



## International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility, and Democracy

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February 6, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy (IC) made significant progress during 2007. This is an update of the major initiatives and developments, as well as plans for 2008.

### **Book on Global Forum: Higher Education and Democratic Culture (June 2006):**

- 1) A book of the presentations given at the June 2006 Global Forum in Strasbourg has been released. Josef Huber and Ira Harkavy (eds.): *Higher Education and Democratic Culture: Citizenship, Human Rights and Civic Responsibility* (Strasbourg, 2007: Council of Europe Publishing. Council of Europe Higher Education Series No. 8). The ISBN number is 978-92-871-6274-8. The book will be available online at [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/Resources/HEseries\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/Resources/HEseries_en.asp) in the coming weeks.

### **Follow-Up from the Symposium: Universities, Democratic Culture & Human Rights (March 2007):**

- 1) *Toolkit to Link Higher Education and Primary/Secondary Schools (K-12)*: Following the unanimous approval of the recommendation at the March Symposium to develop a small international task force, for the creation of a toolkit on linking higher education and primary/secondary education for the advancement of education for democratic culture and human rights, a meeting was held at Penn in August to implement that recommendation. The meeting was attended by Ira Harkavy (U.S. Chair, International Consortium), Henry Teune (Principal Investigator, IC), Joann Weeks (Staff Director, IC), Krzysztof Ostrowski (Member, Council of Europe's Ad Hoc Group for Education for Democratic Culture and Human Rights Education), Sarah Keating-Chetwynd (Division on Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Council of Europe), Patrick Phillips (Executive Director, Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools Council for Excellence in Government), Matt Hartley (Penn Graduate School of Education), Kathy Schultz (Penn, Graduate School of Education), Nelda Brown (Executive Director, National Service-Learning Partnerships), and Deborah Warin (Associate Director, Lifelong Learning, American Council on Education). During a two-day session, a proposal was created for presentation to the Council of Europe's Ad Hoc Committee on Education for Human Rights and Democratic Education for the development of a tool for connecting Higher Education and K-12 schools to be distributed throughout Europe. The task force's proposal was approved by the Committee, and the appointed committee's first meeting was held in November in Strasbourg. Patrick Phillips (Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools Council for Excellence in Government and member of the August task force) was in attendance, as were Council of Europe members - Sarah Keating, Krzysztof Ostrowski, and Virgilio Meira Soares (Toolkit Committee Chair). The next meeting, set for early February in San Diego, will involve the supervisory group and the international team of toolkit authors. The resulting toolkit is expected to have international impact.
- 2) *Democratic Governance of Higher Education*: Concurrent to the Toolkit meeting, a second international committee meeting will be held in San Diego to develop a Higher Education complement to *Democratic Governance of Schools* produced for primary and secondary schools by the Council of Europe. This committee is comprised of students and administrators from the United States and Europe.
- 3) *Meeting with Mexican Colleagues*: Ira Harkavy (IC's U.S. Chair) and Joann Weeks (IC Staff Director) attended a three-day conference in late August sponsored by Iberoamericana University in Mexico City. The conference was sponsored in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, Marga Inc. and



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Penn. It highlighted civic engagement at the Ibero campuses in Tijuana, Puebla and Mexico City, as well as Simon Fraser's work in Vancouver and Penn's in Philadelphia.

Discussions were held with the President of Ibero-Mexico City about the Ibero campuses serving as organizer for increasing the participation of the network of Latin American Jesuit higher eds in the IC. Sondra Myers of the University of Scranton, and a representative of the US Jesuit higher education association, also participated. Sondra and Ira followed the Mexico meeting with a discussion in Washington with Father Currie, head of the US association of Jesuit institutions. We look forward to continuing to work with both of these groups in 2008.

- 4) *Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Higher Education and Research*: Held September 20-21, 2007, Henry Teune attended as a U.S. observer and Caryn McTighe Musil as expert witness. During this meeting, there was a brief presentation of the March Symposium on Universities, Democratic Culture and Human Rights held in Philadelphia.
- 5) *Conference on the Role of the University*: Caryn McTighe Musil, Senior Vice President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities and member of the IC U.S. Steering Committee, made a presentation to the Conferences on the University Between Humanism and Market: Redefining Its Values and Functions in the 21st Century on November 20-21, 2007, in Strasbourg.
- 6) *Meeting of the IC Steering Committee with members of the CoE Committee on Higher Education and Research*: On October 5, 2007, three members of the International Consortium's U.S. Steering Committee – Henry Teune (PI of the IC), Caryn McTighe Musil (Senior Vice President, AAC&U), and Susan Porter Robinson (Vice President for Lifelong Learning, American Council on Education) – travelled to Strasbourg to meet with Council of Europe colleagues to discuss the follow up to the Declaration adopted at the Global Forum in June 2006, as well as upcoming projects and organization of the International Consortium.

The items of interest were:

- Review of the outcomes of the Philadelphia Symposium of March 29-30, 2007.
  - Discussion of the student conference on human rights and democratic education to be held at Penn on December 2, 2007. (Conference report below.)
  - Development of a website for Higher Education and Democratic Culture.
  - Governance and Growth of the International consortium. A decision was made to use Teune's draft statement until further discussions are held.
  - Conference to follow-up the Philadelphia symposium either in Strasbourg or Philadelphia in 2008. (Being planned.)
  - Plans for the New Tool for bridging good practices on education for human rights and democracy across levels of schooling.
  - Recommendation to produce a video that is now available (see below).
  - Information about the Committees inter-cultural dialogue conference that is now set for March 2008 in Strasbourg.
- 7) *Developments in Korea*: Frank Plantan, University of Pennsylvania and Executive Secretary of the IC, spent the past year in South Korea working to strengthen the Korean Consortium, as well as to lay the groundwork for the creation of Pacific regional collaboration through a number of events and outreach activities. Some developments include:
    - Kyung Hee University (KHU), which was represented at the March 2007 Symposium, agreed to provide initial logistical support for a Korean Consortium and to serve as headquarters for the early stages of development.
    - An organizing committee was formed on the KHU campus on November 5, 2007, with representatives of Kyung Hee University, Inha University, Sogang University, Korea University, Seoul National University, Hanyang University, and Chonnam National University in attendance.

- Established a relationship with the Korean National Commission for Human Rights, linked to all Korean institutions working in human rights education.
- Discussions held with Presidents and Deans of over 70 Korean universities informing them of the IC, its past and current projects, and how to join the Global Network and the Korean National Consortium on Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy (being formed).
- From November 8 – 11, 2007, KHU hosted its 2007 PeaceConference, “In Celebration of the 26th Anniversary of the UN International Day of Peace, Transformative Challenges: In Search of New Humanity and Community.” A World Civic Forum 2009 pre-conference meeting was held as part of the meeting and included discussions of the Consortium’s possible contribution to a WCF.. Attendees included representatives from the United Nation’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Department of Public Information, UN NGO section chiefs, Council of Europe, CEO of CIVICUS, and leading NGOs and the Korean Foreign Ministry. During the meeting:
  - Gabriele Mazza, Head of the Council of Europe’s In-School, Out-of-School and Higher Education Division, made a presentation on the CoE’s work in citizenship, democracy and human rights education.
  - Bruce Muirhead of Australia’s EIDOS Institute spoke on the organization and work of the Australian Consortium.

- 8) *Video:* The U.S. Steering Committee of the International Consortium in collaboration with the Council of Europe’s Committee on Higher Education and Research created the first video to promote the Global Network, established as a result of the Global Forum in Strasbourg in June 2006 (<http://democracy.ecml.at>). Spearheaded by U.S. Steering Committee member, Susan Porter Robinson (Vice President for Lifelong Learning, American Council of Education), the video was timed for release in honor of International Human Rights Day (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>).

The video is found at <http://www.upenn.edu/ccp/international-consortium/home.html>. It highlights the need for a global effort by institutions of higher education to improve issues of human rights, citizenship, and global democracy, and it calls on institutions of higher education to join the Global Network (<http://democracy.ecml.at>) and the work of the International Consortium.

- 9) *Students for Human Rights and Democratic Education:* As a result of the overwhelming call for student involvement at both the Global Forum in June 2006 and the Symposium in March 2007, *Students for Human Rights and Democratic Education: A Student Conference to Commemorate International Human Rights Day* was held at Penn on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Sponsored by the International Consortium, the conference was student organized and run. The Penn student planning team was led by University of Pennsylvania students, Yu-Chi Kuo and Olivia Clement. The meeting generated a lot of energy, enthusiasm and ideas for mobilizing students and institutions of higher education to increase their efforts in promoting human rights, citizenship and democratic education. Below is a summary of conference’s resulting proposed plan of action. To read the full report of the conference, please visit: <http://www.upenn.edu/ccp/conferences/student-conference.html>

**Summary of Action Plan:**

- Edit conference video and post on YouTube, blogs, etc. for international dialogue
- Campus-to-campus Network:
  - Create an umbrella human rights organization on campuses nationally.
  - Link these organizations through an online resource which allows for information sharing and collaborative, multi-campus event planning
  - Further meetings and annual conferences
- Further develop criteria for assessing institution’s performance in human rights and democratic education.
- Mobilize media:

- Student Drafting Committee to create press release in January of action conference action plan
- Students nationally encouraged to write articles for their campus and local newspapers assessing their school's performance in human rights and democratic education, followed by recommendations

Linda Hollenback, the IC Coordinator, will be working with the involved students this spring to help them reach these objectives. In addition, a video of the conference will be edited in the coming weeks for international distribution and online access. We are working to organize an international student dialogue around the conference video with students from the US, Europe, and Korea.

10) *Promotion of Human Rights and Democratic Education*: Krzysztof Ostrowski, Member of the Council of Europe's (CoE) Ad Hoc Committee on Education for Democratic Culture and Human Rights Education, visited the University of Pennsylvania in December. He took part in the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships' Faculty Advisory Board Meeting and discussed with Penn faculty the IC/CoE recent collaborative efforts to further engage higher education institutions to promote human rights and democracy, as well as mobilize students both through their home universities and nationally.

Looking to 2008, the International Consortium plans to continue its efforts to expand the Consortium as well as the Global Network. We look forward to sharing with you the Students for Democratic Education and Human Rights press release in the coming weeks, as well as the results of the February meeting to create a toolkit for Education for Democratic Culture and Human Rights Education across primary, secondary and higher education.

We welcome your feedback and news of your campuses work to promote higher education's role to improve human rights and democracy both locally and globally

All the best

U.S. Steering Committee  
International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy

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