



ANNUAL REVIEW 2008-09

“Te whakatairanga i te maungārongo me te tika ā-tāngata ki Aotearoa, ki te Moana nui ā Kiwa hoki
- mā te mātauranga, mā ngā pūtaiao, mā te ahurea me te whakawhitiwhiti whakaaro kore here”

“Promoting peace and social justice in NZ and the Pacific through
education, the sciences, culture, and the free exchange of ideas”



UNESCO INTERNATIONAL

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, is a specialised agency of the United Nations. Established in 1946, UNESCO works for world peace and international understanding through its key programme areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture and communications.

Most of UNESCO's 193 member states have established their own National Commissions to serve as national focal points for the organisation. Member states contribute and approve UNESCO's programme and budget at the General Conference every two years.

The UNESCO Executive Board is made up of elected representatives from 58 Member States and is responsible for ensuring implementation by the Secretariat of decisions agreed to by General Conference.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

Appointed and funded by the New Zealand government, the National Commission represents UNESCO, manages relationships with key stakeholders and coordinates advice to the organisation on future programmes. The National Commission works to promote UNESCO's vision, goals and programmes within New Zealand and the Pacific. Five sub commissions, focused upon UNESCO's key programme areas, provide expert advice to the National Commission.

Bryan Gould was appointed Chair in October 2008, to replace Dame Silvia Cartwright, who resigned due to commitments as a trial judge on the United Nations Tribunal investigating war crimes in Cambodia. Media expert, Paul Smith was also appointed as Communications and Information Specialist and replaces Laurence Zwimpfer.



Message from the Chair

Nau mai! Haere mai!

Welcome to the Annual Review of the work of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. The Commission is appointed by the New Zealand government to support the work of the longest established of all United Nations agencies.

Our goal is to promote peace and social justice in New Zealand and the Pacific through education, the sciences, culture and the free exchange of ideas. I hope that this summary of work undertaken between the 18 months from July 2008 to December 2009 will show how we try to achieve this goal.

Bryan Gould

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Intersectoral Priorities

For 2008-2009 the NZ National Commission for UNESCO developed three key strategic priorities that work across all five programme areas. Highlights follow on pages 2, 3 and 4.

INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY – To promote dialogue and action for the celebration of inclusivity and diversity especially through language

Migrating Kitchens

The cultural diversity of food and cooking methods of six migrant groups was uniquely displayed at Pataka Museum, Porirua over a six week period. Each group showcased their speciality foods and ingredients, and took turns holding cooking demonstrations during the weekends, from their respective Afghan, Chilean, Cook Island, Indian, Italian and Zimbabwean 'kitchens'.

UN International Year of Languages 2008



Samoan language students from Porirua's Bishop Viard College with representatives from: UNESCO, Human Rights Commission, Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori and former Education Minister Chris Carter

As lead agency for the United Nations International Year of Languages, the National Commission co-ordinated a series of language-related activities, covering language in the public sector, in education and for those new to New Zealand. The National Commission contributed to Te Waka Reo: National Language Policy Network newsletter which keeps people informed about language-related matters.

Treaty of Waitangi Resource

The Social and Human Sciences Sub-Commission launched a web resource on the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti O Waitangi) and its relationship to the work of the NZ National Commission. This web resource documents and

explores the connections between international human rights agendas and issues raised by the Treaty, including the relevance of the Treaty for people of different ethnicities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

New Zealand Diversity Forum

Workshops and presentations across a wide spectrum of topics formed the basis for the Diversity Action Programme's Annual Forum held on 24 and 25 August 2009. The National Commission contributed a grant towards the costs of the Youth Forum as one of the initiating partners of the Diversity Action Programme and Rosemary du Plessis spoke on behalf of the National Commission at the Awards Ceremony.

Human Rights Film Festival

The National Commission once again partnered with the Human Rights Network Aotearoa New Zealand in hosting the 2009 Human Rights Film Festival. The festival had the theme of "Freedom". Audiences in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin engaged in discussion forums and debate about Human Rights issues raised in the films.

Holocaust Education

The UN Day for Holocaust Remembrance was marked for the first time in New Zealand on 27 January 2009 with ceremonies at the Holocaust Memorial, Makara Cemetery, and a Parliamentary function hosted by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Hon Chris Finlayson. Dr Andrew Matthews spoke on behalf of the National Commission in support of the work of the Wellington Holocaust Education and Research Centre.

UNESCO Contestable Activity Fund (UCAF)

UCAF aims to expand the reach of the National Commission's activities in New Zealand to achieve the organisation's goal of working in a more intersectoral manner. It provides small grants to new projects and partnerships.

Kowiana Conference 2009 – Explored the question "what it means to be a Kiwi-Korean" and addressed issues of living in a multi-cultural society.

Human Rights in Education – Development of human rights education in ASPnet schools.

Migrating Kitchens – Ethnic communities told their stories through sharing food, demonstrating recipes and rituals.

Te Rangitawaea Festival, Live Internet Broadcast 2009 – News style broadcast in Te Reo Māori and English by East Coast Ngati Porou students to celebrate their ICT achievements.



Te Rangitawaea ICT Festival 2009 and News Webcast – Materoa Aitkens-Waitoa interviewing student DJ Josh Andzue



Youngsters at Te Matatini, Traditional Māori Performing Arts Festival

WAIORA – Awareness and Management of Freshwater Resources

Intersectoral Meeting on Waiora

Representatives from the Commission's five sectoral networks met to agree on the National Commission's strategic direction on the intersectoral theme of Waiora: Management of Freshwater. The Commission aims to raise awareness, facilitate dialogue and support strategies for the promotion of sustainable freshwater management in New Zealand and the Pacific.

ECOMINDS Youth Forum

Bayer and UNEP, in partnership with the National Commission, and the University of Auckland worked together to host the ECOMINDS Youth Forum in New Zealand from 25-29 May, 2009. The Forum brought together teams of students from 9 countries of the Asia Pacific Region in Auckland and Rotorua to address the theme of Sustainable Energy Systems: Challenges and Opportunities.

Realise the Dream

In 2008 and 2009 the National Commission was a supporting partner of the Realise the Dream Event, organised by the Royal Society with the principal sponsorship of Genesis Energy. This event celebrates excellence in the work of intermediate and secondary students in the natural and social sciences.

Mata Ora – Māori Polynesian Celestial Navigation Event



Hekenukumai Ngaiwi Puhipi Busby MBE, Te Rarawa/Ngati Kahu; Dr Andrew Matthews, UNESCO; Frank Andrews and Gordon Hudson, Society for Māori Astronomy, Research & Tourism (SMART)

To mark the International Year of Astronomy 2009, the National Commission contributed a grant towards the organisation of the Mata Ora – Māori Polynesian Celestial Navigation Event. This annual event pays tribute to the courageous feats of the Polynesian Māori and the continuing journey that leading Māori & Polynesian experts are embarking on to ensure the revival of Māori celestial navigation of the blue sea vessels, the Waka Hourua.

UNDESD

The New Zealand Strategic Plan for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) continued to be implemented through the partnership between the National Commission and Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand Inc. (SANZ). As a major output SANZ released in September 2009 the publication "Strong Sustainability for New Zealand: Principles and Scenarios".

UNESCO Contestable Activity Fund (UCAF)

Wellington Youth Climate Forum –

a meeting of Wellington secondary students to discuss, learn, share ideas, create momentum and plan for action regarding climate change.



Wellington Youth Climate Forum action outside NZ Government Buildings, the Beehive

Waiora (Healthy Water) Arteries of Aotearoa –

a national competition engaging young artists to investigate and represent issues of fresh water supply and consumption.

Downstream Waterways – a Canterbury University student was contracted to analyse/ disseminate information and engage with the community to formulate practical solutions to keep waterways healthy.

Green Pre-schools – Vanuatu – support for Green Pre-schools in Vanuatu where waste, energy and water consumption is reduced, children understand their place in nature and how to contribute to environmental challenges, and teachers, carers and parents teach young children how to care for the environment.

◀ MATARIKI

◀ TAUTORU

SOUTHERN CROSS ▶

Te Waka O Tama Rereti – the waka of Tama Rereti: a panorama of the New Zealand sky as seen in the dawn of Matariki (June–July before sunrise) and at evening during Mata Ora (November–December after sunset) © John Drummond 2007

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT – To be a strong and effective voice within the international programme of UNESCO and to advance New Zealand and Pacific priorities, values and good practices.

Major Education Conferences

UNESCO was responsible for convening 4 major Education Conferences. The National Commission worked closely with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders to ensure representation at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (WCESD), the 6th International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI), the 48th International Conference on Education (ICE), and the World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE).

Visit of Director, UNESCO Pacific Office

Dr Visessio Pongji, Director of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific visited New Zealand from 3-5 March 2009. He delivered a presentation at the joint sub-commission meeting, attended a meeting of the National Commission and held discussions with officials from the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs and Trade.

International Engagement

New Zealand's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO in Paris regularly engages with Permanent Delegations from Asia and Australia. The Chair and Secretary General met with a number of delegations when observing the Executive Board in April 2009. Following the reconstitution of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO in early 2009 the National Commission explored opportunities for closer co-operation between the two Commissions.

Executive Board

The National Commission continued observer representation at biennial meetings of the Executive Board. The April 2009 Executive Board session provided an opportunity to introduce the new Chair to the work of the organisation and to introduce him at UNESCO.

New Director General Elected

At the General Conference in October 2009, Madame Irina Bokova of Bulgaria was elected Director General of UNESCO for a four year term. A former Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to France and Monaco, Madame Bokova is the first woman to hold this post since the foundation of UNESCO in 1945. She replaces Koïchiro Matsuura of Japan.



UNESCO Chair Bryan Gould and Director General of UNESCO Madame Irina Bokova of Bulgaria



Participants at the Pacific Interfaith Initiative in August 2008

Pacific Interfaith Initiative

Religious leaders from across the Pacific gathered in Auckland in August 2008 to consider issues relating to religious diversity. They agreed on the need to meet again to address the issues in greater detail, including those relevant to women and young people. A UNESCO Chair in Inter-religious studies in New Zealand and the Pacific is to be established at Victoria University. Professor Paul Morris will hold this chair.

35th UNESCO General Conference

The Chair of the National Commission led a delegation of 6 representatives including the Permanent Delegation in Paris to the 35th Session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris from 6-23 October 2009. The Delegation presented New Zealand positions on UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 which was approved by the Conference. It also worked closely with Pacific delegations to advance Pacific interests.

Elections

New Zealand was elected to the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Programme during the 35th Session of the UNESCO General Conference. New Zealand's representative for this four year term will be Professor Richard Bedford of Waikato University.

APCEIU Meeting

The National Commission cooperated with the Asia Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) in hosting an Editorial Meeting leading to the publishing of "Caring in the Pacific", a guidebook for teachers of civics education.



VISION

“Action for peace and social justice through education, the natural, social and human sciences, culture, communications and information.”

MISSION STATEMENT

“To fulfil New Zealand’s obligations as a Member State, to contribute to the development of UNESCO programmes and strategic priorities, to represent and promote New Zealand’s interests and, within the context of the Asia and Pacific region, to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue.”

VALUES

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO is committed to: the Treaty of Waitangi; A diverse multicultural society; Peace; Social justice and the reduction of inequalities; Ethical behaviour; Engaging young people; and Gender equity.

Members of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Bryan Gould (Chair)

After a career in the British Parliament, Mr Gould held the position of Vice Chancellor of Waikato University for ten years until he stood down in 2004. A director of Television New Zealand, he also chairs the Foundation of Research, Science and Technology and the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. In 2005 Mr Gould was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit and in 2006 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Waikato.

Dr Edna Tait (Education Specialist)

A lifelong passion for education as a student, teacher, principal and lecturer has seen Edna Tait head the UNESCO Office for the Pacific in Samoa and the Post Primary Teachers Association in New Zealand. She is a former member of the Tertiary Education Commission and holds a doctorate in Education from Massey University.

Rosemary Du Plessis (Social Science Specialist)

A senior lecturer in Sociology at Canterbury University, Rosemary Du Plessis has long term interests in gender, family, work and embodiment. Between 2003 and 2005 she led the Constructive Conversations / Korero Whakaaetanga research programme which focused on the social, ethical, cultural and spiritual implications of genetic testing and biobanking.

Dr Andrew Matthews (Natural Science Specialist)

A commitment to help find a more sustainable use of resources, especially given the challenges posed by climate change, has been a focus for Dr Matthews whose career includes research for the DSIR and NIWA in New Zealand and extended periods based in Germany, France and Japan. He also serves on several international commissions and steering groups supporting research agendas to address global environmental change.

Keri Kaa (Culture Specialist)

Long-time educationalist and culture expert, Keri Kaa (of the Ngati Porou and Ngati Kahungunu tribes) is a former lecturer at Wellington College of Education. An author and respected elder, Ms Kaa is a trustee of the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) and a board member for Gisborne's Tairāwhiti Museum. She is also a member of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage's Māori reference group and a former Te Waka Toi board member.

Paul Smith (Communications Specialist)

Veteran journalist Paul Smith has worked for major newspapers in New Zealand and overseas for forty years. He has written several best-selling social histories and is the immediate past President of the NZ Society of Authors. A media law specialist, Mr Smith is also on the board of NZ On Air and is a previous director of TVNZ.

Secretariat

Secretary General: Elizabeth Rose

Education, Youth and Human Rights:
Hayden Montgomerie

Social & Natural Sciences: Zuleika Chang

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Bryan Gould (Chair), Elizabeth Rose (Secretary General) and Andrew Matthews (Deputy Chair)



Realise the Dream – celebrating excellence in students in the natural and social sciences



Weaving as part of UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development