

IB Research Team News

In 2006, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Research Unit changed its name to the IB Research Team. We have also moved offices within the Department of Education at the University of Bath, and are now based in a suite of rooms at 1WN 3.16.

During the year, one or more colleagues from the research team presented at the IB Africa, Europe and the Middle East conference in Athens, at the IB Asia Pacific conference in Hanoi, and at the Alliance for International Education conference in Shanghai. We also presented at the following conferences in March, June and July:

Nordic Network of International Schools Conference, March 2006 Helsinki, Finland

The Nordic Network is a small association of English speaking and international schools from Northern Europe. The network has been active in the region since 1997 and firmly believes in a strong supportive system enabling teachers and administrators to work together. The website can be found at: <http://www.nordicnetwork.net/>

The 2006 annual conference was held at the Nokia Research and Development Centre in Helsinki and featured the theme of 'Educating the Whole Child'. The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Thompson, a consultant psychologist, who spoke about the pressured child. Many of the sessions focused on improving child-centred learning environments and the social emotional growth of children.

The IB research team presented on two areas:

- Practitioner Research and the IB
- Cross-cultural Management in International Schools: a critical examination

The April 2007 conference will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, where the network will celebrate its tenth anniversary.

IB Latin America Regional Conference, June 2006, Lima, Peru

The IBLA conference this year focused on the theme of 'Developing IB Learning Communities'. The conference delegates and speakers included many from local IB schools, the IB regional office, the IB Curriculum and Assessment office in Cardiff

(IBCA), and from the IB research team, who presented a workshop on School Based Research and the IB.

Each day started with a plenary session. The first address looked at the two significant challenges facing the future of education; learning to live with others, and learning to learn. The sessions focused on many areas of the IB, including recent developments in the IB Learner Profile (led by Judith Fabian, Head of Programmes) and how the IB looks to change its organisational culture for the needs of 21st century schools (led by the new Director General, Jeff Beard).

IB North America Regional Conference, July 2006 Freeport, The Bahamas

The IBNA conference centred on the theme of 'Learning Communities and the IB', a theme consistent throughout several IB regional conferences in 2006. A number of IB personnel presented at this conference, the largest IB conference in the world with 750 people present from all over the North American region.

The conference featured speakers presenting on a range of subjects including the original purpose of literature, cultural intelligence, schools and the new economy, and assessing educational myths.

The IB research team also worked in partnership with research colleagues based at the IBNA regional offices in New York, and presented workshops on:

- Making Sense of Educational Research
- School Based Research, Action Research and the IB