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*Newsletter of the Centre for
the study of Education in an
International Context
Department of Education*

I N T E R C O M

EDUCATING FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: Another Alliance Conference Success!



As anticipated in the June 2006 edition of Intercom, the third conference of the Alliance for International Education took place in Shanghai between 27 and 29 October 2006. Organised in collaboration with the Yew Chung Education Foundation (who have international schools in a number of locations in China) and generously hosted by the Yew Chung International School Shanghai, the conference was a great success. Over 300 participants – approximately half of whom were Chinese and half from elsewhere internationally – came together to discuss and debate issues arising from presentations structured around six strands all linked to the underpinning theme of Educating for Global Citizenship.

The conference was chaired by Professor Jeff Thompson, and two keynote speakers gave much food for thought: Professor Paul Yip Kwok-wah, Founder and Chairman of Hong Kong Policy Research Institute and

Council Chairman of the Institute for Asian & European Studies at Xi'an Jiaotong University, who spoke about 'Education for global citizenship in the globalization era' and Dr Fazal Rizvi, Professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, the title of whose lecture was 'Education and its cosmopolitan possibilities'.

Simultaneous translation facilities worked well, and the six strands, led by Monique Conn, Patrick Griffin, Martin Skelton, Tom Ulmet, David Wilkinson, and Nancy Willard-Magaud, all stimulated interesting discussion about a range of issues.

For further details, including abstracts for all presentations made, see the Alliance for International Education website (www.intedalliance.org) and watch this space for information about the next Alliance conference, planned for 2008.



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

A personal view by Andrew Wigford

Building Capacity for International Teacher Recruitment

International schools have been around for over a hundred years, but misconceptions about them abound. Many teachers in many countries still do not know what international schools actually are and what they can offer the career professional. Having been involved in international education for 17 years, it still amazes me that in countries like the UK the vast majority of state school teachers that I meet seem to know precious little about international schools. In fact a popular myth is still that they are places where you teach English as a foreign language.

Over the past four years I have presented workshops on international curricula and international teaching to hundreds of state school teachers in the UK. There has always been a common response from participants, usually associated with absolute amazement. The teachers I have talked to cannot believe that such teaching opportunities are open to them in almost any country in the world. No-one had told them about international schools before. They did not know that they could use their teaching skills, travel the world and develop their career.

‘The vast majority of teachers know nothing about international schools’

Those that have been involved in teaching in international schools for some time often describe the initial discovery of the existence of such schools as almost accidental. But they seem to benefit enormously from the experience. In June and July 2006 Teachers International Consultancy (TIC) carried out some exploratory research with international school teachers and asked a cohort of 66 what benefits they thought they had gained

through their international school experience. A staggering 100% described how their experience had enriched them as a person. Even more impressive were the 89% who said that working in international schools had been good for their career. A third of these teachers said that they would not return to their homelands in the near future, but instead were planning a career within international schools. My question is this: If international schools are that good, why don't more people know about them?



Andrew Wigford is the Director of Teachers International Consultancy (TIC), a UK-based recruitment organisation working exclusively with international schools. For more information visit www.ticrecruitment.com or email a.wigford@ticrecruitment.com

So why is this an important question to ask right now? According to International Schools Consultancy Research Ltd (www.iscresearch.com) the current number of over 3,700 international schools is set to rise to well over 5,000 by the year 2012. If this assessment is correct, then the impact on recruitment of teachers for international schools could be felt by everyone involved, especially if the number of teachers entering into international

education does not rise at the same rate. Is it sensationalist to say that international schools could be heading towards a crisis in recruitment? Is the pool of candidates dwindling now that experienced international school teachers are being shared by so many more schools?

I have lost count of the number of international school Heads who have told me recently that recruitment seems to be getting harder. Many say that there are just not as many good quality applicants for vacant positions as there used to be. Some Heads say they are now attending job fairs where it seems the recruiters outnumber the candidates. Even some of the well-established international schools are feeling the pinch, with fewer applicants per vacancy than in previous years.

A personal view by Andrew Wigford

Job adverts are running for longer and recruitment costs are increasing. The Academy of International School Heads (AISH) recently made a recommendation to set up a recruitment 'task force' to tackle some of the recruitment issues members in their organisation now face, and they are certainly not alone. Similar discussions are taking place around the world and recruitment is becoming more of a 'hot topic' at conferences.

'There are not as many good quality applicants as there used to be'

If this is true, then what can we do about it? How should we act? I believe a collective effort is needed in the international schools community to raise the profile of our schools and to reveal the great opportunities available to teachers. We need to encourage more teachers from countries all over the world to consider international education as a career choice, and we need to start soon if we are to be successful in building the capacity needed.

In the past few months we at TIC have held a number of seminars in different regions of the UK to tell teachers about the opportunities in international schools. The seminars are advertised in the local and national press, and reinforced with editorials and radio show interviews. Getting the word out has been relatively easy in some regions. We had a good reaction from our appearances on BBC Radio (it's a good story after all local teacher spends three years teaching in Colombia). In November 2006 we were featured - with a leading article on the benefits of working in international schools - on the newly re-launched TES jobsite. The response has been incredible, and teachers have been flocking to register on our website ever since. Our seminars have been very well attended and we have plans for more in other UK regions and in Ireland in the new year. We have also held seminars in universities and targeted trainee teachers with the aim of planting the seeds of an idea that can be called upon following a few years teaching experience.

But all this is a drop in the ocean. More needs to be done, and in other countries around the world. If the

number of international schools continues to rise, some predict we may need to attract more than 5,000 new teachers into international education over the next five years. We may need to look further afield to find these teachers than we have done historically. Teachers from English-speaking developing countries such as India may take a more prominent role. Initiatives such as the one being piloted at the Overseas School of Colombo, which encourages its local Sri Lankan teachers to take leave of absence to gain more international experience at other international schools, could be adopted elsewhere. Imagine how many more experienced teachers would be released onto the circuit if this happened on a wider scale.

Our schools may have to change their recruitment policies to accept more teachers who do not have previous international school experience. Recruitment agencies may have to take on more responsibility alongside schools to provide more pre-departure orientation in international teaching. Universities could be encouraged to be more proactive in describing the benefits of teaching overseas to trainee teachers, and include courses on international education in their programmes. Governments could be lobbied to allow longer

'Some predict we may need to attract more than 5,000 new teachers over the next five years'

sabbaticals for state school teachers to gain international experience, and persuaded that this could have a positive influence on the career development and international understanding of returning teachers.

We need to get the word out to the world's best teachers that working in an international school is not only a great way to see the world and find adventure; it can also be very good for their career and a tremendously rewarding personal experience. Spreading the word may involve a lot of work, but if we do it together it may well create the impact needed to build capacity for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS!

to all who graduated in July 2006, as follows:

MA in Education

Mai Baconi
Mary Biss
Rhevatee Gobin
Carlos Gonzalez
Malcolm Kay
Maria Muniz Valcarcel
Vivienne Powell
Catherine Simon
Samuel Thornton

MA in Education (English Language Teaching)

Ming-Wang Cheng
Yuen-Rong Liu

MA in Ed (Language in Education)

Charalambos Fousias
Marguerite Montet

MA in Ed (Educational Technology)

Panayiotis Hadjioannou
Maria Siakalli
Danny Wong

MA in Education (Ed Management)

Photini Adamou
Maria Agathocleous
Athanasios Athanasiou
Irene Constantinou
Constantinos Ignatiou
Colin Illsley
Tonia Ioannidou-Philippou
Kyriaki Lambrou
Christopher Lynn
Maida Makotsi
Eleni Michael
Lynn Park
Robert Sinclair
Christina Soteriou
John Switzer
Elena Thoukididou
Melpo Thoukididou

MA in Ed (International Education)

Angus Ogilvy

EdD (Doctor of Education)

Pamela Joslin
Kenneth Martin

PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)

Maria Balarin
James Cambridge
John Dodsworth
Margaret Farren
Louise Gracia
Amiel Maman
Pauline Turner

Advanced Diploma in Education

Glyn Stork

CEIC AROUND THE WORLD

Dubai Study Centre



August 2006: Here's the group at the English College in Dubai studying the Managing Human Resources unit with Mike Fertig, and taking a well-earned break! Our local coordinator, Gail Bradley, did a fantastic job in organising the visit, making sure that regular supplies of drinks and refreshments were available during sessions. The group ranged from teachers working in the Emirates to those working in Sri Lanka, Kenya, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. This resulted in a very stimulating four days for all concerned.

Bangkok Study Centre



The most recent unit offered at the Bangkok Study Centre took place over the weekend of 24-26 November, when Mary Hayden led the Education in an International Context unit. With 21 participants, this was one of the largest Study Centre groups taught in recent years. Thanks to excellent facilities provided by the New International School of Thailand and organised by Malcolm Nicolson, we had plenty of room and were provided with enough refreshments and break-out rooms to keep everyone happy. And being able to draw on so much relevant experience from across the age range, type of school and geographical location – participants had travelled from Shanghai, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur as well as from different parts of Thailand – was certainly a bonus and led to some lively discussion. Now we look forward to receiving all the assignments!

Forthcoming Study Centres

8 - 11 March 2007

The English College, Dubai
UNDERSTANDING LEARNERS & LEARNING

19 - 22 April 2007

International School of Brussels, Belgium
TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING

28 - 30 April 2007

New International School of Thailand, Bangkok
UNDERSTANDING LEARNERS & LEARNING

11 - 14 May 2007

Yew Chung International School, Shanghai
ASSESSMENT OF PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT
[to be confirmed]

**Study Centres planned for November 2007
with units still to be confirmed:**

1-4 November: The English College, Dubai
2-5 November: Yew Chung International School, Shanghai
10-12 November: New International School of Thailand, Bangkok

Staff News

SUE OAKLEY RETIRES

Many Intercom readers will be sorry to hear that Sue Oakley, the first CEIC administrator and centrally involved in running Summer School for a number of years, has taken early retirement.

For a number of years Sue worked closely with Jeff Thompson, Jim Harvey and Mary Hayden in organising Study Centre activities worldwide, as well as in ensuring that Summer School ran smoothly, and her smiling face and cheerful presence played a big part in making the hectic few weeks of July an enjoyable experience for all concerned. More recently Sue had moved from CEIC to become secretary to the Head of Department, but still retained an interest in all our students working towards postgraduate qualifications worldwide. We'll miss Sue, and send her our very best wishes: anyone wishing to pass on their own good wishes may do so via CEIC (ceic@bath.ac.uk).



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



Waterstone's, University of Bath: The Book Ordering Service

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POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION SUMMER SCHOOL 2007

MA in Education

Week 1 (2 - 6 July)

Dissertation Support

Week 2 (9 - 13 July)

Research Methods in Education
Education in an International Context
Managing Educational Organisations
Teaching the English Language
Curriculum Studies

Week 3 (16 - 20 July)

Managing International Schools
Environmental Education: Learning & Change
Technologies for Learning
Assessment of Pupil Achievement

Week 4 (23 - 27 July)

Multilingual and Multicultural Education
Education, Globalisation and Change
Managing Educational Innovation
Research Methods in Education
Understanding Learners and Learning

Doctor of Education (EdD)

29 June - 6 July

Educational Leadership, Management &
Administration

6 - 13 July

Educational Research: Philosophy & Practice

13 - 20 July

Language, Culture & Education

Summer School Contact Details

Director of Postgraduate Education

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Participation in Summer School includes:

- Access to library and other University facilities
- Accommodation available on campus
- A number of additional seminars open to all Summer School participants
- A one-day research student conference (for MPhil, MRes, PhD and EdD students)
- Social activities

For further details on the 2007 Summer School please see:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/education/summer>

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