

OECD Global Forum

on Education

Education plays a key role in achieving goals of sustainable economic development. Substantial networks of education officials and experts in both member and non-member economies have been established through various OECD programmes and activities since 1991. Most non-members have embarked on reforms to meet the education for all (EFA) challenge and equity of access to lifelong learning. Several non-member economies have turned to the OECD for policy reviews and recommendations. The OECD Global Forum on Education was created in 2005 to help satisfy this demand in areas of current activities of the OECD Directorate for Education (e.g. tertiary education, special needs and lifelong learning).



The second Global Forum on the theme of *Improving the Effectiveness of Education Systems*, was co-hosted by the OECD and the State Secretariat for Higher Education, Science and Technology, the State Secretariat for Education and National Institute of Professional and Technical Training (INFOTEP) of the Dominican Republic and took place in Santo Domingo, on 3-5 March, 2008.

■ Objectives

The OECD Global Forum on Education aims to strengthen and expand OECD networks of education officials and experts to include a wider range of non-member economies. In particular the Forum contributes to:

Identifying major developments, problems and issues in the moves to adapt education systems to the needs of changing economies and societies;

- Relating these moves to wider trends, such as democratisation, technological change, demographic factors, the progress of science, the globalisation process, etc.
- Considering and further developing an agenda of challenges and tasks on which further collaborative work might be undertaken between countries.

■ Participants

Participants include ministers, deputy ministers, senior level education officials and experts from OECD and non-member economies, intergovernmental organisations, specialised NGOs and civil society organisations.

■ Outcomes & Achievements

- Substantial networks of education officials and experts in OECD member and non-member economies;
- More than 50 monitoring reports and peer reviews on non-member economies;
- Analytical use and development of comparable data (e.g. World Education Indicators [WEI], Programme for International Student Assessment [PISA → 2009 has over 30 non-members economies participating]);
- Elaboration of special tools to improve outcomes for students with special needs.

■ Involved OECD Bodies

Education Policy Committee

CERI Governing Board

Directorate for Education (EDU)

www.oecd.org/edu

Programme for Co-operation with non-member economies

Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE)

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

www.oecd.org/edu/higher

www.oecd.org/pisa

■ Key partners – Useful Links

Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Civilian Research Development Fund (CRDF)

European Training Foundation (ETF)

Inter-American Development Bank

International Association of Universities (IAU)

South –Eastern Europe Education Co-operation Network (SEEECN)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

World Bank

World Bank Institute

Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (YEPP)

www.adeanet.org

www.crdf.org

www.etf.eu.int

www.iadb.org

www.unesco.org/iau

www.see-educoop.net

www.unesco.org

www.worldbank.org

www.worldbank.org/wbi

www.yepp-community.org

Activities in 2007-2008

PEER REVIEWS & SPECIAL REPORTS

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

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Feb. 2006 - Oct. 2008	<p>Sino-Swiss project on “Policy Dialogue on Financing Higher Education and Sustaining the Quality of Mass Education for Lifelong Learning”</p> <p>As a follow up to recommendations from the two reviews on China which that had an important impact on legislation and policy development in the sector, the OECD is aiming to strengthen research capacity on tertiary education finance and quality. The goal of this activity is the establishment of long-term research collaboration between Chinese, Swiss and other OECD area universities and research institutions on policy issues of mutual interest in the domain of education development and governance. An international search conference on governance, financing and quality assurance took place in April 2007 in Zürich to identify joint activities between Swiss and Chinese higher education experts, The final results were presented in Beijing in 2008.</p>
April 2006 - Dec. 2007	<p>Micro-projects on Statistics and Data Gathering</p> <p>As part of the OECD project on “Education development for Disabled and at Risk Students in South Eastern Europe”, education ministries have been invited to participate in activities to address capacity building in the field of statistics and data gathering. Country-specific micro-projects were implemented in 2007 and the results will be available in 2008. The first results for Moldova were presented on the occasion of a dissemination conference that took place in Chisinau in December 2007.</p>
June 2007	<p>Review of Higher Education Policy in Kazakhstan</p> <p>The publication <i>Reviews of National Policies for Education: Higher Education in Kazakhstan</i>, completed in partnership with the World Bank, was published in June 2007 in English and Russian and includes recommendations on policy reform on access, equity, gender issues and quality. The publication was launched on 29-30 October 2007 in Astana with participation of key stakeholders in education and the World Bank.</p>
October - Nov. 2007	<p>Review of Education Policy in South Africa</p> <p>The review covers the whole education system with particular focus on equity of access, governance, special needs and outcomes. The review will be published in the second half of 2008.</p>
2008	<p>Education Policies for Students at Risk and Those with Special Education Needs in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Policy reviews will be carried out in three countries of Central Asia, namely Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, on the situation of students at risk and those with special education needs. Support for the reviews is provided by the Foundation Open Society Institute.</p>
2008	<p>Review of Tertiary Education Policy in Chile</p> <p>As a follow-up to the successful review of Education Policy in Chile published in 2004, the OECD are preparing a review of the tertiary education system, to be published in the second half of 2008.</p>
March 2008	<p>Peer review of Education in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>The review was presented on 6 March in Santo Domingo, following the 2nd Global Forum on Education.</p>
March 2008	<p>Human Resource Development in Russia</p> <p>As a follow-up to recommendations from the two reviews of the Russian Federation, the OECD Secretariat initiated an activity on intellectual property rights and research management in Russian universities. In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Civilian Research Development Fund (CRDF) a series of seminars has had an important impact on raising research capacity in the university sector. The last project conference took place in Kazan in March 2008.</p>
2009	<p>Review of Higher Education Policy in Egypt</p> <p>The OECD is currently planning a review of higher education policy in Egypt. The resulting report is expected to be published in 2009.</p>