

INTERPRETING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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CLOSING REMARKS

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You will all know, I realise, that a conference of this kind could not take place without the support of a huge number of people. And I should like to reiterate our gratitude to our patrons for their support in the direct resources they have provided, and also to say that, by their presence here, they have given a signal of the importance that they attach to the occasion and to the aims that we have been trying to fulfil during these last three days. To all our plenary speakers who have stimulated and challenged our thinking, and have affected and infected the nature of the discussions that have been held in the theme groups, we also express our thanks. We offer our thanks, too, to all who have presented at the theme group sessions. We do have a complete collection of abstracts for those presentations - that in itself is no mean feat in a conference of this kind - and I want to thank the presenters for supplying those to us in such good order. I am pleased to say that the abstracts will be published on the websites (attributed, of course, to each author). Prior to the conference, I had quite a large number of communications from people who said they would love to have been here, but it wasn't a convenient time of the year, or wasn't a convenient point in their professional lives to come along, and who wanted to know how they could get to know what had happened. By placing the information on the public websites we hope that those who were not able to be here, as well as those of you who have participated, will be able to get some sense of what went on in all the various sessions. We thank you all very much indeed - those who have presented - for your contribution.

The conference obviously owes gratitude to five colleagues who have convened the themes; to Mary Hayden, Terry Haywood, Ian Hill, Martin Skelton and David Wilkinson. Their work this week alone would have been enough to generate a tremendous amount of gratitude from us, but I also know just how much effort and work they have put into the design of the programmes within the theme groups, over the months which led up to this conference. I do thank you so much colleagues, for your time, your efforts and your expertise in creating the theme group programmes. Again, the summaries of the theme group discussions will be placed on the website. To our colleagues at La Châtaigneraie School - and Mike (Pasternak) I hope you will pass this on - we give you our thanks not only for your hospitality at the Wednesday evening reception, but also for the wonderful drama presentation, which has been referred to so much in our discussions this week. We have also, colleagues, been strongly supported during the week by a number of those who have had responsibility for a wide range of organisational and administrative activities. To members of the Conference Centre staff and the technicians who have looked after us so well, we thank you very much indeed. We owe a large thank you, too, to those members of staff from the IBO here in Geneva, from IBRU in Bath, and from CEIC at the University of Bath, all of whom have given unstintingly of their time and expertise and always with such good humour; to Jacqueline, Françoise, Vicky, Philippa and David particularly, we offer our sincere gratitude.

And lastly, but certainly not least, I want to say thank you to all of you. I said on the opening morning that we were delighted with the response which, numerically, has exceeded our expectations. I, like a butterfly - not a metaphor often used of me, colleagues - have been privileged to dip into the debates and the discourse that have been going on. And I know how willing you have all been to share your experiences with one another. I said that I hoped the week would be one in which we could undertake debate, discussion and discovery. I believe I have heard discovery happening and I believe, too, that in time this occasion will be seen to have been one of great discovery, with immense implications for the world of international education.

I believe that many of our objectives have been achieved and if the conference has been in any measure a success for you, it is because you have all been here, willing to share your individual experiences, and have done so with respect for one another, and with not with a little humour! For that, I and my colleagues who are responsible for the organisation of the conference thank you all, wish you all a very safe journey home, and wish you good fortune in your continuing endeavours to promote international education. Thank you colleagues.