UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress Report

Period of activity: January-December 2004

UNESCO Chair in Teacher Education and Culture

Report established by: Professor Konai Thaman, UNESCO Chairholder

1. Activities

1. Education
Title and expected results for each courses, workshop, etc. One undergraduate and one post graduate course offered face to face as well as via distance and flexible learning, to teacher education students and postgraduate students enrolled in the BA, Bed and BA/BScGCED, and MA/MEd programs
Duration – one semester (15 weeks) each
Target groups: teacher trainees
Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Pacific Island Region (12-15 island nations)

Research
Title: Indigenous educational ideas
Duration: ongoing
Target groups (cf. Annex 2): teacher researchers
Geographical coverage for partners and participants (cf. Annex 3): Pacific Island Nations (PINs)
Intended use of results (Inform teacher education curriculum and instruction.

2. Conferences/ Meetings
Conferences attended:

IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGION
• Keynote address at the Pacific Association of Teacher Educators' Conference, National University of Samoa, Apia, May 2004. Title: Re-thinking teacher education in Oceania: issues and challenges.
• Represented the VC’s office at a conference in Noumea on French Research in the Pacific, August 2004.

INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
• Keynote address, International Islands Studies Conference, Kin Men Island, Taiwan, November 2004. Title: Le’o e peau: towards cultural and cognitive democracy in the discourse on sustainable development of Pacific Island Communities.

3. Publication and multimedia materials

Publication

Book
Title: Education Ideas from Oceania
Author(S): Thaman, K. et al. (Various Pacific Island authors)
Publisher(s) Institute of Education, USP, 2003;
Language(s) English;
Number of pages 131

Multimedia material

Title: Theories and Ideas in education (DFL)
Producer and/or distributor (with address): The University of the South Pacific
Year: 2004
Teaching/learning material: Print (distance version)
Duration: for use in a semester long course for the next 5 years.
Format: Print: three booklets
Language(s): English

II. Impact

1. Improved awareness among teacher trainees and future teacher educators, curriculum developers and educational administrators and others of the link between education and culture, particularly in teaching and learning
2. Research and Publications in the area of culture and education
3. Enhanced staff development in teacher education institutions
4. Establishing and enhancing networks within the region and beyond in the area of teacher education and culture.

The major outcome of the work being carried out is raising awareness among teachers and teacher educators in the Pacific Island region, of the importance of cultural contexts in their work. Within a broader definition of culture as a way of life of a people, issues such as gender equality, social justice and sustainable development are of great importance. But however any of these are defined and configured, understanding the cultural contexts of people is of prime importance. For example, in the area of sustainable development, there are many cultural challenges facing people in the Region and these must be identified and addressed as well as the more scientific and ecological issues.

III. Forthcoming activities

The Chairholder is taking sabbatical leave for 6 months in 2005 during which time she plans to complete writing a book on Culture and Education in Oceania and continue her research into Indigenous Education. Work on the book began in 2003 but because she was called to take up a temporary position within University Management in 2004 (Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor following the untimely death of the USP Vice Chancellor) the work was shelved. She has been granted leave from teaching (from Feb.-June 2005) in order to complete this and other major papers. She will resume teaching in Semester 2, when she will offer her postgraduate paper, Education and Culture.

IV. Development prospects

Action aimed at obtaining a stable permanent status of the Chair/Network in the structure of the Institution.
The Chair is firmly established within the structure of the University because teacher education is one of the priority areas of the twelve member countries of the USP. The USP offer teacher education programs from Early Childhood to Tertiary levels, and works collaboratively with national teacher training institutions. USP also accredits teacher qualifications from some of the member countries, and hopes that in the long term there would be better harmonization of teacher qualifications.
Target groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate students</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administrators</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees from industry or other private organizations (please, specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers from primary education</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers from secondary education</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers from technical and vocational education</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers from adult education</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others groups <em>(Please specify)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Geographical Coverage

Regional/Interregional/International

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia/Pacific</td>
<td>Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Central Europe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe and North America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>