

World Education Research Association Founded

Two-Year Effort Leads to New International Forum for Collaboration

On April 18, 2009, representatives from 24 education research associations from around the world unanimously affirmed their commitment to establish a new forum to advance education research worldwide. The resolution stated:

On the 18th day of April, in San Diego, California, the national, regional, and international specialty education research associations, whose governing bodies had committed to forming the World Education Research Association (WERA), officially approved the establishment of WERA in accordance with the mission and articles set forth in its proposed constitution.

With passage of this resolution, all the association representatives in attendance stood and gave a standing ovation. The establishment of WERA signaled a new commitment to work together as a global community of organizations to advance education research as a scientific and scholarly field. The resolution was the culmination of activity that was initiated in 2007 by Eva Baker (University of California, Los Angeles), during her term as AERA President and that continued with her leadership through this April's meeting.

As set forth in the Preamble of the WERA Constitution, the associations that constitute WERA are resolved to work together to address such issues as building capacity and interest in education research, advancing education research policies and practices, and promoting the use and application of education research around the world. Fundamental to WERA's mission is to share skills, strengths, and sensitivities and build upon the diversity of traditions, languages, and critiques to transcend what any one association can accomplish in its own country, region, or area of specialization.

The WERA meeting in San Diego was

held directly after the AERA 2009 Annual Meeting and was attended by the founding members as well as by observers from four associations whose governing bodies had not yet met or decided to join WERA. The founding members are national, regional, and international specialty education research associations that have attended at least one of four international meetings exploring the possibility of establishing WERA, plus two national associations that were approved for membership. In addition to a Transition Plan, official agreement by individual associations to join WERA involved their approval of the WERA Constitution, a Three-Year Financial Plan, and a Three-Year Program Plan—all finalized in Singapore in November 2008. The April meeting in San Diego—the fifth international meeting of associations—was designed to be the point of decision making on whether to

establish WERA. Previous meetings were held in Chicago in April 2007, London in September 2007, New York in March 2008, and Singapore in November 2008.

Founding representatives took several actions leading to the creation of an interim WERA governance structure. They elected a Nominating Committee consisting of Chair Wim Jochems (European Educational Research Association), Ong Kim Lee (Educational Research Association of Singapore), and Jo-Anne Reid (Australian Association for Research in Education) to receive nominations, create a slate of candidates, and conduct the election of an Interim President and Interim Secretary-General (see next page).

Much of the meeting focused on issues related to ensuring a smooth transition. It was agreed that WERA would in all likelihood be chartered in the District of Columbia, given that Felice Levine, AERA Executive Director, has been serving as facilitator for



Attendees at the April 2009 WERA meeting in San Diego. *Fourth row (left to right):* Pak Tee Ng, Ee Ling Low, Katherine Rosich, Alan Pitman, Felice Levine, Fernand Gervais, Angela Dean. *Third row:* Jo-Anne Reid, Alison Lee, Ciaran Sugrue, Jeremy Hoad, Ian Menter, Paul Conway, Leif Moos, Wim Jochems, Pietro Boscolo. *Second row:* Petronilha B. Gonçalves e Silva, Therese Mungah Shalo Tchombe, Oon Seng Tan, Ong Kim Lee, Pamela Munn, Theo Wubbels, Susan Street, Yunus Eryaman, Dincay Koksal, Yin Cheong Cheng, Nelofer Halai. *First row (seated):* Jung-ho Yang, María Castro Morera, Juan Anson, Lorraine McDonnell, Carol Lee, Eva Baker, Beverly Lindsay, Manabu Sato, Yoshimitsu Matsuura.

WERA-in-formation. Levine emphasized, and all concurred, that the site for chartering WERA is a decision of administrative convenience rather than substantive or symbolic significance. Jochems and Levine discussed budget and finances in light of the number of founding associations to date, anticipated needs for the first 3 years of WERA, and projected dues based on a sliding fee schedule, using the World Bank Classification of National Economies.

Considerable attention was devoted to planning for symposia, workshops, and other sessions at member associations' annual meetings and other venues. A committee consisting of Petronilha B. Gon-

çalves e Silva (Brazilian Black Researchers Association and National Association of Research and Graduate Studies on Education, Brazil), Nelofer Halai (Pakistan Association for Research in Education), Susan Street (Consejo Mexicano de Investigación Educativa), Oon-Seng Tan (Educational Research Association of Singapore), and Jeremy Hoad (British Educational Research Association) volunteered to explore further the planning and organization of substantive symposia for 2009 and 2010. Plans are also in progress for holding capacity-building workshops in different parts of the world and seeking external funding to support that objective.

In her closing remarks, Chair Levine reflected on the enormous progress that had been achieved toward internationalizing education research over the past 2 years. "Although challenges still lie ahead, WERA has emerged through the hard work, cooperation, and dedication of representatives from around the world to advance education research at a scale and significance that heretofore has not been envisioned or sought," she noted.

The inaugural meeting of the WERA Council will take place on September 26–27, 2009, in Vienna, Austria, culminating in a ceremony formally marking the establishment of WERA.

Attendees at the Fifth Meeting of the World Education Research Association April 18–19, 2009, San Diego, California

Founding Members and Representatives

American Educational Research Association

Eva Baker, AERA President in 2006–2007
Felice Levine, Executive Director

Brazilian Black Researchers Association and National Association of Research and Graduate Studies on Education

Petronilha B. Gonçalves e Silva

Australian Association for Research in Education

Jo-Anne Reid, President
Alison Lee, Executive Committee Member

British Educational Research Association

Jeremy Hoad, CEO
Pamela Munn, President

Canadian Society for the Study of Education

(Effective May 2009)
Fernand Gervais, Board Member

Consejo Mexicano de Investigación Educativa

Susan Street, Executive Committee Member

Educational Research Association of Singapore

Ong Kim Lee, President
Pak Tee Ng, Representative

Educational Studies Association of Ireland

Ciaran Sugrue, National Executive Member
Paul Conway, President

European Association for Research in Learning and Instruction

Pietro Boscolo, President

European Educational Research Association

Wim Jochems, Treasurer

Hong Kong Education Research Association

Yin Cheong Cheng, Representative

Japanese Educational Research Association

Manabu Sato, President
Yoshimitsu Matsuura, Vice-President

Korean Educational Research Association

Jung-ho Yang, Representative

Netherlands Educational Research Association

Theo Wubbels, President

Nordic Educational Research Association

Lejf Moos, Chair

Pakistan Association for Research in Education

Nelofer Halai, President

Scottish Educational Research Association

Ian Menter, Past President

Sociedad Española de Pedagogía

María Castro Morera, Executive Board Member

Peruvian Educational Research Association

Juan Ansion, President

Turkish Educational Research Association

Dincay Koksal, President
Yunus Eryaman, Executive Board Member

Founding Members Not in Attendance

All India Association for Educational Research
European Science Education Research Association
German Educational Research Association
Malaysian Educational Research Association

Observers

Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association

Oon-Seng Tan, President
Ee Ling Low, Representative

Education Research Network for West and Central Africa

Therese Mungah Shalo Tchombe, President of ERNWACA
Scientific Committee

World Council of Comparative Education Societies

Allan Pitman, Representative to meeting

Additional AERA Observers

Lorraine McDonnell, Immediate Past President
Carol Lee, President
Beverly Lindsay, Chair, International Relations Committee
Angela Dean, AERA Executive Assistant
Katherine Rosich, AERA Research Policy Consultant