



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMONWEALTH CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATION & UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

Learning to Live Together: Education for Social Cohesion

Friday 12 June and Saturday 13 June 2009 at Hotel Equatorial Bangi Putrajaya, Malaysia

The 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (17CCEM) will convene in Kuala Lumpur from June 16 to 18, 2009 at the invitation of the Government of Malaysia, taking as its main theme *Towards and beyond global goals and targets for education*. The Ministers' Conference will be complemented by civil society deliberations in four separate forums: Stakeholders' Forum, Teachers' Forum, Vice-Chancellors' Forum and Youth Forum. In the course of their discussions the Education Ministers and civil society in each of these forums will be considering the response that education systems in the Commonwealth should be making individually and collectively to the 2007 report (*Civil paths to peace*) of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding chaired by Professor Amartya Sen. The four civil-society forums will submit their conclusions for consideration by Ministers, and will hold a joint inter-forum session on the morning of Thursday June 18.

The Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE) is a loose grouping of two dozen pan-Commonwealth education civil-society organisations and associations dedicated to the promotion of education development in the Commonwealth, founded in 2001. It customarily holds its General Conference on the eve of the triennial Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers, and chooses a relevant theme of current concern to the Ministers. In Edinburgh in 2003 the chosen topic was recruitment, retention and mobility of teachers: and in Cape Town in 2006 it was school and college partnerships in the Commonwealth. In each case these topics were the subject of recommendations by Ministers in their Conference communiqués.

The Consortium welcomes the opportunity to work with a locally based partner in arranging such conferences. In 2003 this was the Commonwealth Teachers' Group and the National Union of Teachers in the UK: in 2006 it was Link Community Development, based in South Africa. In 2009, the Consortium is delighted that Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM, the National University of Malaysia), located close to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital city, has agreed to be its partner.

UKM, founded in May 1970, is one of the four top Malaysian public universities accorded the prestigious "research university" status. Since inception, it has used Malay, the national language, as the medium of instruction. UKM therefore plays a pivotal role in the construction and dissemination of knowledge in the Malay language, which is the custodian of the national culture, hence the designation 'National' University of Malaysia, the one and only in the country. The current total student population is nearly 26,000, of whom 7,600 are post-graduate students. UKM has an extensive international network established through over 100 MOUs that, in turn, facilitate staff and student academic mobility across the globe. Its scholars have received numerous national and international awards in various fields of academic endeavour.

The chosen Conference theme in 2009 is *Learning to live together: education for social cohesion*. In considering the response of the education sector to the analysis and recommendations of the Sen report, the Conference will address the following sub-themes, among others:

- The role of education, both formal and informal, in relation to social cohesion;
- Questions of inclusion (minorities, women, the disadvantaged);
- Education and violence: education and conflict.
- The content and processes of education: what is taught and what is practiced;
- The appropriate organisation of education (on the basis of faith or other forms of identity);
- The contribution of the arts, museums and sport to promotion of social cohesion;
- International dimensions (international understanding, peace and security).

CONFERENCE FEE

Registration fee (inclusive of refreshments, lunches and the conference dinner) **GBP 100.00** or 500 ringgit, payable in advance.

ACCOMMODATION

En suite accommodation is available at the Hotel serving as the Conference venue:
Hotel Equatorial Bangi – Putrajaya. “Kuala Lumpur's favourite hilltop Conference Resort”
www.equatorial.com/bng/index.php?navi_id=1&lang=1

Participants are required to make their own room reservations at the Conference Hotel or elsewhere. Conference Hotel rates in Malaysian Ringgit (local currency - £1 = R5.3 approximately) are:
Room rates (incl. 270.25 inclusive of taxes per room per night Single Deluxe Room (en suite facilities) breakfast): 304.75 per room per night Deluxe Twin (en suite facilities).

BOOKING

Please indicate:

Yes I intend to participate. I ask you to reserve me a place and to send me further details and the registration form to complete.

Name _____

Institutional affiliation _____

Email or other address _____

Please email this form indicating details above to zarinaukm@gmail.com

To make further enquiries, please email the organisers at:

Email: peterrcwilliams@onetel.com (UK, CCfE) or zarinaukm@gmail.com (Malaysia, UKM)

AIR FARES

Cheap flight fares from London to Kuala Lumpur are available at, among others: www.airasia.com

In due course, those registering will receive the brochure and registration form by e-mail.

We advise participants to book ASAP due to limitations of space. Thank you.