



**Report on the UNESCO International Advisory Committee Meeting for the 2nd UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education
Paris, 1-2 July 2009**

Prepared by Associate Professor Ralph Buck, Chair, Education and Training Network WDA-Asia Pacific and WDA representative on Presidential Council, WAAE

Approved by Dan Baron Cohen, President of IDEA and Professor Rita Irwin, President of InSEA

1. Dan Baron Cohen (IDEA) and Chair of the WAAE Presidential Council, Ralph Buck, (WDA), and Rita Irwin (InSEA) participated in the UNESCO International Advisory Committee meeting held in Paris, July 1 and 2, 2009. Hakan Lundstrom (ISME) offered apologies for being unavailable. The Out-Going and In-Coming Presidents of ISME were also unavailable to participate.
2. The aim of the International Advisory Committee meeting on Arts Education in Paris was to help UNESCO and the Korean Government, through the organisation Korean Arts, Culture and Education Service (KACES) prepare and plan for the 2nd World Conference on Arts Education to be held in **Seoul, Korea, 25-28 May 2010.**
3. The 2nd World Conference on Arts Education in Korea builds on interests and outcomes expressed at the first World Conference held in Lisbon 2006. One key outcome of the Lisbon conference was the document known as the UNESCO Road Map for Arts Education (see attached document). Another key outcome of Lisbon was the formulation and growth of WAAE, an Arts Education Non-Government Organisation representing arts educators globally.
4. The Road Map provided a common discussion document and prompted the articulation of the 2nd World Conference.
5. Three Presidential Council members of the WAAE, Dan Baron Cohen, Chair of WAAE Presidential Council (IDEA), Rita Irwin (INSEA) and Ralph Buck (WDA) met on 30th June 2009 with the aim of preparing a coherent comment on perceived outcomes since 2006 and developing a shared sense of direction for the Seoul conference and beyond.
6. This WAAE Presidential Council preparatory meeting was crucial in establishing a united arts educators voice and strategic goal. This meeting also refined the already considerable planning, vision and outcomes for the WAAE World Summit, Newcastle, 31 October – 2 November 2009. (The WAAE Newcastle

event is driven by the vision of consulting key educators and collating issues, needs and activities that will inform the outcomes of the Seoul conference.)

7. The WAAE Presidential Council focussed its discussion on how to achieve outcomes from the Seoul conference that would inform and shift political will and also engage broad community interest, building understandings of arts education. Our discussion, while tempered by ‘reality checks’, was fruitful in establishing a list of outcomes for the Paris UNESCO meeting that would in turn shape the Seoul conference, but also further engage UNESCO’s commitment to arts education for the long term.
8. The Presidential Council entered the UNESCO Paris meeting with a strong and clear understanding of what we valued in global arts education and our positioning of arts education within formal and informal education contexts. We all also respected the diversity and issues implicit within each arts discipline.
9. The UNESCO Paris meeting began with a statement of intent, summary of the Lisbon 2006 conference and the Korean Government’s structural plans for the 2nd World Arts Educators Conference.
10. UNESCO and the Korean Government stated that the 2nd World Arts Educators Conference could have its agenda strongly shaped by a focus on socio-cultural dimensions of arts education, building capacities for research and ongoing development of the Road Map.
11. The UNESCO Paris meeting involved 36 arts education “experts” and government advisors from around the world (see attached document), inclusive of diverse art forms, representing pedagogy in and out of institutions of all educational levels. For two days we discussed the content of the Seoul Conference, outcomes sought from the conference, examples of practice that might inform the conference.
12. The discussion was extremely interesting with many views, ideas providing vigorous and informed presentations.
13. This report cannot account for the vast number of issues discussed nor confirm core outcomes of the meeting beyond the general consensus that the Seoul conference indeed focus on socio-cultural dimensions of arts education. Yet by way of giving a feel of the discussion, topics raised included (WAAE proposals, highlighted in blue italics, with WAAE contributions *highlighted in italics*):
 - *Community based arts*
 - *Pedagogy*
 - *Instrumental use of arts and arts for their intrinsic worth*
 - *Arts practices and issues specific to geo-political regions*
 - *Youth arts and exchanges*

- *Life-long learning*
 - *Artists and education*
 - Creativity
 - Governmental responsibilities
 - Financial restraints and possibilities
 - *Grass roots practice vital*
 - *UNESCO arts research observatories*
 - *Research – diversity, key messages*
 - Peace and arts education
 - Meanings of socio-cultural
 - Curriculum: compartmentalise/guide/affirm
 - *NGO's roles and voices*
 - Schools and teachers: foster or limit learning
 - *Sustainability: environment, support for arts, support for educators*
 - *Need to involve practice/practice as research*
 - *Media and new technologies and youth concerns*
 - *The role and value of UNESCO and future for arts education*
 - *World arts week*
 - *UNESCO Arts Chairs, awards, fellowships*
 - Gender and access to education
 - *Arts education and health/wellness*
 - *Arts education and special needs*
 - *Reality checks that arts education will not save the world*
 - Professional development of teachers, in and out of schools
 - Contexts of learners and teachers and communities
 - *Prioritization of targeting/retraining Schools' Principals*
 - *Building sustainable communities*
 - Philosophical underpinnings
 - *Indigenous art and pedagogies*
 - *Arts education in police training, prisons and creative industries*
 - *Tensions between traditional arts and contemporary arts*
 - *Identity*
 - *What are the key messages or findings that need to be made public*
14. During the Paris UNESCO meeting Dan Baron Cohen and Ralph Buck had a meeting with Tobias Biancone, Executive Officer of ITI. ITI's associations with drama and dance were discussed and the interplay of each other's networks and our implicit shared NGO goals were acknowledged. IDEA and ITI signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* to celebrate, formalize and foster collaboration between both networks and to integrate ITI into the WAAE forum.
15. A series of meetings were also held with Olga Parras, INSEA World Councillor, who is organising the 2009 Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Arts Education. The WAAE is a partner of this event, advised by our Latin American

representative, Dan Baron Cohen, with Peter Palacio, WDA member Colombia, involved in organisational issues. Dan Baron Cohen, Rita Irwin, Hakan Lundstrom and Ralph Buck have been invited to Bogota 20-23 November in ongoing preparation for 2010 UNESCO World Conference in Seoul.

16. A meeting was also held with Professor Anne Bamford in her capacity as one of the Advisers to the WAAE and Director of Cultural Programmes for CCE (Creativity Culture and Education), the partner to our 2009 World Summit. Anne briefed us on her own meetings in Paris with key advisors to the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and how they might be included within the public dialogues within the Summit.
17. Drama and Theatre Education organizations were represented by IDEA and the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
18. WDA was the only dance organisation present at the UNESCO Paris meeting. The WDA successfully represented the wider dance community in this forum.
19. Representation of New Media, Literature and Craft organizations were visibility unrepresented as organized networks. Their inclusion needs to be a continuing priority for the WAAE Presidential Council.
20. Dan Baron Cohen was invited to give a final contribution on behalf of the PC of the WAAE. He provided a brief account of the emergence and development of the WAAE as a context for highlighting our principal recommendations for the 2010 UNESCO world conference. He concluded by inviting all present to contribute directly or indirectly to the 2009 WAAE World Summit, thanking UNESCO for its well-organised and generous initiative, and looking forward to the next steps of collaboration.
21. The meeting was summarised by Georges Poussin, the UNESCO Moderator, and closed by the Korean UNESCO Consul General. Both thanked all present for their contributions to the international debates and promised to take them into consideration in the preparation of the 2010 UNESCO world conference.

WAAE Presidential Council
July 15th 2009