

BUILD Activity Report 2005-2006

Contents

	Page
Members Organisations and Individual members of BUILD	1
Foreword – Nigel Thompson	2
Overview of BUILD – Nick Maurice	3
BBC World Class	5
The Scout Association	6
Skillshare International	7
Mercy Corps	7
VSO	8
AIESEC Birmingham	9
Plan UK	10
Enable	10
Link Community Development	12
Eden	12
Links Japan	13
Local Government International Bureau	13
ContinYou	14
DFID Global School Partnerships	14
Gold Star Communities	15
Briefing paper for Gordon Brown	16

Member organisations of BUILD

AFFORD
AEISEC
All-party Parliamentary Group "Connecting Communities"
Arup
BBC World Class
British Council
Business in the Community
Cambridge Education Foundation
Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO)
Commission for Rural Communities
Commonwealth Foundation
Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
ContinYou
Department for International Development
Development Education Association
Eden Project
EKTA-Resource Centre for Women (India)
Enable
Ethnic Minority Foundation
Fairtrade Foundation
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Friendship North/South (Norway)
Gemin-i.org
Global Action Plan
Humanities Education Centre
Inter Diocesan West Africa Links
International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW)
Just Change (India)
Link Community Development
Links Japan
Local Government International Bureau
Mercy Corps Scotland
Muslim Council for Britain

National Coalition Building Institute
Network of Ugandan Researchers & Research Users (NURRU)
Oxfam
Partnership for World Mission
Plan UK
Racial Equality Council
Skillshare International
The Scout Association
The Faith Regen Foundation
Tropical Health and Education Trust
UKOWLA
UNDP
VSO
Womankind Worldwide

Individual members of BUILD

Patrick Ffinch – website designer
Geoffrey Findlay
Carole Milner
Gordon Morris
John Wilson
John Whitaker

BUILD Management Committee

Nigel Thompson	-	Chair
Carole Milner	-	Vice Chair
John Whitaker	-	Hon Secretary
Margaret Burr		
Nick Maurice		
Marie Staunton		
Joe Sang		

Secretariat

Nick Maurice
Pepi O'Neill

Foreword

I am delighted to report that BUILD has had an outstanding year extremely well led by Nick Maurice. There has been an increase in membership organisations committed to international partnerships and linking communities and we have been involved in an increase in National and International Political activities

Following on from our work where BUILD members contributed to the Commission for Africa report on Millennium Development Goals and on our work with DfES on their International Strategy "Putting the World in World Class Education" where we recommended that all schools should have an international partner we attended the Commonwealth People's Forum in Malta in November 2005 to spread the message to the Commonwealth.

A highlight of the year was the visit to our offices by the Deputy Secretary General of the UN Mark Malloch Brown where we received affirmation at UN level for school and community partnerships, and where we discussed with him the development of our new "Gold Star Communities" concept.

Our most significant and important piece of work this year has been the production of our "Toolkit of Good Practice --Opportunities and Challenges" created, led and co-ordinated by Margaret Burr of the Humanities Education Centre in Tower Hamlets. This work was sponsored by the Baring Foundation.

We are really beginning to make some significant progress so I would like to thank you all for all your support for BUILD and encourage you to keep up this most important work.

Nigel Thompson
Chair

Overview of BUILD

“The UK will:-

1. **Double our investment in development education, as we seek to give every child in the UK a chance to learn about the issues that shape their world**
2. **Set up a scheme to help other groups – such as faith groups, community groups, local government, business and charitable organisations – build links with developing countries**
3. **Expand opportunities for young people and diaspora communities to volunteer in developing countries**
4. **Support internship programmes for young people to work with NGOs.”**

DFID White Paper “Eliminating World Poverty – Making Governance Work for the Poor”

BUILD’s submission to the DFID White Paper has had an impact!

In the last year BUILD has increased its workload and its impact very dramatically. We are grateful to the many people within BUILD who work on our behalf largely on a pro bono basis.

Arguably there has never been a more important time in which cross cultural international understanding needs to flourish to counteract the deep wells of mistrust and prejudice which we witness globally and not least currently in the Middle East. There appears to a general rule that the more we have the facility to communicate the less we understand each other.

Our purpose is to bring international partnerships between communities in the UK and other parts of the world into the mainstream to the point where no one can escape

life without being touched by such an international cross-cultural partnership whether at school through a school link, higher education, through their local authority, town or village, hospital, social, ethnic minority group, arts or sports club faith institution etc.

This report captures some of the diverse activity that members of BUILD are engaged in and it is impressive!

Our **annual two day meeting in the gloriously peaceful surroundings of Charney Manor**, the Quaker Centre in Oxfordshire in June 2006 was an opportunity to develop our strategy and particularly to focus on the Gold Star Communities concept (see p15).

It was also an opportunity to welcome new members AIESEC, Global Action Partnerships, National Coalition Building Institute and to hear of the latest developments at and challenges facing VSO from Mark Goldring, the Director.

It all leads to an ultimate goal of contributing to the development of living relationships between a broad range of individuals and communities and thus making a contribution to global peace, security justice and prosperity.

To this end we have been working at four levels:-

1. **International Political**

United Nations

In March we had an important **meeting with Mark Malloch Brown, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations**, following his giving the Annual Marlborough Lent Lecture “Big Issues in a Small World”. It was an opportunity for 10 BUILD members to discuss with him the potential for the development of the ‘Gold Star Communities’ concept (see page....) under the UN umbrella and thanks to Mark we have had follow-up meetings with key people Will Day, Special Adviser to the UN, Christophe Nuttall, Director Hub for Innovative Partnerships and Saleel Shetty, Director of Millennium Campaign. Agreement has been reached in principle that we launch a declaration of intent around the GSC proposal in October with a view to “putting more meat on the bones” over the

next year. These are ongoing conversations which are taking place with our colleagues at Vennskapp Nord Sud in Norway and with Cites Unies in France. We are grateful that Marie Staunton at Plan is taking a lead on this initiative.

Commonwealth

BUILD members representing Arup, BBC World Class, British Council, Cambridge Education Foundation, Humanities Education Centre, International Community of Women Living with HIV / AIDS, Prince's Trust, the Scout Association, UKOWLA attended the **Commonwealth People's Forum preceding the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta**. We worked closely with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Consortium for Education on two workshops resulting in a statement which went to those writing the communiqué to the Commonwealth Heads of Government in which we stated that we would like them to encourage every school in the Commonwealth to have an international partner.

2. National Political.

In February 2006 the **All-Party Parliamentary Group "Connecting Communities"**, led on this occasion by British Council, was the forum for a discussion with Lord Kinnock on the importance of educational partnerships.

In March 2006 we received a call from the Treasury requesting a **briefing paper for Chancellor Gordon Brown prior to his visit to Mozambique** during which he was to make a statement on the importance of school partnerships (see p16). On that occasion he announced **further funding of £7.5 million to DFID for the Global School Partnerships programme** with particular emphasis on increasing the number of schools involved and on the reciprocal visit part of the programme to enable more young people in the UK to work internationally with partners in the South.

We followed this with an important **meeting in the UKOWLA office with representatives of the Treasury, DfES and DFID**. BUILD members representing different sectors were present e.g. Health (Tropical Health and Education Trust), (Faith) Partnerships for World Mission, (Education)

British Council, Link Community Development, UKOWLA, BBC World Class, (Commercial), Arup, (Local Authorities) Local Government International Bureau.

Partly as a result of our lobbying work, **considerable interest has been raised at Government level in the role of international community-based partnerships** both in terms of raising awareness of development issues in UK but also in their role in meeting the MDGs. The DFID White Paper is a recognition of that.

At the end of July **BUILD members met with Lord Crisp who has been commissioned by the Prime Minister to report on UK Health Service support for Health and Health Services in Developing Countries**. Our coalition provides us with important experience and lobbying strength to influence Government. Representatives of 15 organisations including Arup, Health Unlimited, Medical Support in Romania, Help the Hospices, Health Partners International, Partnerships in Health Information, Skillshare International, Tropical Health and Education Trust, UKOWLA, VSO met with Nigel Crisp on July 27th.

There was considerable consensus that there is a crucial role that the NHS in its widest form can take in supporting health care in developing countries, recognising that there is a great mutuality of benefit. BUILD will need to be ready to potentially work with Government to deliver a facilitating role in encouraging more partnerships to develop and encourage good practice in those partnerships.

3. Toolkit of Good Practice – Opportunities and Challenges.

Brilliantly led by Margaret Burr of the Humanities Education Centre in Tower Hamlets, many BUILD members have contributed to the production of the Toolkit which is now on the BUILD website www.build-online.org.uk. Already it has received many plaudits from individuals and institutions that are engaged in international partnerships and who are finding it an immensely useful resource. We are **grateful to the Baring Foundation for the financial support** they have given us in producing this. We expect the hard back version to be available early in the Autumn.

4. Mapping Links in the UK.

We have always said that we should try to understand and build on the platform from which we are working in terms of existing international partnerships between communities in the UK and elsewhere. This year has seen a mapping of links to Sierra Leone, Caribbean and Tanzania with a conference of links to each country/continent bringing those together. We are also very aware that **our international partnerships are a means to greater social cohesion in the UK** and if there are the possibilities for using diaspora groups in our partnerships that is crucial. As such we were successful in bringing several representatives of the Sierra Leone diaspora to the conference held in Leamington Spa (linked to Bo).

5. Impact Assessment

BUILD members who make up the DFID Global School Partnerships and Link Community Development are working on an impact assessment of school partnerships in UK, Africa and India and which we hope will be funded by DFID and carried out by the Institute of Education at London University and the University of Makerere in Uganda.

For the future we can see a number of areas that are going to keep us busy!

- the work within the **Commonwealth** including the Commonwealth Education Ministers Meeting in Capetown in December where hope to keep up the pressure to encourage school partnerships within the Commonwealth leading up to the next CHOGM in Kampala in 2007
- the ongoing work with the **UN** on the Gold Star Communities programme leading to the launch on October 15th when we all Stand up for Poverty
- continuing to work with **Government** through the all-party parliamentary group. We hope to work with Ministers e.g. Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to promote the Gold Star Communities programme. Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Education to

push school partnerships within the Commonwealth at the Commonwealth Education Ministers meeting in December. Hilary Benn to examine ways in which BUILD can support the delivery of the White Paper.

- work towards the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kampala in 2007
- work with the **Scout Association** to examine the potential for collaboration with BUILD over the Centenary of the Scouts at a Jamboree in Gilwell in 2007
- further **mapping of links** within the UK focusing on Ethiopia and Sri Lanka with conferences in March and June 2007.

We feel we are making progress and may have reached 'the tipping point' where international partnerships are taking off. Never was there such an opportune time and never was the political climate in this country so favourable. We need to take advantage of both.

Nick Maurice



BBC World Class

BBC World Class won the New Media **Race in the Media Award**, 2006

BBC World Class has continued to raise the profile of school linking, encouraging more schools to get involved and contact the organisations which can help them to set up a partnership, telling inspiring stories about school twinning on air and online, and sharing good practice ideas online: www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass.

The World Class Partnership - a gathering of more than 30 organisations which support and facilitate school twinning - met in March to develop a more strategic approach to collaboration and is now networking more actively as well as exploring themes around which we can all collaborate. The Partnership will consider adopting the four themes of BUILD's Gold Star Communities award.

Within the BBC, World Class has continued to collaborate with programme teams and networks to create exciting and high profile content about school partnerships - examples include a series of films following Dorton House School for the Blind on a visit to Sierra Leone which were shown on Breakfast, the One O'Clock News, and the Six O'Clock News. In June, World Class marked the anniversary of the Soweto uprising with BBC News. Fergal Keane was live in Phefeni School in Soweto for an entire school day, linked up live to a BBC team at Hesketh Fletcher School, Wigan. Hundreds of children emailed in questions and the link ups took place online and live on TV every hour on Breakfast, BBC World, the One O'Clock News, Newsround and News 24. The event is archived at www.bbc.co.uk/schoolday. BBC World Class joined the BUILD team at the Commonwealth People's Forum, attended APPGs, took part in the BUILD day at the Barn to explore strategic collaboration, and has attended a series of meetings with BUILD to develop the Gold Star Communities concept. We are very interested in this idea and hope that it can be rolled out in a way that is useful to schools.
worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Virginia Crompton



The Scout Association

The Scout Association uses networking in support of its international work. We find that networking can help develop real partnerships, with group to group contacts, rather than just at the institutional level. Institutional links are still required but genuine partnerships at local levels have a big impact on our young people (in both countries). Interest in the networks continues and meetings regularly attract large numbers of leaders and young people. The networks encourage good practice and provide advice and encouragement. And they do this in a very cost effective way.

Here are some examples of our current work:

Africa: partnerships with countries in Africa, including Gambia, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, Uganda and, now, with the Great Lakes

associations through Amahoro, a peace education project.
<http://www.africanetwork.org>
<http://ugandanetwork.org.uk>

Russia: originally set up as part of the support for the establishment of Scouting in post Soviet Russia, the network now fosters cooperation and exchanges and the development of Scouting in Russia.
<http://networkrussia.org.uk/>

Serbia and Montenegro: promoting exchanges, leader training and activities, particularly in Serbia but, we intend, elsewhere in South East Europe in the future as well.
<http://www.samnet.org.uk/>

Arab Region: promotion of activities with and understanding of the Arab world. In 2006, a party of British Scouts who are Muslim performed the Hajj in a Scout organised group.
[No web site yet]

Global Awareness Partnership Project: GAPP was originally a joint project of The Scout Association and the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. The project had three main objectives. For the Young Farmers to benefit from Scout experience in curriculum development. For Scouts to benefit from Young Farmers' experience in peer education and youth participation and for both organisations to raise the profile of global awareness in their youth programmes

Since then the GAPPsters have formed a network so as to share their experiences and provide activities.
<http://www.gapp.me.uk/>

International: provides a forum for those who have an interest in International Scouting and wish to: support International projects and initiatives at National, District and Group levels; promote membership of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship; and promote links with our Branches in overseas territories and with British Scouting abroad
<http://www.isfn.org.uk/main.htm>

For 2007, a major focus is the World Scout Jamboree in the UK when more than 40,000

Scouts from all over the world will meet together in a celebration of peace and human understanding. We are forging partnerships with a large number of NGOs who will be supporting the event.

<http://www.wsj.scouting2007.org/english/index.php>

David Bull



Skillshare International

Research NHS Links impact on Global Health Education

Skillshare International is carrying out research into the benefits to the UK of NHS *Links* with the developing world. This particular study aims to identify the impact of existing NHS links with developing countries on global health education in the UK – for health, medical and social care undergraduate and postgraduate students. This study is undertaken by Skillshare International as a member of the *Best Practice Network on Global Health*, in collaboration with *NHS Links* (The Tropical Health and Education Trust - THET). This study is conducted by Dr. Katy Newell-Jones and Dr. Raúl Pardiñaz-Solís

New Special Study Module on Global Health in Nottingham

Learning from the innovative partnership with Leicester, Skillshare International is undertaking a new partnership with the Medical School in Nottingham, setting up a new Special Study Module on *Global Health and Development*.

The new SSM is coordinated by Dr. Ann Bridgewater senior lecturer at Nottingham medical school and Dr. Raúl Pardiñaz-Solís from Skillshare International. The module will run for its first time at the end of August 2006 and is offer to 3rd and 4th year medical students.

Development Education in Europe

Base on the experience in the UK, Skillshare International in the UK is working closely with Skillshare International Ireland to set up a partnership with other organisations to work on Development Education at higher education. Skillshare international is also exploring ways of linking with partners institutions Europe and in

developing countries to support their efforts in development education. This is a valuable work, building on what has already been achieved to reach a wider group, developing resources based on work with partner organisations in developing countries, and developing future strategies to mainstream this learning into other sectors.

Raul Pardinaz-Solis



Mercy Corps

Development awareness project

In August 2006 Mercy Corps will start a two-year development awareness project funded by DFID. This will be in partnership with the Scottish Development Education Centre (SCOTDEC) and Timor Aid, a local Timorese NGO. The main objective of the project is to encourage pupils of at least five secondary school pupils in Edinburgh and Midlothian, with a focus on disadvantaged youngsters, to become more active and aware citizens, to think critically and challenge injustice. Scottish youth will share their experiences with counterparts in East Timor who are active participants in governance projects, using multi-media and interactive learning including the projects' web resources, and through sharing their own videos. The initiative will raise awareness on different perspectives on democracy, participation and poverty reduction.

Scottish teachers will receive global citizenship training and East Timorese teachers will visit their Scottish counterparts to share expertise in workshops. The project will emphasise teacher's capacity building and will aim to develop a model for global citizenship education that should encourage mutual learning in both countries. Project information will be distributed at U.K education conferences, through journals, websites and newsletters, and it is anticipated that the resulting capacity building could influence curriculum structures in Scotland to incorporate global issues to a greater extent.

Ulrika Punjabi



VSO

In building a sense of community where people of all cultures are seen as equal, VSO brings people together to share skills, creativity and learning by a variety of means. Those in line with the objectives of BUILD cut across four areas of our work – VSO as a consortium partner implementing the DFID funded Global School Partnership programme, as lead organisation on the Global Xchange programme and through our Diaspora volunteering and LINKS programmes.

Global School Partnerships Programme

VSO provides advice and guidance to schools in the UK in establishing school partnerships and developing the global dimension into the school curriculum. This is largely through Global Educators, VSO returned volunteers, who can be contacted through the Global Educators Register (www.vso.org.uk/resources). In the past year an additional 40 Global educators have been recruited nationwide, to provide support for school developing partnerships.

VSO Rwanda has recently joined the GSP programme as a partner country able to support schools in Rwanda, establish partnerships.

Global Xchange

In this programme 18 to 25 year olds from all backgrounds join a team of up to 18 young people, with equal numbers from the UK and from an overseas partner country. Volunteers live and work in host communities for up to 3 months in the UK and up to 3 months in the partner country. Each cross-cultural counterpart pair of volunteers live within host homes and work within local community projects, therefore ensuring that the programme benefits not only the young people who volunteer, but also the families who host them, the community projects where they work and the wider communities in which they live.

Volunteers and community stakeholders have many opportunities, both during the project and through evaluations at the end of the project, to reflect and learn from their experiences and wider impact opportunities that are constantly available. In the Bristol phase of a 2005 exchange the volunteers worked on a wide range of projects ranging from the Bristol Muslim Cultural Society

which is a dynamic and growing organisation carrying out much-needed support work for the Muslim population of Bristol to Avon Riding Centre for the disabled which aims to give young people with disabilities the chance to enjoy the challenging but multi beneficial experience of riding horses. In their time in Bristol it was estimated that the volunteers had a direct positive impact on over 2500 people and an indirect impact on thousands more through press and community activities.

In overseas countries the impact is equally substantial. In Nigeria for example, volunteers undertook activities such as running workshops in schools on reproductive and sexual health to 1000s of young people in one state. By doing this volunteers helped to raise awareness of the dangers of HIV and AIDS. In another work placement, funded by Comic Relief, a 3-year project in partnership with the National Organisation for Disabled People saw volunteers engaging in office-based projects in Osogbo. The idea being that these projects would help capacity-build and complement state structures in anti-discrimination advocacy work.

Global Xchange partnership successfully delivered:

8 exchanges which had a direct impact on a

- 144 volunteers
- 144 host home placements
- 160 community work placements
- 192 educational activity days (which the volunteers self facilitated and learnt about Global Education)

In addition the 8 teams altogether ran **96 Community activity days** in which wider members of the public have been made aware of Global Education issues at the absorbing messages level and possibly taking action level of the development awareness triangle

It is estimated that altogether in 8 exchanges there would have been a direct development awareness impact on 20,000 people in the UK and an indirect impact on **2 million** people who may have been impacted upon through press coverage and media information

The Global Xchange partnership has ensured that local partners, community members & volunteers are engaged in high quality exchange activities that raise development awareness and promote the Global Education agenda.

DIASPORA VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

Two volunteer managers from Bangladesh and Sierra Leone undertook VSO sponsored 3-month **Commonwealth Fellowship placements** as part of VSO's Diaspora Volunteering Initiative. The host organisations were White City Community Project, working with the Bangladeshi Diaspora and Afford, working with African Diaspora. These placements contributed to stronger engagement of Bangladeshi and African diaspora in volunteering and development oriented activities in their countries of origin.

Links between fellows' UK host organisations and their home organisations will lead to the development of diaspora volunteering programme, thus harnessing the resources of the diaspora communities for development and global education.

LINKS (Learning through International Networking and Knowledge Sharing).

Activities through VSO's LINKS programme enable organisations and individuals in the South and the North to work alongside each other and share experiences in order to develop positive and practical new approaches to their work. This may be through exchanges, study tours and regional learning initiatives involving VSO partners, employers, and volunteer colleagues.

In early 2005 VSO Ireland was approached by Hibernian, a leading financial group, which was interested in developing a close institutional relationship with a VSO partner organisation overseas, centred on a shared professional area of concern. A partnership was developed with the North Kazakhstan Credit Fund (NKCF), a long-term partner of VSO in Kazakhstan that has been supported by VSO through professional volunteers and small grant funding over the past 5 years.

Through partnership LINKS, long-distance working relations were established between the two organisations. Key elements to date have involved a study tour from NKCF to Hibernian, a return visit

from Hibernian to NKCF and an ongoing 'virtual link'.

Leena Vadhar

VSO have worked hard with the NHS project on international development to get linking and volunteering as activities to be valued and supported by the NHS. Real signs of progress in evolving NHS linking under Lord Crisp.

Lobbied DFID at ministerial and permanent secretary level to see volunteering and particularly creative ways of involving young people endorsed and supported by the White Paper which has now been published. Successfully achieved with explicit commitments, and now in discussion with DFID as to what form of support and activities may take.

Mark Goldring



AIESEC Birmingham

For those unfamiliar with it, AIESEC is the world's largest student organisation, present in over 90 countries and territories in the world which aims to "*create a platform for young people to discover their potential*". AIESEC at the University of Birmingham is in the process of implementing its educational project "Reach ME/Teach ME", that uses the exchange of teaching assistants between schools in Birmingham, UK and Nairobi Kenya to undertake research on the challenges facing education in both countries and create a channel for the flow of information between the two countries.

In tandem with this, AIESEC Birmingham is also organising an educational conference on the 4th of November, 2006, for headteachers, teachers and other stakeholders in the educational sector, to identify some of the challenges that can be investigated during the exchanges, and to create an opportunity where information and ideas on "An International Education" can be exchanged. Any individuals interested in attending or speaking at the event are invited to get in touch with the Project Director at AIESEC Birmingham, H. Nanjala Nyabola, at nanjala.nyabola@aiesec.net

or nanjala.nyabola@yahoo.co.uk , or telephone numbers +420 608 776 450 or +44 789 608 7853. For more information on AIESEC in the United Kingdom, please visit the website at www.aiesec.co.uk

Nanjala Nyabola

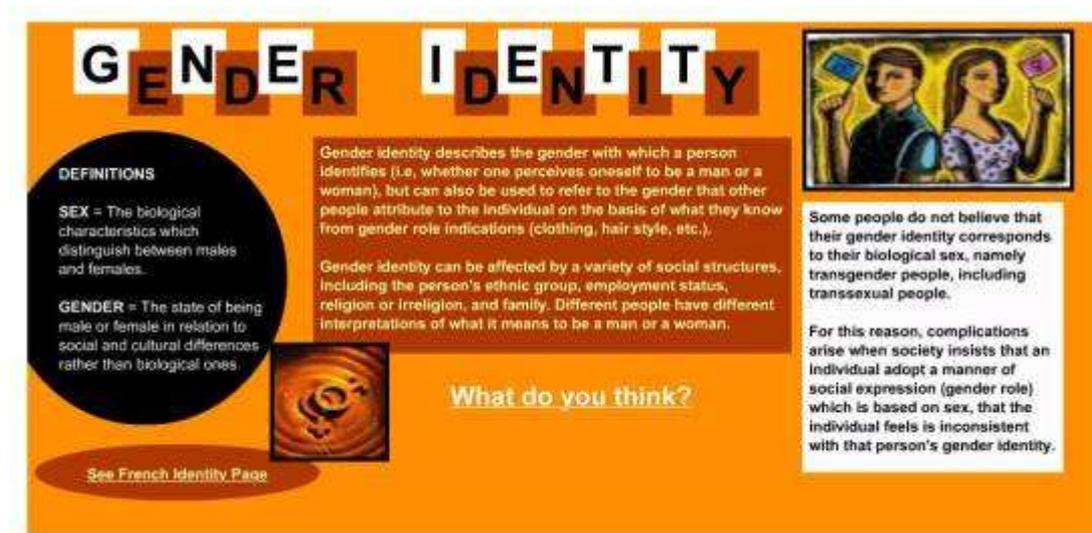


Plan UK

Identity, Rights and Responsibilities

An exciting and engaging linking project facilitated by Plan UK in collaboration with Gemin-i.org. This Internet based project linked 25 schools in the UK with 25 schools from 9 African countries and the Philippines. They worked collaboratively, exploring the concept of identity in relation to their rights and responsibilities through to issues such as natural disasters, conflict and birth registration.

The students work and activities can be viewed at www.planidproject.net



An example of Students work from Togo



Enable

Enable delivers enhanced learning and development programmes for corporations via practical charitable projects that develop the delegates as people and employees. This facilitates the building of sustainable partnerships between corporations and charities, NGOs and communities.

Enable has enjoyed a wonderful year which has seen many new partnerships formed between the businesses and communities across the UK, France and Eastern Europe. We have been facilitating programmes on behalf of Aviva,

Siemens, St Paul Travelers, Baker Tilly and the NHS.

For example, in November 2005, a 1 year commitment was given by The Leadership Academy at Aviva, the world's sixth-largest insurance group and the biggest in the UK, to deliver charitable project based learning programmes to their executives. This commitment has meant that, to date, 125 employees from all over the world have helped to develop playgrounds for under-privileged and disabled children in London, landscaped a garden and decorated a

respite centre for the French Red Cross, and helped to build houses for people in poverty in Romania.



These projects create friendships across cultural divides

Carolyn Reed was the Director of Group Management Development at Aviva, with responsibility for these programmes:

"We wanted to find a way in which we could support our senior managers in the transition from the workplace to the learning environment on our executive education programmes. This transition needed to be experiential, along with offering something back to the communities that use our products - and 'Enable' was the answer to that challenge! They are terrific in seeking out, designing, organising and delivering events with chosen charities that link with our business strategy and values. They have made a real difference in the way in which we approach the opening sessions of our Executive Development and are an integral part of our Leadership Academy. For example, we were seeking an experiential session relating to corporate volunteering and cause related marketing for one of our Executive Education programmes. Enable took the brief and created a fantastic week for a group of ten in Romania. They worked with the charity on the scope of the programme, organised everything and ensured that the week was both a learning experience and an enjoyable experience - they excelled in all areas! Enable truly make a difference in this area. If you are seeking experiential learning environments that meet a number of objectives - call Enable - they will find a way to make it happen for you!"

We are in discussion with IBM and Habitat for Humanity to deliver a programme in South Africa. The practical project, to build homes for people currently living in appalling conditions, will support the learning objectives of the women taking part.

The mutually supportive objectives of this programme are:

- To improve conditions for a community of disadvantaged people in a sustainable, responsible and helpful way
- To support the corporate objective of engaging 25% of IBM's women in the Women in Blue Network by raising the profile of the UK Women's Leadership Team and attracting women from a wider audience than engaged currently
- To invigorate the women taking part and enthuse them to evangelise about supporting improvements to the IBM working environment by taking positive actions and leading networking and community initiatives on their return to the UK
- Where possible build knowledge of the local community to support IBM's business development in emerging markets



The delegates receive much pleasure from their work

An underlying objective is for this project to be seen as a metaphor for taking responsibility and action to change your own environment.

In response to existing commitments and the exciting opportunities ahead Enable is growing its team. Andy Barton has been joined by Ian Simmons as a business partner, and they are currently recruiting for additional project management resource. Andy and Ian would also welcome approaches from any charities or NGOs who are looking to build corporate partnerships, and any businesses who are looking for assistance in balancing the pursuit of profit with the pursuit of purpose.

Andy Barton

Link Community Development

Over the course of this summer and autumn 60 Global Teachers (GTs) will travel to South Africa, Ghana, Uganda and Malawi as part of the 15 month *Global Teachers Programme*. All the teachers have had two pre-placement training weekends to prepare them to work with headteachers and Senior Management Teams at their placement schools. GTs also have two post-placement weekends to support their follow-up work in the UK. Follow-up work takes a variety of forms in GT's schools and local community, focussing on themes such as HIV/ AIDS, bringing the global dimension into the classroom and cross-curricular schemes of work. This will bring the total number of Global Teachers to-date to 330. We hope to further develop and expand the programme over the coming years.

There are currently 400 pairs of schools linked by the *Link Schools Programme*. Schools are provided with information on their linking partner and are encouraged to take part in LCD's events and regular correspondence exchanges. In 2006 270 primary and secondary schools in Uganda, South Africa, Ghana and the UK participated in LCD's annual Postcard Exchange. The students wrote and designed over 13,000 postcards around the theme "What can children in your school do to make the world a better place for all children?" Around 25 pairs of schools every year also take the opportunity to arrange a reciprocal visit with their partner school. This provides teachers and headteachers with the opportunity to strengthen the linking relationship and deepen the understanding between the partner schools and their staff and pupils.

Thanks go to DFID, DfES, SEED and the HSBC Education Trust for supporting these programmes, and to our media partners – BBC World Class and *The TES*.

In 2006 Link Community Development has set up new offices in Scotland, Ireland and Malawi, and we are also set to expand to Ethiopia and Germany in the near future. LCD remains committed to improving the quality of education for children in Africa and to supporting North-South partnerships for mutual benefit.

For more information: www.lcd.org.uk / tel: 020 7691 1818 / email: link@lcd.org.uk

Mary Dawson



EDEN

Sri Lanka: Project Sri Build

Continued coordination of a pilot programme for local post-Tsunami reconstruction. Emphasis is on training and the use of local knowledge and skills throughout, working with national partners. New Associate Partners have also been identified and discussions continue with all key parties

One Alliance partner has sufficient funding for 60 houses, but additional funding is actively being sought, both locally and internationally, for costs over and above the immediate construction expenditure. Funding documents developed and bid outcomes awaited

EARTH University – Costa Rica

Third pair of placement students expected in August. Work relating to developing staff exchanges and commercial activities affected by some reorganisation but will be resurrected

Gardens for Life

Schools programme supported by DfES, DfID, Cisco Systems and other agencies has just completed its very successful 3 year initial pilot. Celebration event hosted at Eden, attended by UK, Indian and Kenyan participants. Plans underway to continue roll-out, subject to funding

South Africa

Attended Africa Beyond 2005 and South African Sports & Investment Conferences. A number of new links established with Durban City officials, Global Events (football and SA World Cup in particular), Lord Joffe – CIDA, Helderberg Environmental Education Centre and liaison ongoing with existing Eden contacts, eg Green Futures

Architecture sans Frontières

Planning underway for another Summer School to be held at Eden – September 2006. Focus will be on architecture for hazard prone areas

Buro Happold

International Development and Consortium for Eradication of Poverty. Potential link with construction work in South Africa

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council

Meeting regarding how to find sponsorship and to ease exchange

Scouting Centenary – April – August 2007

Working on a proposal to host a major event at Eden for Scout Association celebrations

Howard Jones



Links Japan

Links Japan's primary focus is on promoting civil society partnerships and programmes between Britain and Japan and the priority during this year has been around community regeneration and social inclusion. We have been sharing information with JANIC, the main network organisation for Japanese NGOs, and some key Japanese NGOs and civil society organisations about the work of UKOWLA and the importance of wider north-south community linking and partnership and with Toshihiro Menju of the Japan Center for International Exchange, building on last summer's EU-Japan CLIC (Community Linking in International Development) programme. This is seeking support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Foundation for three way (EU-Japan-South) community linking and exchange projects and from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to support a research project on the role that local government and local

level organisations can play in achieving wider national ODA policies (in Europe and Japan).

Phillida Purvis



Local Government International Bureau

Objective

Initiate, develop and implement LGIB's technical co-operation projects and programmes in Africa and South Asia

Activities

1. Complete outstanding project activities
 - South Africa - SALGA's International Development Strategy
 - India - enhancing the capacity of All India Council of Mayors
2. Follow-up on pipeline projects/programmes
 - Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe - future engagement
 - Ugandan Local Government Association - possibility of future collaborations using EU funding
 - Sierra Leone - joint proposal submitted to Decentralisation Secretariat
 - Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya
 - i. proposal on organisational policy and lobbying capacity
 - ii. Cities Alliance proposal on Local Economic Development
 - iii. EU Local Government Support Programme in Kenya), Sri Lanka (awaiting reply on political/security situation
3. Preliminary discussions on future projects/programmes
 - Somaliland - discussion with UN-Habitat Somalia Programme and Mayor of Hergeisa on assistance for the establishment of an Association of Local Authorities
 - Ethiopia - discussion with UNDP and consultant managing WB Urban Management Capacity Building Programme on establishing a Local Government Association

- Niger – submitted joint project proposal with UK Relief to USAID

Also on current policy developments we have contributed / are contributing to the following processes:

- DFID White paper
- EC DG Development's Thematic Strategy Programme on Non-State Actors and Local authorities
- EC DG Development's European Consensus on Governance in Development Cooperation
- UN High Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence
- Conservative party's working group on Globalisation and Global Poverty - Issues and Options Paper

Rosalie Callway



ContinYou

ContinYou has been working with a group of countries in Eastern Europe around the issue of community focused schools. We have set up a partnership and we will work together to produce a self assessment tool and then run international training on it for a wider group of countries. At the time of writing we are in negotiation with a funder but nothing is signed up yet. I will keep you posted.

Chris Jones



DFID Global School Partnerships

'An inspirational way of building links between the UK and schools in developing countries' is how Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, described Global School Partnerships, when he announced more than a doubling of present funding for the DFID Global School Partnerships programme. There are now more grants available than ever before for schools that want to embark on partnering with a Southern

school. The new funding will provide 510 *Reciprocal Visit grants* and 137 *Global Curriculum Project grants*, enabling UK and Southern teachers to visit each others' schools in order to share good practice and to work together on joint curriculum projects. Help with grant applications during 2006 is available at Grant Preparation Seminars: Edinburgh 14th September, Belfast 28th September, London 4th October, Llandridnod Wells 6th October. Grant deadlines: Reciprocal Visit: 1st November 2006, 1st May 2007; Global Curriculum Project 1st March 2007. Professional Development Workshops are also available, including An Introduction to Global School Partnerships, Building Effective Partnerships, A Global Dimension in the Curriculum, Involving Communities, Understanding Education and Development.

Contact: globalschools@britishcouncil.org

Tel: 0131 524 5786 or

www.britishcouncil/globalschools.org

for more details, grant application forms and guidance notes.

Andrea Mason

Gold Star Communities (A Discussion Paper)

Purpose

To encourage global sustainable development action at community level through community linking.

Background

BUILD is recommending that communities, particularly but not exclusively, in the North and the South, should sign up to “twinning” partnerships which will include agreed development policies and activities to a standard which would result in a prestigious UN award in recognition of those activities.

International Partnerships. The “twinning” communities, which would cover a recognised geographical area, would be in working partnerships for learning and development.

The partnerships would particularly focus on four areas of activity.

- 1) **Sustainable environmental development practices.** The partnership would agree a programme of activity for sustainable development
- 2) **Social Cohesion.** The partnership would have a programme which might include interfaith/interethnic work/antiracist work at both ends of the partnership
- 3) **Child friendly** Using the international standards set out by the International Union of Local Authorities and UNICEF the partnerships would agree child friendly policies.
- 4) **Fairtrade.** The partnership would have a programme of education about Trade Justice and the Fairtrade movement and if appropriate at least one of the communities in the partnership would achieve the attainment of Fairtrade status (in the UK the accrediting agency would be Fairtrade Foundation).

Process

This award would be hard to achieve thus signifying a particularly high standard of activity which would be internationally recognised.

The communities within the partnership would have to be able to demonstrate this activity to an agreed level and to certain agreed qualitative criteria. An international monitoring body would be in place to provide:

- clear qualitative and quantitative criteria for the partnership to achieve and adhere to in respect of the Linking gold star
- coordination with accrediting organisations for the other stars

In each of the above instances small effective institutional structures will need to be in place in each community to drive these initiatives.

The Way Forward

BUILD agencies in the UK would be prepared to work with UN staff to take this idea forward and develop a proposal to put to the appropriate UN body.

Promoting School Linking to meet the Millennium Development Goals

Background

There are an increasing number of initiatives in UK encouraging and supporting school partnerships between schools in UK and in less economically developed countries (LEDCs), particularly Africa. These initiatives include:

- Global School Partnerships, funded by DFID and led by a consortium of agencies British Council, VSO, UK One World Linking Association (UKOWLA) and Cambridge Education Foundation
- BBC World Class which, during the past year has encouraged the development of some 1800 such links, now at different stages of development
- Link Community Development which through its Global Teachers Awards has developed links between schools in UK, Uganda, South Africa and Ghana
- The Anglican Church all of whose dioceses in England have links to dioceses in LEDCs (particularly Africa) and many of these are being used to promote school links between C of E schools in UK and in those countries
- The Eden Project's "Gardens for Life" programme encouraging schools to develop partnerships around sustainable development issues.

All the above organisations are members of BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development), a coalition of some 50 UK-based international voluntary and commercial agencies, committed to bringing community based partnerships for learning between communities (in the broadest sense) in the UK and in LEDCs into the mainstream of life in UK. UKOWLA acts as the secretariat to BUILD.

BUILD members see that international community-based partnerships have a crucial role in the development of social cohesion within the countries involved, whether in the increasingly diverse UK society or communities in Africa.

BUILD members worked with DfES on their International Strategy "Putting the World in World Class Education" which recommends that all schools should have an international partner.

BUILD members were at the November 2005 Commonwealth People's Forum in Malta and put in a submission to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting recommending that every school in the Commonwealth should have an international partner.

BUILD members met with Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Mark Malloch Brown, March 10th 2006 and received affirmation at UN level for school and community partnerships. Follow-up meetings are arranged in May 2006 with UNDP and the UN Hub for Innovative Partnerships programme.

BUILD has been involved in the development of a Toolkit of Good Practice for use by schools and communities interested in developing international partnerships (see www.ukowla.org.uk).

Evidence

There is much anecdotal evidence that properly conducted school partnerships can have a major impact on the quality of teaching and learning in the schools involved in LEDCs and in UK and can make a major contribution to Millennium Development Goals.

BUILD members have applied for funding from DFID for funding of an Impact Assessment on schools in Africa and UK to be conducted by the Universities of London and Makerere, Uganda. This study will be conducted from April 2006- December 2008. It is hoped that this will support

Recommendations

BUILD is bringing together the key civil society players in UK that are involved in school partnerships but currently lacks the human and financial resources to adopt a more strategic approach. These resources should be forthcoming.

That BUILD members should work closely with relevant Government Departments in developing that strategy but sees a major issue as the need for greater inter and intradepartmental collaboration. e.g.

- Currently, Government funding for school partnerships comes from DFID Development Awareness Fund and not from Civil Society Challenge Fund. This constrains the funding which has to be targeted at raising 'development awareness' in UK and does not recognise the importance that school partnerships make in meeting MDGs in Africa.
- DfES has an international strategy which recommends school partnerships but does not have the financial resources to enable schools to carry out that strategy. Should funding for school partnerships be the responsibility of DFID or DfES?
- Social cohesion comes under the remit of the Home Office and yet international school partnerships play a crucially important role in social cohesion. Should funding for international school partnerships come from Home Office?

As part of a developing strategy BUILD sees its member, Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) as having an important role to play collaborating with Local Education Authorities in promoting school partnerships at a local level. This should require the appointment of Link Partnership Officers. This could develop into links between local education authorities in UK and Africa.

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