

A personal view by Jim Cambridge

I acquired the brief for editing INTERCOM soon after my appointment in 1996 at the University of Bath as Research Officer with CEIC. Back then, around issue number 6, INTERCOM was a single folded sheet of A3 that listed events such as the international Summer School at Bath and gave news about what CEIC personnel were up to. As a press baron in the making, my early attempts at coming to grips with Quark Xpress and producing a dummy newsletter were not always very successful. I remember

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one occasion when Jeff Thompson gave his opinion that my sense of page layout was hardly an advance on the days when *The Times* announced the death of Nelson at Trafalgar! Any readers who are old enough will recall that the front page announcing that historic event was composed of columns of closely packed text lacking pictures and headlines. However, I wasn't put off. I relaxed into the job and started to take the tabloid press more seriously. I soon had ambitions to make the newsletter a much brighter publication packed with pictures, snappy headlines and interesting articles and features - and I was prepared to learn from the professionals. Over a period of time, with suggestions from colleagues, the newsletter

evolved into the

format which you see in the copy you are holding now.

One function of INTERCOM has always been to act as a link between CEIC at the

University of Bath and the students who participate in our advanced courses in education all over the world. The newsletter could keep students informed of the dates and locations of Study Centres and spread the news about what colleagues were up to in Bath and around the world. It was also realised that an element of reader participation is generally a good thing. So the 'personal view' feature was introduced, in which a particular aspect of international education was discussed in each issue. To start the ball rolling John Lowe (an indefatigable traveller who also seems to have been a roving foreign correspondent in many editions) wrote a short article for INTERCOM 6 about international and comparative education.

This was such a good piece

that it was later offered to a wider audience in the *International Schools Journal*. Following that start, a variety of international education practitioners, students on advanced courses in education and other academics have contributed to the pages of INTERCOM. Richard Laryea, a teacher from Ghana and a member of the writing team of the draft Education for Peace programme, shared his views on 'Peace and the International Educator' in INTERCOM 7. This was followed in INTERCOM 8 by



In April 2003, Jim Cambridge left his CEIC desk in the Department of Education at the University of Bath to move along the corridor to take up a post as Research Fellow with the International Baccalaureate Research Unit. In this 'Personal View' Jim looks back on seven years of editing the Intercom newsletter.

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by Barry Drake and in INTERCOM 9 by promoting women in international schools by Carol Thearle. A positive feature of INTERCOM is the short time that can elapse between writing an article and seeing it in print. I was able to take advantage of this myself when I wrote my response to newspaper interviews with Nick Tate, then of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), and George

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Walker, Director General of the IBO. My discussion of 'Globalisation and International Education' was later published in a revised form in *IB World*, provoking a response from Bora Rancic in INTERCOM 11 that 'international into national does go' in the context of Groups 1 and 2 (Languages) in the IB Diploma programme. The theme of language was continued by Peter MacKenzie in INTERCOM 12 when he asked whether English language education was a key to internationalism, while in the same edition, Anne McKillop-Ostrom addressed the issue of transition for globally mobile families and the needs of students on the move between international schools. The pastoral needs of school students were also discussed in INTERCOM 14, when Gail Bradley considered inclusive education in the context of pupils with physical disabilities or mild to severe learning difficulties, and in INTERCOM 15, when Michael Allan considered cross-cultural issues. In the meantime, teachers had not been forgotten. Paul Walsh discussed international teacher recruitment in INTERCOM 13 by pointing out the need for MAGNIFICENT teachers (who are Motivated, Accountable, Global thinkers, Nurturing, In-tune, Fervid, Innovative, Current, Non-partisan Team players) working in a school

that CARES (Communicates, Appreciates, Encourages and Supports)! Most recently, Roger Brown has discussed international education and e-learning (INTERCOM 16). Book reviews have also had a place in the newsletter. Richard Pearce, for instance, reviewed books on global mobility and transition and managing international schools.

All these articles are archived in the CEIC web pages (www.bath.ac.uk/ceic/) where you can read them at leisure. My best wishes and thanks are extended to all those who have written for the newsletter. I am grateful for your interesting and entertaining contributions, which have helped to make INTERCOM the success that it has become. INTERCOM has been a nursery for developing ideas and a forum for discussion about international education between practitioners, students and academics as well as

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a bulletin board for spreading news about CEIC and the courses of the University of Bath Department of Education. As I move on professionally to join the International Baccalaureate Research Unit as a Research Fellow, I look on my time working with the newsletter with great pleasure. INTERCOM will continue to grow and develop under the capable co-ordination of Philippa Wheeler, but I know from my own experience that she will need to receive material for publication from readers. International education is an endlessly fascinating subject and there are many people involved in it with interesting stories to relate. If you are reading this and feel inspired to share your ideas with the international education community, get in contact with Philippa as soon as possible!