

CEIC AROUND THE WORLD

First Botswana Head to Graduate in Bath



Baba Mokhawe and Mrs Mokhawe outside Bath Abbey with Mary Hayden and Jeff Thompson

In 1995 the University of Bath began involvement in the Botswana-based Secondary Schools Management Development Project, funded by the then Overseas Development Administration (ODA), which involved offering in-country units leading to the degree of MA in Education (Educational Management) to a cohort of 24 Heads of secondary schools in this fast-developing country. Two further cohorts of Heads and Deputy Heads were subsequently funded directly on the same programme by the Botswana Ministry of Education. Until recently, although many participants had graduated *in absentia*, and a celebration of their success was held in Gaborone in April 1999, none had visited Bath.

We were therefore delighted when one of the Heads, Mr Baba Mokhawe, was able to travel to Bath to participate in person in the July 2004 graduation ceremony. Held for the first time in Bath Abbey, the ceremony was a splendid occasion – enhanced by the celebratory ululating of Mr Mokhawe's wife as he shook hands with the university Chancellor, Lord Tugendhat. Congratulations Baba! – and to all the many other Botswana Heads and Deputy Heads who have been successful in completing this programme.

Yew Chung Education Foundation Symposium

In October 2003 Mary Hayden and Jeff Thompson travelled to Hong Kong to participate as keynote speakers in a highly successful symposium organised by the Yew Chung Education Foundation to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of its founding by Madam Tsang Chor Hang, mother of the current Director, Dr Betty Chan. We were more than happy to respond positively to an invitation to participate in a follow-up symposium planned for 2 November 2004, this time organised as part of the celebrations of the first ten years of the Yew Chung International School – Shanghai and entitled 'Educating the Global Child'. A stimulating full day programme took place in the impressive surroundings of the Shanghai Grand Theatre, with input from a range of speakers in both English and Chinese, and simultaneous translation. Visits to the Yew Chung International Schools in Shanghai and Beijing contributed to making this a fascinating and informative visit, and thanks are due to Dr Chan and to all other colleagues who made our time in China so interesting. [Further information about the Yew Chung Education Foundation and its system of Chinese/English co-teaching and Chinese/Western Co-Principals may be obtained from the website: www.ycef.com]



Mary Hayden and Jeff Thompson at the Yew Chung symposium with Dr Betty Chan (next to Jeff Thompson) and Yew Chung Directors

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THOMPSON'S TOURS

Jeff Thompson writes:

Earlier this year I was delighted to accept an invitation from the Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA) to give keynote addresses at two conferences planned for October 2004. Thus I set off for an 18 day trip which took in 5 different countries and from which I have just, as I write, returned. The first conference, for Senior Managers, took place on 25 and 26 October in Bangkok and was chaired and organised by Martin Scott (Head) and Dave Wakefield (Head of Secondary) from St John's International School, the conference host. The second conference, for Heads, took place on 28 and 29 October in Taipei, hosted on this occasion by the Taipei European School and organised and chaired by its Principal, John Nixon. Thanks are due to all FOBISSEA colleagues, and good wishes go especially to a Bath MA graduate, Ray Davis - Head of the Garden International School Kuala Lumpur - who was elected to the chair of the Federation. Thanks are also due to those attending, for their participation, their hospitality and their good company during both of these visits.

“I set off for an 18 day trip which took in 5 different countries”

My agreeing earlier in the year to make the journey to Bangkok and Taipei coincided with an invitation accepted by Mary Hayden and myself to participate as keynote speakers in the Yew Chung Education Foundation symposium planned for 2 November in Shanghai (see story on page 4). It also coincided with on-going discussions about the possible establishment of a Study Centre for the Bath MA programme in Singapore (see page 6), and making a visit to Singapore therefore seemed too good an opportunity to miss. Accepting a long-standing

invitation from Ian and Alexis Kerr to pay a return visit to the International School of Penang (Uplands) also seemed a possibility at this stage. Thus it was that I set off from Bath on 19 October for a trip that took in, in order, Penang (thanks to Ian and Alexis and all other colleagues for their hospitality, as always), Bangkok, Taipei, Singapore, Shanghai and Beijing before return to Bath on 6 November. Though a quick look at the map suggests a route between the different locations which was not necessarily the most straightforward, this itinerary allowed me to interact with an enormous number of interesting and enthusiastic colleagues – to all of whom appreciation and thanks are due. An abiding memory of the visits will be the conversations that I was able to hold, personally, with so many former and current Bath students who had been and are a part of the work of CEIC in the Department of Education. It was a privilege to meet with each one of them.

Shanghai Study Centre

On 1 and 2 November 2004, as part of a more wide-ranging visit (see stories elsewhere), further conversations took place as a follow up to earlier discussions about the possibility of establishing Study Centre links with the Yew Chung Education Foundation. Following detailed discussions with Dr Betty Chan (Director of the Foundation), with Dr Gary Morrison (Assistant Director for International Education Services) and with other Yew Chung colleagues, on 2 November it was announced that agreement had been reached to establish a new Study Centre to be based at Yew Chung International School - Shanghai. We are delighted with this agreement, and are now actively planning for the first Bath unit to be offered in Shanghai during 2005: dates and unit to be confirmed soon. As ever, participation is open to all who are eligible to register for the Bath programme and who are able to be in Shanghai at an appropriate time. Queries in this case may be addressed to Mary Hayden (M.C.Hayden@bath.ac.uk) and, at the Yew Chung Education Foundation, to Dr Gary Morrison (garym@ycef.com)

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/ceic>