



Australia and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Australian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO
Paris, December 2005

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Overview

This publication by the Australian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO aims to provide an introduction to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and so too, Australia's role and contributions to the Organization. The starting point is the Organization's mission, basic structure and functioning. This is followed by a review of some key points of relevance and historical importance to Australia, an overview of current links between Australia and UNESCO, and challenges for the future.

UNESCO's Mission

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded on 4 November 1946 on the premise: "That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed;" UNESCO's goal then, and now, is "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations." UNESCO has 191 Member States and five Associate Members. Its Headquarters are based in Paris and it also has field offices across the world.

More specifically, UNESCO is a key international organization to promote best practice and international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. UNESCO is not a funding agency, nor is it a research institution. Its chief role is facilitating the transfer and sharing of knowledge. It

aims to build expertise and develop exchanges on best practice in its fields of competence through conferences and workshops, study tours, staff exchanges, fellowships, offering awards and negotiating international legal instruments. Through these activities, UNESCO develops strategies to cope with a changing global environment.

UNESCO's Operations

The **General Conference** is the sovereign body of UNESCO. It brings together representatives of the Member States and meets every two years. Its mandate is to set the programme and the budget for UNESCO. Each Member State has one vote, irrespective of its size or its financial contribution.

The **Executive Board** consists of 58 Member States which are elected by the General Conference for a four year term. The Board meets twice a year and assures the overall management of UNESCO. It prepares the work of the General Conference and sees that its decisions are properly carried out.

The **Director-General** of UNESCO is elected by the General Conference. The present incumbent is Mr Koichiro Matsuura of Japan (until 2009). As of 2005, the Director-General's term became four years. A Director-General cannot have more than two consecutive terms.

As of July 2005, the **Secretariat** of UNESCO employed some 2,160 civil servants from some 170 countries. The staff is divided into Professional and General Service categories. Under a recent decentralization policy, more than 680 staff members work in UNESCO's 58 field offices around the world. Under the authority of the Director-General, the Secretariat is

expected to translate into reality the programmes approved by the General Conference.

UNESCO's regular **budget** for the 2006-2007 biennium is US\$610 million. The Organization also relies on approximately the same amount in extra budgetary (i.e. voluntary) contributions.

UNESCO's range of activities radiates from its **Paris headquarters** and from regional and sub-regional offices. Decentralization aims to increase UNESCO's effectiveness in its Member States and Associate Member States. Offices in the Asia-Pacific region include those in Bangkok, Jakarta and Apia. Australia and other Pacific Island Member States are affiliated with the UNESCO Office in Apia, Samoa.

Australia and UNESCO: A long-term commitment

Australia joined UNESCO on 4 November 1946 and is therefore a founding member of the Organization. Over UNESCO's sixty years Australia has had a strong and rich involvement in the UNESCO community. Australia has participated actively in the diverse programme of work and has made some key contributions to the achievements of UNESCO.

Australian Representation in UNESCO

As a Member State of UNESCO, Australia is represented by the **Permanent Delegation** in Paris. Ms Jane Madden is the current Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Annex 1 contains a full list of Australia's Permanent Delegates.

In broad terms, the work of the Delegation is to facilitate UNESCO contributions to Australian interests in science,

education, the environment, cultural diversity, cultural heritage, and communication. The Delegation aims to promote Australian values and expertise in setting a model way for problem-solving; to ensure benefits from UNESCO programmes flow to Australia and the region; and to persuade UNESCO to set priorities, adhere to them, and to fulfil its mandate.

One of the Delegation's key roles is thus support and advance the interests of the South Pacific Member States, particularly since only two (Australia and New Zealand) of the 17 Members/Associate Members from the South Pacific have any representation in Paris. For this reason, and to enhance Pacific awareness of engagement in UNESCO's activities, the Australian Delegation produces a regular newsletter the *Pacific Link* – for copies of this and more information on the Delegation see <http://www.austgov.fr/UNESCO/index/html>.

UNESCO is represented in Australia by the **Australian National Commission for UNESCO**. Article VII of UNESCO's Constitution states: *Each Member State shall make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for the purpose of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission broadly representative of the government and such bodies.*

The function of the National Commission is to involve in UNESCO's activities the various ministerial departments, agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture and communication so that each Member State may:

- a) *Contribute to the maintenance of peace and security and the common welfare of mankind by participating in the activities of UNESCO which aim to advance the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, give fresh impulse to popular education and to the spread of culture, and preserve, increase and diffuse knowledge;*
- b) *Play an ever-increasing role in UNESCO's work, and particularly in the formulation and execution of its programmes.*

Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO consists of fourteen members, including two Parliamentarians (a member from the Government and a member from the Opposition), and four honorary members appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade for a three year term. Leadership is assured by the Chair of the National Commission. Refer to Annex 2 for the list of current Commission Members and a full list of Chairs of the Commission over the years.

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO also has six networks: youth, education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication.

The National Commission is supported by a Secretariat located within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The National Commission's role is to advise the Government on UNESCO, assist UNESCO to develop policies and programmes, link UNESCO's national and international activities, implement programmes, and facilitate Australian community involvement in UNESCO. Members of the National Commission form part of the Australian Delegation that attends each General Conference of UNESCO.



Australian Delegation to the 33rd UNESCO General Conference, 2005.
Front: Anne Siwicki, Jane Madden, Hon Rod Kemp,
Kenneth Wiltshire, Susan Pascoe
Back: Lucy Reynaud, William Thorn, Kevin Isaacs,
Tracey Haines, Mark Wayland, Joy de Leo,
Bill Rowe, John Fein

In acting as an interface between UNESCO, the international and Australian communities, the National Commission also provides information and reports in UNESCO programmes; provides advice about UNESCO initiatives in Australia and overseas; develops project proposals appropriate for UNESCO funding; and supplies information about prizes, fellowships and awards. The National Commission produces a regular newsletter which can be viewed on the Commission's webpage (www.dfat.gov.au/intorgs/unesco).

Australia also contributes to the functioning of UNESCO through: participation in **elected bodies** (advisory committees); membership of the Asia-Pacific regional group (**ASPAC**); and informal groups such as the **Commonwealth Group** (comprising Member States of Commonwealth countries) and the **Geneva Group** (those Member States that are major contributors financially to the Organization and committed to enhancing management and financial reform).

Historical note: Australia's transition to the Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) Group

In 1974 Australia, along with New Zealand, joined ASPAC (then known as the Asia and Oceania regional group) for programme activities, moving from the Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG). In 1988 Australia and New Zealand joined ASPAC for both programme and electoral purposes, bringing with them an Executive Board seat (from WEOG to ASPAC).

Australia's involvement in UNESCO initiatives

Australia's assessed financial contribution for the 2004-2005 biennium was 1.601% of UNESCO's Regular Budget i.e. A\$9,000,000 per annum making us the thirteenth highest contributor.

Australia has consistently supported a wide range of UNESCO initiatives and contributed to UNESCO's role in the diverse areas of competence. As the Hon Rod Kemp said in his speech to the 33rd General Conference, *"Finding ways to address persistent and pervasive challenges remains at the heart of UNESCO's mandate, be it developing an Indian Ocean Early Warning System in the wake of the terrible tsunami in our region; or addressing poverty and literacy, including through the revitalisation of UNESCO's flagship programme Education for All; or promoting intercultural and interfaith understanding; or fighting drugs in sport."*

Australia is a key partner for UNESCO in the Asia-Pacific region, where it is involved with projects in all of UNESCO's areas of competence:

- Through support for capacity building activities such as the Pacific Statistics Project which aims to ensure good statistical data is available from the Pacific region so that UNESCO can target needs there.

- Through the hosting of numerous UNESCO events and delegations to promote the Organization's work, including high-level visitors from Headquarters. In May 2002, for example, Australia hosted a visit by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura. (An extended list of recent UNESCO events in Australia can be found in annex 3.)
- Through the hosting of a number of UNESCO Chairs and Centres, including the Australian National University Centre for UNESCO which was established in 1995.

Many Australians and Australian institutions work with UNESCO, either directly or in connection with the Organization's programmes and this document outlines some of the major lines of interaction.

Education

According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics – an important arm of the Organization's operations – over 860 million of the world's citizens are illiterate. UNESCO has a leading role in the 'Education For All' (EFA) strategy to combat this problem and Australia is actively supporting efforts, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

As higher education is becoming an increasingly international issue, Australia, as one of the largest providers of education to overseas students, takes its responsibilities in this area seriously. For this reason, we supported the development and release (in December 2005) of the UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education.

Professor Colin Power was Assistant Director-General for Education from 1989 to 2000 and Deputy Director-General of UNESCO from 1999 to 2000, the most senior post held by an Australian. His contributions to the development of education internationally and the role he played in assisting education authorities undergoing major political economic and social transformations have been widely recognized.

Across the board, Australia remains active in UNESCO's education programme activities:

Education for Shared Values for Intercultural and Interfaith Understanding

Australia is taking a lead in trying to combat terrorism through interfaith and intercultural education and dialogue through events such as workshops on educational curricula for intercultural and inter-religious understanding.

“Within the UN system, UNESCO has special responsibility for promoting interfaith and intercultural understanding through education in order to combat terrorism. Australia was one of the first UNESCO Member States to take the initiative in this field. We convened the highly successful Conference on Education for Intercultural and Interfaith Understanding in Adelaide in November 2004 and we will be looking to UNESCO to advance this important work.”

The Hon Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) 2005-2014

Australia has been pro-active in the activities for the DESD. With the support of the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage, the Australian National

Commission for UNESCO hosted a National Symposium on the Decade on 7 July 2005 in Melbourne, at which fifteen case studies of activities underway were presented. A key result of the Symposium was a draft national strategy for the Decade in Australia. Also in 2005, the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, launched the Environmental Education grants scheme designed to kick-start twelve projects aimed at reaching past the school room to involve industry and higher education providers in environmental education.

UNESCO and Vocational Education and Training

Australia has participated actively in a range of programmes aimed at achieving UNESCO's goals in Vocational Education and is particularly involved with the Organization's International Project on Technical and Vocational Education (UNEVOC) Network. The UNEVOC Network constitutes a world-wide perspective of institutions and government entities that are active in technical and vocational education and training. UNEVOC aims to support the development and improvement of all aspects of training and vocational education in the Asia-Pacific region by fostering cooperation and communication between countries. Work in this area is carried out at the UNESCO Centre of Excellence in Vocational Education and Training in Adelaide, South Australia.

Convention Against Doping in Sport

Australia was active in developing and concluding negotiations leading to the adoption of the Convention Against Doping in Sport during the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO.

"The International Convention Against Doping in Sport ... is fundamental to the protection of values in sport and is a key interest to Australia. As the Australian Minister for Sport, I was

keen to ensure that Australia played a leading role in the drafting of this Convention. The International Convention Against Doping in Sport provides a framework for a comprehensive and consistent international anti-doping regime. It also provides a foundation for best practice anti-doping programmes to be employed throughout the world. Accordingly, we support the adoption of the Convention at this Conference and will immediately commence its ratification process once the Convention is adopted. The importance of this Convention in protecting the value of sport requires that it have the resources it needs to be effective. Many will see this Convention as a means of creating a level playing field for elite athletes. That is true – but this Convention is about much more. It is about imparting values to our athletes and children that cheating is unacceptable and that sporting success must come from dedication and hard work.

The Hon Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASP) in Australia

Since it was launched in 1953, the ASP network has been designed to strengthen the commitment of children and young people to strive actively to promote international understanding and peace. Participating schools are invited to organise programmes relating to educational pilot projects on one of four main themes:

1. the study of world problems and the role of the United Nations system in solving them;
2. human rights;
3. other peoples and their cultures; and
4. the environment.

Associated Schools act as a springboard for the inclusion of UNESCO'S ideals and concerns in school curricula. Australian schools have responded actively to the programme. In

recognition, Australia was awarded a certificate of appreciation in 1992 for its work on the Associated Schools Project.

Natural Sciences

UNESCO is responsible for key international programmes to understand and manage the world's resources more effectively. Several relate to water - the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) - while others target priority areas such as coastal regions and small islands. UNESCO is currently leading international, including in science, efforts in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD).

In the Natural Sciences activities of UNESCO, Australia has been productive and has taken leadership roles in some key initiatives over the years. Australians and Australian institutions are active at a variety of levels in the Natural Sciences community:

Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)

MAB was launched in 1971 to catalyse a greater understanding and provision of knowledge and skills to support sustainable relationships between people and their environment. With the goal of preserving the world's "living laboratories" the 'Biosphere Reserve' became an international designation made by UNESCO on the basis of nominations submitted by countries participating in the Programme.

The Biosphere Reserves act as a keystone of MAB by providing a global network of sites for cooperative research toward this end. They also aim to demonstrate the sustainable use goals of the World Conservation Strategy. As at the end

of November 2002, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves included 495 sites in 95 countries.

Conservation of biodiversity is also an area of concern for Australia. As a founding member, and with the work of individuals like Professor Ralph Slatyer AC, who chaired the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere from 1977 to 1981, and Dr Peter Bridgewater, who also chaired the MAB International Coordinating Council from 1995 to 1999 before becoming Director of the Division of Ecological Sciences from 1999 to 2003, Australia has been active since the programme's beginning. There are 13 MAB biosphere reserves in Australia. Australia is also involved the preparation of international guidelines for the protection of sacred natural sites within these reserves.

Australia's Biosphere Reserves

Bookmark

Croajingolong

Fitzgerald River

Hattah-Kulkyne & Murray-Kulkyne

Kosciuszko

Macquarie Island

Mornington Peninsula and Western Port

Prince Regent River

Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mount Olga)

Unnamed

Wilson's Promontory

Yathong

The Department of the Environment and Heritage is currently the focal point for Biosphere Reserves in Australia, while the Australian National Commission for UNESCO still retains overall responsibility for UNESCO activities in Australia. A Working Group on Biosphere Reserves has been established in Australia to provide a technical forum for biosphere reserves in Australia. The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and Regulations were introduced on 16 July 2000. The EPBC Act, inter alia, allows the Minister for the Environment and Heritage to cooperate with a State or self-governing Territory on Biosphere Reserves while the EPBC Regulations contain principles for the management of Biosphere Reserves.

International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

The Programme started as the International Hydrological Decade (IHD, 1965-1974) and was followed by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in 1975. Since its inception, much progress has been achieved regarding methodologies for hydrological studies and training and education in the water sciences. Although the general objectives remain valid, greater emphasis is being put on the role of water resources management for sustainable development and the adaptation of the hydrological sciences to cope with the expected changing climate and environmental conditions.

Reflecting Australia's interest in water management, Australia was one of the founders of the IHP having terms on the Intergovernmental Council of IHP from 1975-1978, 1984-1987, 1998-2001. A founding member of the Council, Dr Neil Body, Deputy Director CSIRO Division of Water Sciences, was Vice-Chair from 1977-1978. At the 33rd session of the General

Conference of UNESCO Australia was elected for another term on the Council (2006-2009). IHP activities in Australia are carried out under the guidance of the national UNESCO Science and Technology Network. In order to facilitate the implementation of UNESCO activities in Member States IHP National Committees are established. The Australian IHP National Committee, currently chaired by Dr Bruce Stewart, Hydrology Unit, Bureau of Meteorology, brings together many of the key hydrological research groups within Australia. As such, Australia is able to contribute towards IHP activities through the research programmes currently existing in Australia.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO was founded in 1960 on basis of the recognition that *"the oceans, covering some seventy percent of the earth's surface, exert a profound influence on mankind and even on all forms of life on Earth... In order to properly interpret the full value of the oceans to mankind, they must be studied from many points of view. While pioneering research and new ideas usually come from individuals and small groups, many aspects of oceanic investigations present far too formidable a task to be undertaken by any one nation or even a few nations."*

The first session of IOC was held in October 1961. At the end of that session a total of 40 States became members of the Commission including Australia.

The IOC is composed of its Member States, an Assembly, an Executive Council and a Secretariat. The Executive Council of IOC was established in 1972 and Australia has been a

continuous member of the Council since its inception. Dr G.F. Humphrey, CSIRO Marine Biochemistry Unit, chaired the Council for two terms from 1973 to 1977. Australia's current representative, Dr Neville Smith, Acting Chief, Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre, was elected Vice-Chair of the Council in 2005. Other renowned Australian scientists involved in the work of IOC include Dr Roy Green, Director of CSIRO's Institute of Natural Resources and Environment (1988-95) and Chief Executive of CSIRO (1995-96), and Dr John Zillman AO, former Director of the Bureau of Meteorology, former President of the World Meteorological Organization, and President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) who led the review of IOC.

By coordinating the research of UN agencies and institutes, the IOC continuously monitors ocean conditions to improve weather forecasts, predict the onset of El Niño and provide early warnings of tsunamis and storm surges. The IOC is also helping to build the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), which will weave together data from special buoys, ships and satellites to better understand the links between ocean currents and climate.

The IOC, in partnership with the Government of Western Australia, the Commonwealth of Australia through its Bureau of Meteorology and other Commonwealth marine agencies, is expanding its regional office in Perth, Western Australia. The Perth Office will be co-ordinating the full range of IOC activities to facilitate the balanced development and enhancement of programmes of the GOOS in the region including in relation to early warning of tsunamis.

Over the past year, following the terrible tsunami of December 2004, Australia has actively worked to establish an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS). The Secretariat for IOTWS is based in Perth, Western Australia, where the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Group for the System was held in August 2005.

The 33rd General Conference of UNESCO noted with satisfaction the work carried out by the IOC in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, in particular the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. It further acknowledged the need to establish tsunami and other ocean-related hazards early warning systems in all oceans and seas as part of a global operational, multi-purpose detection and multi-hazard warning system.

Ecological and Earth Sciences

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), a joint endeavour of UNESCO and IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences) operates in about 150 countries, involving several thousands of scientists. Work in the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences has long been supported by Australia which was a member of the Advisory Board of the IGCP for many years from the time of its inception. The Programme provides a multinational platform for scientists from all disciplines related to earth sciences to exchange knowledge and methodology on a multitude of geological problems of global importance. After three decades of successful work, the "International Geological Correlation Programme" continued, as "International Geoscience Programme" promoting collaborative projects with a special emphasis on the advancement and sharing of knowledge of

geoscience research between developed and developing nations.

Social and Human Sciences

UNESCO has placed ethics and human rights at the centre of its concerns, working at all levels to promote information dissemination and education on human rights and by providing teacher-training materials, organizing conferences and helping to develop national, regional and international strategies and networks.

International Bioethics Committee (IBC)

In the field of science and technology – specifically bioethics – the Organization develops ethical guidelines, standards and legal instruments. Australia has been directly involved in the work of UNESCO in the area of bioethics. The landmark Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights produced by UNESCO's IBC and adopted in 1997 serves as a basis for critical reflection on such critical issues as human cloning.

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG of Australia was the Laureate of the 1998 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, particularly significant given that 1998 was the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A leader on questions of ethics and human rights, he was a member of the IBC and, as Chair of the IBC's Drafting Group, was a key contributor to the drafting of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights adopted at the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO following a number of rounds of intergovernmental negotiations involving Permanent Delegations/Member States.

Another important theme for consideration by this Conference is the relevance of the UNESCO mandate in the light of rapid scientific and technological change, including specific consideration of the draft Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. We support the provision of a set of voluntary, non-binding guiding principles to assist policy and legal formulation in the field of bioethics.

The Hon Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport

Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)

UNESCO's ethical approach to scientific progress also applies to the larger social transformations linked to globalization. Through its Management of Social Transformations Programme, UNESCO conducts studies on issues such as urbanism and governance through a range of grass-roots projects, consultations and academic networks. The primary purpose of the MOST programme is to transfer relevant research findings and data to decision-makers and other stake-holders. Australia has supported work in this area at different levels, for example, with representation from Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO who chaired the Intergovernmental Council of MOST from 1995 to 1999 and, more recently, as host to the MOST conference: Social Transformations in the Asia Pacific, 4-6 December 2000, organised by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Transformation Studies (a collaboration of the University of Wollongong and the University of Newcastle).

Culture

UNESCO is at the heart of international efforts to protect heritage and promote respect and understanding for cultural diversity. By adopting the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001, UNESCO Member States reaffirmed their conviction that cultural diversity is one of the roots of development “as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature” and categorically rejected the idea that conflicts between cultures and civilizations are inevitable. In 2005 the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was adopted with the objective of further promoting and supporting cultures and the exchange of cultural goods and services world wide. Australia has also been involved in drafting of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention and the Intangible Heritage Convention.

Australia has been active in the fields of copyright, the protection of cultural property, and intercultural dialogue. Australia ratified the Universal Copyright Convention in 1969 and has been a member of the Intergovernmental Copyright Committee (IGC) with Mr Chris Cresswell, Attorney-General's Department, the last Australian representative on the Committee. Australia accepted the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property in 1989. Dr Lyndel Prott AO, one of the pioneers in the field of Cultural Heritage Law, chaired the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation before joining UNESCO in 1990 as Chief of the International Standards Section, Division of Cultural Heritage, and later promoted as Director of the Division of Cultural Heritage. Australia also ratified the Convention for the Protection of

Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (“The Hague Convention”) in 1984.

World Heritage

“UNESCO is in the vanguard of international efforts to protect heritage. The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted in 1972, was founded on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and as such should form part of the common heritage of humankind. While fully respecting the national sovereignty, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Party to the Convention recognize that the protection of the World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole. The World Heritage List currently includes more than 700 natural and cultural sites.”

UNESCO What it is, What it does

Heritage work is a valuable facet of the UNESCO activity, and it is one highly valued in Australia. There are 16 World Heritage Sites across the continent, and Australia is involved in a range of activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The Department of Environment and Heritage manages two of Australia's World Heritage sites - Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tutja National Parks - and was awarded a UNESCO Medal for its achievements. Australian legislation on World Heritage is considered to be very well drafted and is so being used by other countries as a model. Australia has had three terms on the World Heritage Committee (1976-1983, 1983-1989, 1995-2001) and has chaired the Committee twice: Professor Ralph Slatyer AC from 1981 to 1983 and Mr Peter King from 2000 to 2001.

Australian Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List:

Great Barrier Reef (1981)
Kakadu National Park (1981, 1987, 1992)
Willandra Lakes Region (1981)
Lord Howe Island Group (1982)
Tasmanian Wilderness (1982, 1989)
Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) (1986, 1994)
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (1987, 1994)
Wet Tropics of Queensland (1988)
Shark Bay, Western Australia (1991)
Fraser Island (1992)
Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) (1994)
Heard and McDonald Islands (1997)
Macquarie Island (1997)
Greater Blue Mountains Area (2000)
Purnululu National Park (2003)
Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (2004)

Communications and Information

According to UNESCO, communication, information and knowledge are a driving force of sustainable development. To build knowledge societies, the Organization focuses on the human dimensions of the “digital divide” - cultural and linguistic diversity of contents, access and empowerment of civil society, including through its role in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process.

The Memory of the World Programme

Founded in 1992, the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme is designed to guard against “collective amnesia”

by preserving valuable archive holdings and library collections around the world and ensuring their wide availability. There are over 60 Memory of the World programmes so far. Australia, and in particular of the National Library of Australia, participates in this programme with the Australian Memory of the World Register (www.amw.org.au). It is a Register of lost and missing Australian documentary heritage. It aims to propose new nominations to the Memory of the World International Register, to promote the Programme through publications and presentations, and to encourage and seek government and private sector sponsorship for specific projects and activities.

Australia also has a document entered under the Memory of the World - *The Endeavour Journal of James Cook*. This is the original document, in Cook's handwriting, of his first exploration voyage in the Pacific on HMS Endeavour in 1768-1771. The first European charting of the east coast of Australia and the first circumnavigation of New Zealand took place on the voyage.

UNESCO Chairs

In the Communications Sector, as in others, there are a number of important UNESCO Chairs at leading educational institutions in Australia. (For a full list see Annex 5.)

Notable Australian Contributions to UNESCO

Over the years, Australia has been represented at UNESCO by some great Australians who have occupied important roles and who have made note worthy contributions.

The late Sir Ronald Walker was the second person to Chair the Executive Board (1947-48) and fourth to preside over the General Conference (1949). The late Dr William Gardner Davies received a UNESCO silver medal for being the only person to have attended the first 100 sessions of the Executive Board. Australia has had six representatives on the Executive Board including former Prime Minister, the Hon E.G. Whitlam AC QC and former Minister of Science, the Hon Barry Jones AO. The latest representative (1999-2005) was Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO who is also the Chair of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO. The Hon Kim Beazley Snr was the first Minister to lead Australia's Delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO in 1974. The Hon Gareth Evans QC MP was a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO in 1999.

Executive Board Members and their additional roles:

1946-1950 Sir Ronald E. WALKER
Chair of the Executive Board (1947-1948)
President of the 4th General Conference (1949)

1956-1960 Dr William Gardner DAVIES
Chair of the Administrative Commission (1956-1958)

1974-1978 Professor Hugh PHILP
Vice-Chair of the Executive Board (1976-1978)

1985-1989 The Hon E.G. WHITLAM AC QC
Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission (1987-1989)

1991-1995 The Hon Barry O. JONES AO
Chair of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (1991-1993)

1999-2005 Professor Kenneth WILTSHIRE AO
Chair of the Programme and External Relations Commission (2001-2003)

The contributions of certain individuals and groups have been formally acknowledged by UNESCO with awards and prizes (Annex 3 contains an extended list of awarded contributions).



Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO, Chairman of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, has performed many functions in his association with UNESCO including: Australia's representative on the Executive Board, Chair of the Executive Board's Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission; and Chair of the Executive Board Drafting Group on the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (31 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget 31 C/5). He was a member of the Ad

hoc working group on the relations of the three organs of UNESCO; Chair of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST; Chair of Commission V (Social and Human Sciences) at the 27th session of the UNESCO General Conference; Rapporteur-General of the UNESCO International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Seoul, 1999); Evaluator of UNESCO's Youth Programme; Chair of the Tenth Regional Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific (Canberra, 1992) and Chair of the National Commissions for UNESCO in the Asia and Pacific Region (1992-1996); Co-Chair Steering Committee and Delegate to the World Science Congress (Budapest, 1999).

Other significant Australian contributors to UNESCO

Australia currently has fifteen nationals working in the Organization across a range of sectors and various levels. A number of Australian nationals are employed each year as consultants to the Organization. Australians have been particularly active in UNESCO's field offices also. Dr Stephen Hill was Director, Jakarta Office, UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology For South - East Asia Representative to Indonesia and the Philippines from 1995 to 2005. In joining UNESCO in 1991, Mr Martin Hadlow has worked at senior levels in Kuala Lumpur, Almaty, Amman and Headquarters. In 2001 he established UNESCO's first office in Kabul, Afghanistan and also recently conducted a short-term mission as UNESCO's representative in post-tsunami Sri Lanka. Dr Rupert MacLean is the Director of the UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Bonn, Germany. The most senior Australian in the Secretariat has been former Assistant Director-General for Education, Professor Colin Power.

Current Challenges and Future Endeavours

Australia is supportive of UNESCO and its mandate but, like other nations, is concerned to see the Organization function at its best possible level. Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO, Chair of Australia's National Commission for UNESCO and representative on the Executive Board, was invited to join the Ad hoc working group on the relations between the three organs of UNESCO (the General Conference, Executive Board and Secretariat). As described by Professor Wiltshire, reform is needed in the UN system and UNESCO is no exception:

“Good governance is not merely an end in itself; it should aim at achieving an organization that is effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable, in order to fulfil UNESCO’s important mandate and enhance the visibility of its universal goals and the credibility of its role within the UN system.

The current pattern of governance is not adequately achieving these goals and is in need of reform. There is an urgent need for action because there are unmistakable signs that the reality and the perception of UNESCO’s performance are suffering from poor basic governance.

The image of the Organization, in the minds of many, is that the mandate of UNESCO is highly significant in addressing contemporary global trends and issues; its Constitution is sound, and in need of only incremental, not fundamental, reform; its strategy and programmes are becoming more focused, though more can be done; but its management and governance still leave a lot to be desired.

In this early 21st century era where sound governance is of such importance to nations and institutions, and good corporate governance is a prime goal, UNESCO must be seen to be pursuing renewal in this domain. This approach to renewal must be radical and comprehensive and not piecemeal, as has occurred in the past.

Good governance will strengthen UNESCO’s mandate for the attainment of its vital mission which is more relevant than ever.”

*This extract is from ‘Reforming the Governance of UNESCO’
Full version available on the National Commission
<http://www.dfat.gov.au/intorgs/unesco/>*

Within the resources available, the Permanent Delegation of Australia supports reform initiatives, including for example, currently serving on the Headquarters Committee. The Delegation is committed to working towards most efficient and effective outcomes possible for Australia and our region in the competencies of UNESCO.

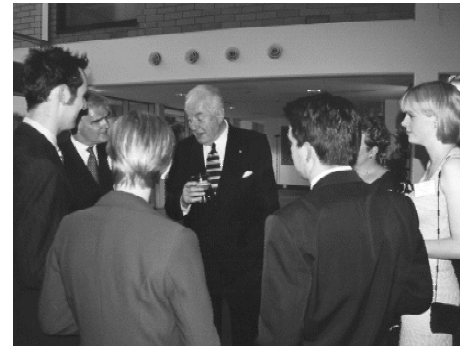
Sources:

UNESCO website (accessed December 2005):

www.unesco.org

UNESCO booklet (2003): "UNESCO, What it is, what it does".

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs website (accessed December 2005) <http://www.dfat.gov.au/intorgs/unesco/>



The Hon E.G. Whitlam AC QC, talking with members of UNESCO's Youth Network and Mr Howard Moore of UNESCO's Paris Secretariat at the dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.

TAnnex 1: Permanent Delegates

1947-1954	Dr William Gardner Davies Liaison Officer
1954-1972	Dr William Gardner Davies Permanent Delegate
Oct 1972-Dec 1973	H.E. Mr Alan Renouf OBE*, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Jan 1974-Aug 1975	H.E. Mr Harold David Anderson OBE* Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Sept 1975 -Sept 1976	H.E. Mr James Oswin Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Oct 1976-Aug 1978	H.E. Mr Harold David Anderson OBE* Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Sept 1978-Sept 1981	H.E. Professor Ralph Slatyer Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Feb 1982-Aug 1983	H.E. Professor Owen Harries Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Aug 1983-Oct 1986	H.E. The Hon E.G. Whitlam, AC QC Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Nov 1986-Jan 1988	H.E. Mr Charles Mott Ambassador Permanent Delegate

Jan 1988-Sept 1990	H.E. Mr Edward Pocock* Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Sept 1990-Jan 1991	Mr John Lander Permanent Delegate
Feb 1991-April 1991	Dr Malcolm Leader Permanent Delegate
May 1991-Aug 1991	Dr Robert Merrillees Permanent Delegate
Sept 1991-Sept 1992	Mr Ross Burns Permanent Delegate
Sept 1992-Mar 1994	Mr Mark Pierce Permanent Delegate
Mar 1994-Sept 1996	H.E. Mr Alan Brown AM* Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Oct 1996-Jan 1999	Mr Peter Shannon Permanent Delegate
Jan 1999-Jan 2003	Mr Matthew Peek Permanent Delegate
Jan 2003-	Ms Jane Madden Permanent Delegate

* also Ambassador to France

Annex 2: The Australian National Commission

Members of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO

- Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO (Chair), University of Queensland Business School and Australian representative on the UNESCO Executive Board
- Ms Susan Pascoe (Deputy Chair), Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria
- Dr Vijoleta Braach-Maksvytis, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Development, University of Melbourne
- Ms Joy de Leo OAM JP, Manager, Sustainable Learning Cities Project, SA Department of Further Education
- Professor John Fien, Professor of Sustainability, RMIT University
- Mr Andrew Laming MP, Member for Bowman and Representative of the Federal Government
- Professor Ian Lowe AO, Emeritus Professor, School of Sciences, Griffith University
- Dr Jan Lyall PSM, Chair, Australian Memory of the World Program Committee
- Mr Ian McRae, Member, Australia Council, and Chair of its Theatre Board
- Professor Frank Morgan, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Arts, University of Newcastle
- Mr Craddock Morton, Director, National Museum of Australia
- Professor Margot Prior AO, Professor of Psychology, University of Melbourne

- Mr Kevin Rudd MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and International Security and Representative of the Federal Opposition
- Mr Alan Wu, Youth Representative.

Honorary members of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO

- The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, Justice of the High Court of Australia
- Professor Geoff Masters, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council for Educational Research
- The Hon Patricia Worth, former Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing/Education, Training and Youth Affairs
- Dr John Zillman AO, President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and of the National Academies Forum.

Chairs of the Australian National Commission

Prior to the appointment of the first independent Chair of the National Commission, James Auchmuty, the Chairman was a senior officer of the Commonwealth Department with responsibility for Education, which at the start of the 1970s was the Department of Education and Science. Earlier still before the advent of National Commissions the 'National Advisory Committee' for UNESCO was in the Commonwealth Office of Education in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

1972 – 1975	Professor James Auchmuty Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle
1976 – 1978	Professor Ralph Slatyer Professor of Biology, ANU
1978 – 1980	Mr Gratton Wilson Executive Secretary, CSIRO
1980 – 1984	Professor Ronald Gates Vice-Chancellor, University of New England
1984 – 1988	Professor Ken McKinnon Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong
1989 – 1993	Dr Richard Walsh Editor-in-Chief, Australian Consolidated Press
1994 -	Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO J.D. Story Professor of Public Administration, University of Queensland

Annex 3: Awards received by Australians and Australian institutions

2005 - The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation was awarded jointly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Australia) and to Dr Ernesto C. Enkerlin-Hoeflich (Mexico).

2005 - Australian scientist Dr Kate Mitchie was awarded a UNESCO-L'Oreal Co-sponsored Fellowship for Young Women in Life Sciences.

2004 - Professor Margaret A. Somerville was awarded the inaugural UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science.

2003 - The Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury, Adelaide, received the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.

2002 - The Australian Hall and Sydney conservatorium of Music, Sydney, received the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.

2002 - Pulteney Grammar Preparatory School in Adelaide, received the Peace Pillar Award under the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in recognition of its outstanding activities towards the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace 2000.

2002 - Australian artist Ms Caren Florance, won an Encouragement Prize in the 12th Noma Concours for Picture

Book Illustrations. The contest is organised by the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU).

2001 - The inaugural UNESCO/Great Man-Made River International Water Prize was won by Australia's nomination, the CSIRO's Land and Water, Adelaide and Perth, and the Department for Water Resources, South Australia.

2001 - Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research Director Suzanne Cory won the prestigious L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Women in Science Award for 2001. One of Australia's leading woman scientists, Professor Cory is the first Australian to be honoured with this international award.

2000 - Toh Swee-Hin was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.

1998 - Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, Justice of the High Court of Australia, was named as the Laureate of the 1998 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.

1998 – Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO received a UNESCO medal for services to UNESCO.

1995 - Uluru - Kata Tjuṯa National Park won the Picasso Gold Medal, the highest UNESCO award for outstanding efforts to preserve the landscape and Anangu culture and for setting new International standards for World Heritage management. It was awarded jointly to Parks Australia and the Uluru - Kata Tjuṯa Board of Management.

1992 - Australia was awarded a certificate of appreciation for its work on the Associated Schools Project.

Annex 4: Contact details

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Annex 5: UNESCO Chairs and Centres

ANU Centre for UNESCO

The Centre for Visiting UNESCO Fellows was established in 1995 at the Australian National University (ANU) as part of the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of UNESCO with founding Director the late Dr Geoff Caldwell. In 2000 it became the ANU Centre for UNESCO and is currently directed by Mr Ian Anderson. The purposes of the Centre are to: further the work of UNESCO and the ANU; augment the work of the National Commission for UNESCO and its Secretariat; prepare position papers, research and advice for the National Commission; conduct research, generate ideas, and disseminate information which draws on the expertise within the ANU and is directed at assisting the work of UNESCO; conduct seminars, workshops and conferences relating to UNESCO; conduct commissioned work and where appropriate, consultancies, relevant to the objectives of UNESCO and the ANU; conduct outreach activities relevant to UNESCO to facilitate interest in and commitment to UNESCO's work; provide a site for appropriate scholars to contribute to UNESCO through their activities. The Centre has hosted visits from many prominent UNESCO officials.

Other UNESCO Centres and Chairs

In recent years especially, Australia has hosted various other UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Networks such as:

- UNESCO Chair in Tropical Architecture, established in 1994 at James Cook University
- UNESCO Chair in Communication, established in 1996 at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Faculty of Art, Design and Communication within the framework of ORBICOM Network

- UNESCO Chair on Heritage and Urbanism, established in 2000 at Deakin University
- UNESCO Chair in Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Relations, established in 2005 at the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Faculty of Arts, Monash University, Clayton

UNITWIN Network in Environmental Management, was established in 1997 at Griffith University with the following aims: to develop twinning and other co-operative linking arrangements between the participating universities; to develop sub regional and regional co-operation networks based at the participating institutions; to develop centres of excellence for specialized postgraduate studies and advanced research by agreement between the parties. These centres can assist in training and research needs across national frontiers; to foster scientific advancement through research in relevant disciplines, and to increase the availability of specialists within the participating universities.

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), was established in 1999 with the following objectives: to promote good practices in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education; facilitate research into the practice of quality management in higher education and its effectiveness; provide advice and expertise to assist all countries to establish quality assurance agencies; facilitate links between accrediting bodies; assist members in determining the standards of institutions operating across national borders; develop methods of quality assurance for virtual institutions; to enhance the mutual recognition of agencies' activities; permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications; assist in the development and use of credit transfer schemes to enhance the mobility of students

between institutions within and across national borders; enable members to be alert to dubious accrediting practices and organizations; and assist and support the development of quality assurance procedures in universities and other institutions of higher education.

UNESCO Centre of Excellence in Vocational Education and Training in Adelaide, South Australia, is a partnership between Adelaide Institute of TAFE (AIT) and Australia's National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). The Centre was established in March 2001 and launched at the UNESCO Conference 'Vision to Action: TVET Planning and Real Results for the 21st Century', Adelaide, South Australia, March 25-29, 2001. This is the first Centre in the southern hemisphere and the second UNESCO Regional Centre of Excellence in the world to be established.

UNESCO APNIEVE Centre for Values Education Peace and Ecology, Ironbank, South Australia, conducts teacher training workshops and develops educational resource materials towards peace, intercultural and interfaith understanding, human rights, democracy and sustainable development.

Centre for Bioregional Resource Management (CBRM)
The UNESCO Centre for Bioregional Resource Management (CBRM), based at the University of New England, New South Wales, plays a key role in contributing the applied research and application development requirements for the sustainable future of rural communities, land-uses and ecosystem function to maintain productive resource bases, and biodiversity.

The UNESCO Centre for Membrane Science and Technology is located in the School of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Chemistry (CEIC) at the University of New South Wales. The Centre's Mission Statement is to foster the exchange of information at an international level on the development and application of membranes for the benefit of all; promote the application of membrane science and technology to improve the quality of life, particularly in developing countries; provide training in research and application of membranes for the next generation of science and engineering graduates from developing countries, in Asia and Africa and elsewhere; conduct research and development which will lead to the next generation of membrane-based devices; foster the exchange of information at an international level on the development and application of membranes for the benefit of all; promote fundamental research into membrane processes, particularly at the molecular level, in both living and synthetic systems; provide a permanent vehicle for the interplay between scientists, engineers and students from various countries, particularly from Asia and developing regions; provide a real sense of the concept of the 'Global Village' - solving common problems using a generic technology which is environmentally friendly and biologically inspired.



The Hon Barry Jones AO and Mr Federico Mayor signing the agreement between UNESCO and the above Centre

Annex 6: Recent events and delegations hosted in Australia

International Symposium on Cultivating Wisdom, Harvesting Peace. 10-13 August, 2005. Organised and hosted by the Multi Faith Centre of Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

National Symposium on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. 7 July, 2005. Organised by the Australian National Commission for UNESCO with the support of the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage.

The Asia-Pacific workshop addressing the causes and breeding grounds of terrorism through educational curricula on intercultural and inter-religious education, Adelaide, 28 November - 3 December, 2004.

In 2004 Mr Abdul Waheed Kahn, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information visited Australia as did Dr Andras Szollosi-Nagy, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and Director of the Division of Water Sciences.

The Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Science Research Councils, which is affiliated with UNESCO, was held in Canberra in 2003.

As a contribution to UNESCO's Adult Learner's Week, the ANU Centre for UNESCO and the Australian College of Educators were joint hosts of a seminar held at the ANU Centre in October 2003.

November 2002, the UNESCO International Conference on Sustainability of Water Management was held in Perth.

In June 2002, Assistant Director-General for Education, Sir John Daniel visited Australia.

In May 2002, Australia hosted a visit by the Director-General of UNESCO Mr Koïchiro Matsuura. (During their respective mandates as Director-General of UNESCO Messrs Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow and Federico Mayor also paid official visits to Australia.)

Workshop/Study Tour on Constructing and Using Indicators of Educational Performance, Melbourne, January 2002

The Workshop/Study Tour was concerned with best practice in collecting and using information about educational outcomes to inform decision making. It will focus on the construction and use of performance indicators by national education systems, with a special emphasis on the measurement of student learning outcomes. The sponsors are the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association, UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), the Australian National Commission and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

North Korean delegation visit to Australia, 2001

A delegation of senior scientists and engineers from DPR Korea visited Australia. They were accompanied by Dr Minella Alarcon, of UNESCO, Jakarta. The visit was initiated by UNESCO's Jakarta Office and the programme of visits was organised by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. A seminar involving the visitors was held at the ANU Centre for UNESCO.

Biospheres Reserve Meeting, Kangaroo Island, South Australia 7-9 August 2001

The next meeting of the National Commission's working group on Biospheres Reserves was held on Kangaroo Island from 7-9 August 2001, chaired by Mr Lee Thomas, Environment Australia. Dr Peter Bridgewater, Head of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme attended.

Curator of East Timor's National Museum Visits Australia

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO, in conjunction with its June meeting, hosted a five-day visit to Canberra by Mr Virgilio Simith, Curator of the Museum of East Timor. June 2001.

Vision to Action, TVET planning and real results for the 21st Century'

The UNESCO Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Asia-Pacific Conference, was held at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE, South Australia in March 2001. The Conference was sponsored by UNESCO, AusAID, the federal Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, the South Australian Department of Education Training and Employment and the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). Specific sessions were sponsored by the UNESCO International Centre for TVET, the University of South Australia and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

Workshops on 'Science communication in small states'

A series of workshops were held in February 2001 by the National Centre for Public Awareness of Science (CPAS) Canberra, a centre of the Australian National Commission.

The workshops enabled journalists from South Pacific countries to exchange ideas with Australian science communicators.

MOST: Social Transformations in the Asia Pacific – 4-6 December 2000

It was organised by the Centre for Asia Pacific Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS) and the Universities of Wollongong and Newcastle, and was held under the UNESCO-MOST program.

Academy of Social Sciences Symposium – Canberra November 2000

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia held its 2000 Annual Symposium on 6 November 2000. In acknowledging the United Nations' International Year for a Culture of Peace, and with financial support from the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, the Academy agreed to present a symposium based around the theme of an intellectual foundation for the culture of peace.

World Heritage Committee: Cairns November 2000

The World Heritage Bureau and Committee meetings in Cairns, at which UNESCO officials and more than 350 delegates from 77 countries were hosted by Australia between 23 November and 3 December 2000, were highly rewarding and successful.

UNESCO World Heritage Youth Forum – Cairns November 2000

Within the framework of the UNESCO project “Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion”, a World Heritage Youth Forum was held in Cairns between 23 and 28 November 2000.

International Forum of Researchers Young People & the Media Tomorrow. Sydney, Australia, 27 Nov-1 Dec 2000

UNESCO Asia Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE) biennial general meeting. South Australia, May 2000

UNESCO Youth Council

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO was honoured to host the inaugural meeting of the Council held in Adelaide, 8 -11 March 2000

Landscape Futures: International Symposium. University of New England, Armidale, Australia, 22-25 September 1999

The National Science Foundation (NSF) physics education workshop (Chautauqua course) in Melbourne, Australia, January 1999.

Coordinated by Dr Alex Mazzolini, AsPEN NPC Australia, the workshop catered for tertiary academics from universities throughout southern Australia. Eleven participants from developing Asian countries were also present.

Education for the 21st Century in the Asia-Pacific Region

Education for the 21st Century in the Asia-Pacific Region, "The Four Pillars of Education" was a major UNESCO Asia-Pacific International Conference held in Melbourne, Australia from 30 March to 3 April 1998. Hosted by the Australian National Commission for UNESCO in association with the Australian National University Centre for UNESCO Visiting Fellows.



60th Anniversary of UNESCO
16 November 2005

the Directors-General of UNESCO

background photo taken at the 25th Anniversary Celebrations

James Torres Bodet (1948-1952)

Julien Huxley (1946-1948)

René Maheu (1961-1974)

Luther Evans (1953-1958)

Vittorino Veronese (1958-1961)

Koïchiro Matsuura (1999-)

Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow (1974-1987)

Federico Mayor (1987-1999)

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