



BAICE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT FOR BAICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 2013

BAICE-UKFIET Student Conference 2013 -- 'Post-2015 Millenium Development Goals Agenda: Student Voices'

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On 7th June BAICE and UKFIET joined forces in offering a conference for postgraduate students at the University of Sussex. We were delighted to attract 32 participants in total, from University of Sussex, University of Brighton, University College Birmingham, Open University, IOE, and Queen's University Belfast. However, we should mention that the conference had to be organised on a tight schedule, and so there was a short window between the call for papers and the deadline for submission. This influenced the number of students who registered and the number who were able to present. Nevertheless, we initially had eight presentations submitted, although only four presented on the day due to last minute cancellations. We believe that those who attended actively participated through discussion, making for a dynamic atmosphere throughout the day. We also had a number of participants who enquired about joining BAICE.

Prof Mairéad Dunne, Director of the Centre of International Education at the University of Sussex formally opened the conference. Our keynote speaker was Dr Yusuf Sayed, who also offered some concluding remarks and formally closed the conference, and Prof Keith Lewin lead a workshop on the post-2015 agenda. Terra Sprague also actively contributed to the conference by sharing some information about UKFIET and maintaining a presence on social media by creating a hash tag for use on Twitter. Four students made presentations on a range of topics: 'Millennium Development Goals' Perverse Effects: Bridging the Gender Gap in Education in Mozambique'; 'Languages for Educational Quality and Equity in the Post-2015 Agenda: Recent Developments for Minority Language Communities in Thailand'; 'An MDG dedicated to Rural Development'; and 'Measuring the immeasurable? Developing goals and indicators for the enactment of sustainability-related values in education'. Group discussion after each presentation ensured lively question and answer sessions, and both the presentations and the ensuing discussions are reflected in our submission that is to be made to the Compare Forum Special Issue on the Post-2015 Education and Development Agenda.

Feedback so far on the conference has been very positive, especially about the vibrant atmosphere, opportunities to network, and the fantastic catering! Some points for improvement include ensuring that workshops are more interactive, wider and earlier advertising of the event, incorporating ice-breaking activities, and distributing delegate contact details in advance. We have plans to upload all the presentations in written and video form onto the BAICE and UKFIET websites, once permissions have been received from presenters. Terra Sprague has also reported the following: 'This proved a good opportunity to strengthen synergies between the two organizations around this theme ... Contacts made at the conference have already resulted in one planned post for the UKFIET Community of Practice about private public partnerships in education'.

In terms of finance, we came in well under budget, with the costs shared equally between BAICE and UKFIET.

We would like to thank Dr Sayed, and all others at the Centre of International Education, University of Sussex, who have helped us in arranging the conference. Thanks also to Terra Sprague and her colleagues at UKFIET for their generous financial support and representation, and student helpers from Institute of Education. Last but not least, thank you to BAICE Executive Committee and UKFIET Executive Committee for financially supporting and encouraging us in our efforts to reach out to and engage students of international and comparative education in the Post-2015 MDGs debate.