages from this meeting are relevant for all countries committed to making progress on EFA or the MDGs.

The Call for Action document calls for **national level action** in 7 key areas: recognising the scale of the challenge; creating national dossiers on literacy; renewing national dialogue based on the international benchmarks; opening out the dialogue; including adult literacy in education sector plans (especially FTI plans); getting into MDG and national development plans;

and sustainably investing in literacy from core government budgets.

The document also calls for specific **international actions** from a range of actors, including: Unesco, the Fast Track Initiative, bilateral donors, the World Bank, the IMF, civil society actors and the Global Campaign for Education.

As we reach the mid-point towards the 2015 targets on EFA and the MDGs set in 2000, it is time for a fundamental re-appraisal of the role that adult literacy can play. The participants were united in demanding that the time has come to reverse decades of under-investment in adult literacy. It is time to fully recognise the links between literacy and the wider development agenda. The costs of making progress on literacy are low compared to the enormous costs of illiteracy.

act:onaid

For any further information about this workshop or any copies of materials / papers shared at the event, please contact David Archer, ActionAid
David.Archer@actionaid.org

NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Integrating Microfinance Course

16-20 April 2007 at IDS

New at IDS, Brighton, Sussex, UK for 2007, Integrating Microfinance is a short course for busy development professionals – aimed at specialists in agriculture, health, education, or livelihoods who need to understand best practice microfinance for their work. The programme offers a range of electives to meet participants' needs including:

- Social protection and microfinance
- Serving the ultra poor
- Linking microfinance to health and education
- HIV/AIDS and microfinance
- Microfinance in conflict-affected areas

Microfinance and natural resource management

Closing date for registration 27 March 2007. For more information visit www.bouldermicrofinance.org/programs/integrating_mf or contact: Boulder Institute of Microfinance tel: +1 303 800 4204 email: participants@bouldermft.org

New MA Adult Literacy, Lifelong Learning and Development at UEA

The University of East Anglia's School of Education and Lifelong Learning are offering a one year, full-time course MA in Adult Literacy, Lifelong Learning and Development: International Perspectives from September 2007.

The course is intended for those working in adult education and basic literacy, particularly in policy, planning and evaluation roles, as well as teachers from colleges, schools and literacy programmes. Although it is envisaged that many of the students will be working in developing countries, the course is also appropriate for those working in the UK in the field of adult education and lifelong learning who are interested in developing an international perspective on their work.

Check the website at <http://www.uea.ac.uk/edu/maadultlit> and direct your queries about the course to:

Angela Hook, Faculty of Social Sciences Admissions

School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of East Anglia,

NORWICH NR4 7TJ England

Tel: +44 (0)1603 592619 Fax: +44 (0)1603 451999



COMMONWEALTH NEWS

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2007

In January, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth and the President of Uganda announced that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Kampala from 23rd to 25th November this year. CHOGM brings together businessmen and women, youth, civil society representatives, and other Commonwealth Groupings in 53 countries in discussions to deliberate are in one common language, English. The theme for CHOGM 2007 will be *Transforming Commonwealth Societies to achieve Political, Economic and Human Development.*

Report on 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (16CCEM)

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION: FOR THE GOOD OF ALL

10th -14th December 2006, [International Convention Centre](#), Cape Town

Delegations from 36 countries (29 led by Ministers) attended the 16CCEM. Civil society representation included several Commonwealth associations active in education in addition to CEC. Among them were the CCfE, Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Commonwealth Countries League, Royal Commonwealth Society; Commonwealth Association of Science Technology and Mathematics Educators, Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, Association of Commonwealth Universities, Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers. The CEC

delegation included Richard Mawditt, Kees Maxey and Bala Chandramohan. A further five members of CEC's Governing Board were present in other capacities.

For the first time, in addition to the official ministerial meetings, the 16CCEM offered three parallel sessions: the Stakeholders' Forum and two independent programmes, one for the Youth of the Commonwealth and a new Teachers' Forum. The three parallel sessions came together for plenary sessions, to make contributions to the Ministers' Conference and social events, enriching the overall meeting in new ways. An added bonus for delegates was the pre-conference, *The Power of Partnerships: Strength of Friends*, convened by the CCfE. The Commonwealth Education Good Practice Awards were a further innovation.

The CEC/CCfE group made the best of these sometimes challenging circumstances, supporting each other and exploring the theme *Access to Quality Education For the Good of All*. They were helped by having co-operated in the CCfE Pre-Conference on school linking, 8 and 9 of December, just before the CCEM events. Thanks to the generosity of Nexus Strategic Partnerships they were able to share a Consortium Display Stand in the Exhibition Hall. The group's long standing friendly relationship with the both the CW Secretariat and the S African teams was particularly welcome and helpful.

[The 16CCEM programme, communiqué and many of the papers can be found at www.16ccem.com/about/frameset.htm]



UKFIET aims to share ideas, knowledge and expertise among all who work in International education matters by linking organisations both public and voluntary, commercial and non-commercial and providing a network accessible to individuals working in the field.

UK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

In September 2006, **Alba de Souza** was appointed as Education Secretary to the UK National Commission for UNESCO. Alba reports that the work is immensely challenging, requiring the administrative liaison and support of a series of national committees and *ad hoc* groups that they have spawned.

The Education Committee of UK/Unesco currently has 5 working groups.

1. **Associated Schools Project Network** (ASPnet) has a busy programme of activities in England and Wales, including a number of partnerships with schools elsewhere in the Commonwealth.
2. The **Africa** WG is seeking to establish links with other National Commissions, initially in Kenya and Uganda. It is completing work on a study of the contribution of Africa and Africans to the UK and seeking funding to publish. Later in 2007, it is convening a workshop on Bob Moon and Brendan O'Malley's study, *Teachers and Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa*, to include an account of the impact

of HIV/AIDS on African teachers and education.

3. **Education for All** (EFA) Janine Eldred's study on Family Learning and Literacy will be posted on the UK/NC website; Colin Brock's study of Education as a Humanitarian Response came out 2 March 2007. Yusuf Sayed presented a seminar on the *Mid-Term Review* (2008 GMR report) 19 January 2007 and an Early Childhood Care and Education seminar (GMR 2007) will be organised by DFID with UK/NC members invited.
4. **Education for Sustainable Development** (ESD) has proposed a project for funding by the DFES; arranged a presentation by Alan Landsdown, Head of Additional Needs, of the Welsh Assembly Government; Stephen Sterling from the ESD WG has been appointed member of the DESD Reference Group of UNESCO. William Scott has been invited to attend meeting in Amsterdam on higher education and ESD. Seminars are being planned on: faith-based learning; black

organisation initiatives, web-based communication and information-based documents.

5. **UNEVOC**, as a newly reconstituted and expanded group, met on 19th December 2006. A number of UNEVOC centres are to be created to raise the profile of technical, vocational and skills training in the UK and to contribute to the international UNEVOC network of national contact centres around the world. There will be a launch in March of IoE as a first UNEVOC Centre in the UK and a new Chair of the UNEVOC groups being sought from among FE principals for when Katie Epstein resigns.

At the annual conference of the UK/NC, in June 2006 in Nottingham, a cross-sectoral Peace and Security Group was formed. This has met three times since then and is committed to education as one of its key areas.

[For full information of UK/NC work go to www.unesco.org.uk]