FOURTH PEB COMPRENDIUM OF EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES - A PROPOSAL

GOVERNING BOARD

To be held at the Juárez Theater, Guanajuato, Mexico
from Monday 10 November at 9.30 a.m. to
Tuesday 11 November 2008 at 6.00 p.m.
FOURTH PEB COMPENDIUM OF EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES -
A PROPOSAL

1. The Programme on Educational Building (PEB) plans to publish a fourth compendium of exemplary educational facilities following the success of the first three editions. The third PEB Compendium, published in 2006, ranked eighth among all OECD publications sold that year and ranked second among books published by the OECD Directorate for Education.

2. As a reminder, the fourth compendium project consists of a publication, possibly accompanied by a CD-ROM, and an exhibition. The objective is to promote good design, use and management of educational facilities through examples from around the world, drawn primarily from PEB member and other OECD countries. The levels of education and themes for the compendium remain to be defined before composing the international jury that will select the candidates to appear in the final products.

Levels of education and themes

3. The first compendium, entitled Schools for Today and Tomorrow, presented nursery, primary and secondary schools and was organised by level of education. They were nominated for inclusion under the following themes that were indicated in the publication: design and/or layout, architectural heritage, urban renewal, rural areas, environmental education, maintenance, energy conservation, space utilisation, reuse of existing buildings, information technology, lifelong learning, and community, business and industry.

4. The second compendium, Designs for Learning, presented tertiary institutions in addition to schools and focused on how facilities can contribute to educational effectiveness. The facilities were presented according to the following four work areas of the PEB mandate at that time, 1997-2001: improving effectiveness through design and management, the school of the future, tertiary education - coping with demand, and strategies for managing the educational infrastructure.

5. The PEB Compendium of Exemplary Educational Facilities: 3rd Edition presented schools by level of education, selected on the basis of criteria of flexibility, community needs, sustainability, safety and security, and alternative financing. It also devoted its first chapter to special mentions: “institutions which the jury found to be particularly remarkable.”

6. The PEB Secretariat proposes that the fourth compendium should again cover all levels of education and address how the design, use and management of buildings and grounds contribute to the quality of education. The themes and criteria for selection and presentation remain to be determined and could be based on one of the following options:

- The levels of education alone.
- The levels of education and one or more themes, such as 21st century educational institutions.
• The activities undertaken by the Programme in its 2007-2010 programmes of work: Evaluation of Procurement Policy and Practice in Educational Facilities; Environmentally Sustainable Educational Facilities; Evaluating the Quality of and Investments in Educational Facilities and Equipment; Exemplary Educational Facilities; Futures Thinking in Educational Infrastructure; School Safety and Security; and Higher Education: Spaces and Places for Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer.

Award for outstanding educational buildings

7. Whilst being published in the compendium is in itself a form of award, it is proposed to more clearly recognise the institutions that the jury identifies as being particularly remarkable. This would be done by signifying the achievement in the compendium but also by presenting a citation in the form of a special certificate to the school, client and architect. The award would be judged as part of the compendium selection process. The wording of the citation would be approved by the Governing Board and may differ slightly, depending on the context of the qualities of the institution highlighted, but could be: “The PEB [or CELE] Award for an Outstanding Learning Environment. [Followed by the specific citation for the institution]”. The aim is to symbolically recognise outstanding achievement, and thereby stimulate further interest in the compendium. It would also provide the opportunity to give further prominence to PEB work through the publicity this could generate. By identifying high quality educational facilities and recognising them with a prominent award, the intention is to give such an award value and stimulate further interest in nominating institutions.

International jury

8. As with the three previous compendiums, it is proposed that the international jury consist of five people, including at least one member of the Bureau of the PEB Governing Board. The others should be chosen to reflect a balance of national and professional interest and experience. The PEB Secretariat would provide administrative support.

Selection process

9. The project will begin with a call for submissions in early 2009, followed by the jury’s selection of facilities within the final quarter of 2009. It is proposed that nominations be invited from educational facilities in all OECD countries, as well as countries seeking accession to OECD or where OECD is pursuing enhanced engagement. Other countries, where PEB has members, would also be eligible to submit nominations. In the case of OECD countries that participate in PEB, the country’s representative on the Governing Board will be invited to appraise and forward nominations to the Secretariat for assessment by the jury. For other members, this will be the responsibility of the organisation’s designated PEB contact. For the remaining OECD countries and other non-member countries, the Delegations or Embassies will be the first point of contact, and the Secretariat will be responsible for informing them of the project.

10. In order to keep the task of selection to manageable proportions, it is suggested to limit the number of examples that any one country or organisation can submit. Whether the limit should be the same for each country and organisation remains to be determined. It will be for those forwarding nominations to decide whether they wish to indicate an order of priority. The jury may, at its discretion, also accept nominations directly from or on behalf of educational institutions. The Secretariat will review all the nominations, and those eligible will be referred to the international jury for short-listing.
Action

11. The Governing Board is invited to:

- DISCUSS and APPROVE the arrangements proposed.
- ADVISE the Secretariat on the levels of education and the themes that will constitute the fourth compendium, as well as on limiting nominations.