

Penn and UNESCO Collaborate on Summer Internship Program Summer 2012

In the summer of 2012, a group of students from University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education traveled across the globe to complete internships with UNESCO. Ten students in the Penn GSE **International Educational Development Program (IEDP)** worked in UNESCO field offices in six countries, as well as UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, France. The internships are a core component of the IEDP experience, and a unique aspect of the program that provides students with on-the-ground experience in global educational development. This collaborative opportunity advanced IEDP and UNESCO priorities as both focus on achieving the education-related United Nations Millennium Development Goals of literacy and basic education.



Penn UNESCO interns and Dr. Dan Wagner, IEDP Director

IEDP student interns participated in educational workshops, planning meetings and field visits that served as valuable opportunities to engage with UNESCO colleagues and other partners. The students also managed a variety of projects, which included: developing information graphics to make critical literacy data more accessible to communities in Thailand, documenting UNESCO's role in educational planning in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and researching and helping to prepare UNESCO's five-year evaluation of the African Union's International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa. While abroad, IEDP students stayed connected academically, professionally and personally through an interactive, Penn-sponsored blog site. This blog served as a forum for students to relate coursework to practice, exchange research and innovative practices, as well as share personal stories from their time abroad. Graduates of the IEDP said that the internship was crucial in gaining experience in the international educational field as well as confidence in their abilities as development workers.

Abby Campbell, UNESCO-Dakar: Abby's work in Dakar focused on literacy and education for women and girls. Abby co-wrote UNESCO's five-year



Abby Campbell (front) with the UNESCO team at an Education for All Workshop in Dakar, Senegal

evaluation of the African Union's International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa, and also provided feedback and recommendations for a draft of Nigeria's National Strategy Document for Adult and Youth Literacy.

Naoko Enomoto, UNESCO-Bangkok: Naoko was assigned to the UIS-AIMS unit while interning in Bangkok. As a part of this unit, Naoko helped prepare the Regional Synthesis Report based on responses to the Literacy Household Survey. Additionally, she assisted regional



Naoko Enomoto (center) participates in a UNESCO-Bangkok ecology lab.



Fatima Zahra (center) with team members of the Literacy Section at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France

experts in teacher training meetings, and created information graphics to display literacy data in ways more accessible to the larger community.

Maria Aguirre, UNESCO-Santiago de Chile: While in Chile, Maria completed a position paper on the role of UNESCO in education planning in the region. She was also responsible for creating a detailed work-plan to support office activities and developing a codebook regarding procedures and policies.

Xiaoning Zhang, UNESCO-Beijing: While in Beijing, Xiaoning's major focus included translating a handbook discussing homophobic bullying and providing support for various efforts around HIV/AIDS and sex education.

Fatima Tuz Zahra, UNESCO-Paris: Fatima served as an intern at UNESCO HQ in Paris, France, where she worked in the literacy team to document the education/literacy plans and policies from over 130 countries and evaluate them in preparation for the 2012 International Literacy Day celebration and conference. She also helped develop the prototype for Literacy Plus program and database for the United Nations Literacy Decade surveys.



Xiao Zhang (front center) with his UNESCO colleagues at a group gathering in Beijing, China

Khaing Zah Lynn, UNESCO-Bangkok: Khaing Zah conducted desk reviews and studied effective education on literacy and Non-formal Education (NFE) to engage unreached children and youth in the

Asia-Pacific Region. Her research focused on equivalency primary programs and financial literacy. In addition, she worked on the curriculum proposal for equivalency programs in Papua New Guinea, selecting appropriate and exemplary curriculum frameworks in the region for UNESCO-Hamburg's Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL). She also assisted with organizing and preparing for the Asia-Pacific Annual Review Meeting on the Japanese Funds-in-Trust in the Field of Education, and Regional Expert Meeting on Inclusive Education through Quality Teacher Education in Asia-Pacific.



Khaing Zah Lynn (left) participates in a UNESCO roundtable discussion in Bangkok.

Upon her graduation from the IEDP program, Khaing Zah found work as an Education Officer with UNICEF, Yangon, Myanmar. Her current job is to engage in a new national program called Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR). She works closely with UNICEF's Chief Technical Advisor.



From left to right: GSE Dean Andy Porter, Prof. Dan Wagner, Dir-Genl Irina Bokova, Vice-Provost Ezekiel Emanuel

Penn and UNESCO formalized their internship collaboration in March 2012, during a visit by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova to Penn. Dir-Genl Bokova, Penn Vice Provost for global initiatives Ezekiel Emanuel, and GSE Dean Andy Porter signed a Memorandum of Understanding which, among other things, officially established UNESCO's commitment to host IEDP interns in UNESCO offices around the world. Bokova's visit also served as the formal inauguration for the UNESCO Chair in Learning and Literacy, Professor Dan Wagner at Penn. Professor Wagner is the current IEDP director and has extensive professional experience with UNESCO.

Penn's International Educational Development Program has a unique approach that incorporates an international internship experience as part of its coursework.

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