SUMMARY RECORD OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE 41ST SESSION

GOVERNING BOARD

The meeting was held at the Juárez Theater, Guanajuato, Mexico from Monday 10 November to Tuesday 11 November 2008
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Eduardo BRAVO ESQUEDA (Chairman) MEXICO
Mr. Reinhold WERATSCHNIG AUSTRIA
Ms. Irene DRAPANIOTI GREECE
Ms. Eleni-Stayriani PAPAKYRIAKOU "
Mr. Joseph STEFANOU "
Mr. Tony SHEPPARD IRELAND
Mr. Alfredo AGUILAR OROZCO MEXICO
Mr. Carlos BOCANEGRA PEÑA "
Mr. Jaime DE LA GARZA REYNA "
Ms. Mariela DOMINGUEZ "
Ms. Alejandra TORRES "
Mr. Abdussamet ARSLAN (Vice Chairman) TURKEY
Ms. Sally BROOKS UNITED KINGDOM
Ms. Maria Luisa DANZI (Associate Member) ITALY
Mr. Maurizio MANDAGLIO " " "
Mr. Giorgio PONTI " " "
Mr. Alfredo VUOLO " " "
Mr. Fumihito MIYAMOTO " " JAPAN
Mr. Takeshi ISOYAMA " " "
Mr. Rodolfo ALMEIDA UNESCO
Mr. Keizo FUKUYAMA (Observer) JAPAN
Mr. Shintaro SETO " "

SECRETARIAT
Mr. Bernard HUGONNIER
Mr. Richard YELLAND
Mr. Alastair BLYTH
Ms. Jill GASTON
Ms. Christin CAVE
Item 1 – Welcome

1. The 41st Session of the Programme on Educational Building (PEB) Governing Board began with a welcome ceremony at Guanajuato’s Juárez Theatre, attended by local officials and members of the press. The Mayor of the City of Guanajuato, Juan Carlos Romero Hicks, the Chair of the Governing Board and General Director of INIFED, Eduardo Bravo Esqueda, the Governor of the State of Guanajuato, Juan Manuel Oliva Ramírez, the Secretary of Education of the State of Guanajuato, Alberto Diosdado Diosdado, and the representative of the Secretary of Public Education of Mexico Rafael Domínguez Morfín, expressed pleasure in hosting the meeting and offered the Governing Board a warm welcome. On behalf of the Organisation Bernard Hugonnier (OECD) thanked the Mexican authorities for the excellent arrangements that had been made for the meeting, and for their opening contributions.

Item 2 – Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Head of the Programme, Richard Yelland, presented the agenda and extended apologies on behalf of the representatives from Iceland, Korea, Portugal, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia who were unable to attend. The Governing Board ADOPTED the agenda for this meeting [EDU/PEB/A(2008)2/REV2].

Item 3 – Adoption of the Summary Record of the 40th Session

3. The Governing Board APPROVED the Summary Record of the 40th Session of the PEB Governing Board [EDU/PEB/M(2008)1].

Item 4 – Oral Statement by the Deputy Director for Education

4. After congratulating Mr. Bravo on his election as the new Chair, the Deputy Director for Education, Bernard Hugonnier, reported on the recently completed and ongoing activities within the Organisation and the Directorate for Education.

5. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of the Oral Statement, and REQUESTED the Secretariat to undertake a brief and rapid survey of the impact of the financial and economic crises on educational infrastructure investment and procurement decisions.


6. The Head of Programme presented key activities carried out during the 2007-08 mandate. This included two conferences held since the last Governing Board, one on higher education in Helsinki, Finland, in May and the other on facilities for learners with special needs in Auckland, New Zealand, in August. The organisers of both events were thanked for the work they did in putting these events together. Both were very well attended and reached a wide international audience.

7. Following the tragic earthquake in China earlier this year PEB has been working with the Chinese authorities on earthquake safety in school buildings. The publication “Keeping schools safe in earthquakes” had been translated into Chinese. In July PEB hosted a videoconference with experts and representatives of the Chinese government. In December PEB and OECD will host a conference as part of a tour by Chinese representatives on earthquake safety.

8. Member recruitment has continued, and a new associate member, Campania, Italy, has joined. Additionally, PEB will continue contact and recruitment efforts with a number of potential members. In order to share PEB’s work with a larger audience via the Programme’s journal, Richard Yelland invited the
Governing Board to provide the Secretariat with e-mail addresses of additional people to whom it could be circulated. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of the report on the implementation of the 2007-08 Programme of Work [EDU/PEB(2007)1/REV3].

**Item 6 – PEB Mandate Renewal**

9. Richard Yelland introduced this item, opening discussion first on the Programme’s name, and second on its status. In response to the recent evaluation of PEB, the Governing Board had said at its previous meeting that a change of name might be appropriate. The Bureau explored this option further at its July 2008 meeting. Representatives from Greece, Italy (CISEM), Mexico, Turkey and the United Kingdom commented on the wide interpretation offered by the name Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE) and that it captured the remit of the Programme. The Governing Board APPROVED the change of name from Programme on Educational Building (PEB) to the Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE) and NOTED that the PEB Governing Board would become the CELE Board of Participants (CELE BP) from 1 January 2009.

10. The Governing Board AGREED with the recommendation of the OECD Education Policy Committee (EDPC) that the CELE BP should become a subsidiary body of the EDPC. The CELE BP will still retain considerable autonomy over its Programme of Work, budget, membership, outputs and priority-rating.

11. The draft mandate was APPROVED [EDU/PEB(2008)7].

**Item 7 – Final PEB Programme of Work: 2009-2010**


13. Alastair Blyth reviewed the results of the Governing Board’s priority-rating exercise. The activities were ranked as follows, in order of highest to lowest priority: 1) Environmentally Sustainable Educational Facilities, 2) Evaluating the Quality of and Investments in Educational Facilities and Equipment, 3) Exemplary Educational Facilities, 4) Futures Thinking in Educational Infrastructure, 5) Higher Education: Spaces and Places for Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer, and 6) School Safety and Security. The final programme of work will incorporate these priorities into output activities.

14. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of the results of the prioritisation process and AGREED that, in the event of a shortfall in expected income, the resources allocated to the lowest-rated activities should be reduced and/or alternative sources of funding sought.

**Item 8 – PEB budget 2009-2010**


16. Given that some members concerned were not present for discussion but would be significantly affected were the proposed changes implemented, and the lateness of the budget document, the Head of Programme proposed a revised budget proposal using principles for a contribution scale more closely in line with those in the past [EDU/PEB(2008)8/REV1].
17. The Governing Board commented that the financial resources of CELE were constrained and agreed to a proposal from Sally Brooks (United Kingdom) that the proposed budget should be increased by EUR 10,000 (to EUR 540,000) in order to provide more scope for dissemination activity and communication with prospective members. Subject to these changes, the Governing Board approved the draft budget for 2009-2010 and the revised principles underlying the contribution scale for 2009 and 2010 presented by the Secretariat.

Item 9 – PEB Global Relations Strategy

18. Richard Yelland explained the OECD Council Resolution which requests that each subsidiary body formalise its co-operation with non-members. The Governing Board approved the Global Relations Strategy [EDU/PEB(2008)9] and approved the criteria for involvement of non-member economies in CELE.

Item 10 – Sustainable learning environments: A proposal for a conference

19. Christin Cave presented the conference proposal on sustainable school buildings [EDU/PEB(2008)10]. The conference would be part of the activity of work on Environmentally Sustainable Educational Facilities and would be co-organised with the Ministry of Education and Sport in Slovenia. The conference would be held in Q4, 2009. The objective is to examine good practices in design and construction of school buildings, and highlight exemplary cases. It would address issues of procurement, natural resource management and building operations. This event would include school visits and workshops to give participants an arena for discussion and to encourage exchange. The Governing Board members enquired about their role and expectations in the conference. Members were invited to submit examples of environmentally sustainable projects. The Governing Board approved the proposal for a conference on promoting environmentally sustainable school facilities.

Item 11 – Higher Education Facilities: Proposal to take forward the findings from the Helsinki conference

20. Alastair Blyth proposed a conference on the impact of the learning environment in higher education [EDU/PEB(2008)11]. Following the success of the Helsinki conference, this conference would continue to examine how higher education institutes are transforming the built environment and the subsequent impact on educational outcomes. This event would be jointly organised by PEB, the OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE), and the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT). This output activity corresponds to the priority area on Higher Education: Spaces and Places for Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer. The primary objectives are to share knowledge of good practices, to look at innovative examples, to explore interactions between higher education institutions and the surrounding communities, to investigate how spaces are impacted, and to allow for exchange on a global level. A working group comprised of both PEB and DIT representatives will consult to arrange the conference details. Proposed by DIT, the location was suggested in light of the new masterplan for the institute. However, Tony Sheppard (Ireland) noted that Ireland’s Ministry of Education was reviewing this masterplan and suggested that it may be premature to hold this conference in May. It was also noted that to hold it in May leaves little time for making the arrangements. The Governing Board recommended that the conference be postponed until later in 2009, but not in conflict with the conference on environmentally sustainable facilities. The Governing Board approved the proposal for the follow-up conference on innovative facilities in higher education.
Item 12 – Fourth PEB Compendium of Exemplary Educational Facilities: A Proposal

21. Jill Gaston proposed the publication of a 4th edition of the Compendium of Exemplary Educational Facilities in 2011 to promote good design, use and management of learning environments [EDU/PEB(2008)12]. The success of the Compendium in previous years justifies publishing another edition, which would include all levels of education and incorporate themes from the 2007-10 programmes of work into its selection criteria: evaluation of procurement policy and practice, evaluating quality and investments, environmental sustainability, safety and security, and futures thinking. Those institutions judged as outstanding would receive an award. The international jury would be composed of five people, including one Bureau member, who represent various educational building stakeholders. Nominations would be accepted from all PEB and OECD members, as well as from countries seeking accession to the OECD or where the Organisation is pursuing enhanced engagement. PEB representatives would make a first selection within their countries, with a limit of five institutions each. The Governing Board members were invited to inform the Secretariat of potential sponsors to help financially support the publication and award. The Governing Board APPROVED the arrangements proposed.

Item 13 – Project on Development Strategy for Investments in Educational Facilities with the European Investment Bank

22. Richard Yelland discussed the joint proposal on investment appraisal of school facilities [EDU/PEB(2008)13]. PEB was approached by the European Investment Bank (EIB) to conduct investment appraisals on schools to assist determining the fundamental issues for making decisions related to educational building investments. This activity would be carried out in three phases to assess current practices and identify best practices, analyse and evaluate approaches to capital investments in school estates, and disseminate the results and findings. The final appraisal tool would assist national, regional and local authorities when making decisions related to large-scale investments in educational infrastructure. This project relates to other projects on the procurement process within PEB. The Governing Board APPROVED the proposal for a joint project with the EIB.

Item 14 – Report to OECD Council: OECD Recommendation on Guidelines Concerning Earthquake Safety in Schools

23. Richard Yelland reported on the status of the project on school safety in earthquakes [EDU/PEB(2008)14]. He gave an update on the developments of this project. As it stands, two countries have submitted questionnaires, two others have indicated unwillingness to participate and the rest have been unresponsive. The Governing Board took note of the delay in completing the report on the actions taken by countries to establish and implement national programmes and endorsed the action taken by the Secretariat to obtain responses.

24. Delegates from Japan and Greece presented developments in national efforts to ensure safety in schools, particularly in earthquake sensitive regions. The Japanese government is urgently promoting seismic retrofitting of school facilities nationwide. The government has implemented policy and financial incentives to expedite the process of reinforcing school buildings to be resistant to earthquakes. The Greek delegation reported on recent developments on school buildings and the need to incorporate solutions that address unique environmental conditions. The Governing Board welcomed the reports given by the Japanese and Greek members.

Item 15 – Safer Schools, Safer Communities: A proposal for a conference

25. Sally Brooks (United Kingdom) presented the conference proposal for school safety [EDU/PEB(2008)15]. She explained that incidents of youth on youth violence are increasingly prevalent in
the United Kingdom, particularly incidents of knife stabbings and deaths by stabbings. The severity of the problem necessitates a holistic approach to incorporate input and solutions from various stakeholders. This proposed conference will look at three ways of dealing with the issue from the perspective of: 1) community members; 2) behavioral managers; and 3) the police and judicial system. The Secretariat was encouraged to inform the EDPC about the conference and to involve the OECD network on school bullying and violence. The Governing Board WELCOMED the proposal from the United Kingdom for a conference on addressing violence both inside and outside of schools.

**Item 16 – Listening to students and teachers: Audio-visual case studies**

26. Alastair Blyth introduced a project to assemble student and teacher perceptions of the learning environment [EDU/PEB(2008)16]. The aim of this project is to record school users’ opinions through audio-visual recordings. This form of information gathering expands beyond traditional forms of written evaluation to examine how students, teachers and school staff perceive the built educational environment. Outputs from the project include a collection of video case studies, themed videos which address particular issues, and a report analyzing the issues raised in the videos. The Governing Board members were invited to advise the Secretariat in seeking voluntary contributions for funding the audio-visual production. The Governing Board WELCOMED the proposal for producing audio-visual case-studies of students’ and teachers’ attitudes to and experience of educational facilities that they use.

**Item 17 – Learning environments – Usability and sustainability: Project proposal**

27. Alastair Blyth put forward a project proposal to examine how facilities interact with user needs and address environmental concerns [EDU/PEB(2008)17]. This proposal corresponds to output activities on “Higher Education: spaces and places for learning, innovation and knowledge transfer”. The symposium would be jointly organised and held by PEB and the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). The objective of this project is to explore four interrelated perspectives on learning contexts, learning environments, learning experience, and learning outcomes. To address these perspectives, the symposium will share knowledge, consider different approaches to evaluation and explore usability. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of the proposal for a symposium as part of the CIB World Congress in Manchester 2010.

**Item 18 – 2nd Meeting of Latin American Network on Educational Facilities**

28. Jaime de la Garza (Mexico) presented the proposal for a second meeting of the Latin American Network on Educational Facilities [EDU/PEB(2008)18]. This meeting aims to reinforce connections in the Latin American and Caribbean regions. It will address safety and security, and quality performance in the learning environment. Participants in this network would be able to exchange knowledge and information on school facilities-related issues, develop methodologies and policy, and research issues relevant to the Latin American and Caribbean regions. The Governing Board WELCOMED proposals by the Mexican authorities to develop a Latin American network on educational facilities and agreed that PEB should co-operate as appropriate in its work.

**Item 19 – Preliminary Discussion of First PEB General Conference 2011**

29. The Secretariat introduced the idea for PEB to host a general conference. The themes and topics would relate to the areas of output activity with the programme of work. This item was for preliminary discussion and to inform the Governing Board. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of proposals to hold the PEB General Conference in 2011.
Item 20 – Date and venue of next meeting and calendar of events

30. The next Governing Board meeting will be held in Paris in November 2009. Members AGREED to hold an annual meeting, although this will be reviewed later to decide whether biannual meetings are necessary.

31. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of the provisional calendar of events for 2009-2010:

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<tr>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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| Q1                               | - Experts’ Meeting on the Project on Strategies for Investments in Educational Facilities  
- First Meeting of Group of National Experts on Educational Facilities |                                                                      |
| Q2                               |                                                                      | - CIB World Congress  
- Second meeting of Group of National Experts on Educational Facilities Evaluation |
| Q3                               | - 2nd Meeting of the Latin American Network on Educational Facilities  
- International Conference on Sustainable Educational Facilities  
- International Conference on Facilities for Higher Education  
- 1st Session of the CELE Governing Board |                                                                      |
| Q4                               | - International Conference on School Safety and Security             | - 2nd CELE Board of Participants                                     |

Item 21 – Other business

32. The Governing Board TOOK NOTE of the Ministerial Declaration on Policy Coherence for Development to promote development and aid in poverty reduction, and the letter from Deputy Secretary-General Amano.

33. The Governing Board INVITED the Chair to write to Deputy Secretary-General Amano outlining the contribution of PEB to development.

Special Session

34. The aim of this special session was to present the context of how different systems provide vocational education and training (VET) both financially and spatially. Comparing issues in VET systems is a complex task due to the high variance in the role of government, amount of available finance and programme requirements. Future work on VET within PEB will establish consultation with other groups to explore funding issues, continue to identify innovative examples not only in new facilities, but refurbished and retrofitted facilities as well, and disseminate results to a broader audience. PEB asked for recommendations on how to advance this work and what would be useful to members.

35. Christin Cave detailed the ongoing parallel projects on VET systems being conducted within the Directorate at the OECD. The Centre for Education Research and Innovation (CERI) is examining innovation in VET systems and conducting country reviews. The Education Policy Training division is conducting a thematic review of VET looking at education and labour market responsiveness.
36. Alastair Blyth presented the four major themes from the literature review:

- Needs of the users of vocational education and training spaces;
- Planning the spaces to meet the users’ needs;
- Integration of technology; and
- Procuring facilities.

Throughout the presentation, theory was supplemented with examples of facilities.

37. Numerous representatives shared the different methods for allocating VET programmes and shared relevant examples of how education systems are providing the skills and infrastructure for VET. Abdussamet Arslan (Turkey) explained how training programmes in Turkey are situated in industrial zones and are rarely found in rural areas. This arrangement directly links schools to vocations and they are financed by the companies. In Mexico, there is no significant connection to workplaces; however these relationships are being created in certain industries. Maria Luisa Danzi (Italy-Campania) described a new initiative in the Campania region that targets 18-24 year olds who are not in formal education or do not hold certification. This programme will help 4 000 students access employment. One particular challenge is in providing adequate facilities to accommodate the new programme. Tony Sheppard (Ireland) described how in the Irish system, VET is physically located near industry and in economically disadvantaged areas to provide opportunities to students that are less academically inclined.

38. Giorgio Ponti (Italy-CISEM) presented a case study of the Educational Quality Facilities project in the Campania Region of Italy. This region poses particular issues in providing education due to its dense population. The project had various funding sources to assess the quality of educational facilities by evaluating spatial allocations and their importance. The structural and technical aims of the project are to provide new educational spaces; gradually increase quality of areas, buildings and equipment; experiment with management techniques during transitional periods (new building, restructuring, maintenance); and contribute to international level of study.

39. The breadth and variety of examples emphasised the complexity in examining issues surrounding the delivery of VET. The Governing Board thanked the Secretariat for organising the session, and AGREED that PEB should continue to explore how facilities can support VET and that a useful contribution would be to assemble case studies on how VET facilities meets the different types of VET programme needs.