



UNESCO Publications Board

Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 11 April 2012

Meeting time: 2.00 PM

Location: Room 5.021, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Call to order

The Chair, ADG/ERI called the meeting to order at 2.10 PM and welcomed those members and observers present.

Attendees

An attendance sheet was circulated for signatures. The following people were present:

Chair

Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General, ERI

Members

Mr David Atchoarena, Director, ED/PDE

Mr Qunli Han, Director, SC/EO

Ms Angela Melo, Director, SHS/HPD

Mr I. Banerjee, Director, CI/KSD

Ms J. Pearson, Director, MSS/CLD

Mr Axel Plathe, Head of Kathmandu Office and UNESCO Rep. to Nepal, Member for Field Offices, *[attending via audio-visual conference]*

Ms Lynne Patchett, CLT/EO *[rep. Mr A. Godonou, Dir, CLT/CIH]*

Ms Suzanne Grant-Lewis, Deputy-Director, IIEP *[rep. Mr K. Mahshi, Dir, IIEP, Member for Institutes]*

Ex officio members

Mr Cvetan Cvetkovski, ODG/GE *[rep. Ms S. G. Corat, Dir, ODG/GE]*

Ms Vida Habash, AFR/CEO/CEM

Ms Ranwa Safadi, BSP/PB

Secretary

Mr Ian Denison, Chief, Publications Unit, ERI/DPI

Observers

Ms Anne Candau, Publications Officer, SC

Ms Mimouna Abderrahmane, Publications Officer, SHS

Ms Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy, Publications Officer, CLT

Ms Natalia Denissova, Publications Officer, CI

Ms Catherine Domain, Assistant Publications Officer, ED

Ms Natalia Tolochko, Assistant Publications Officer, SC

Ms Lydia Ruprecht Chief *a.i.* ED/ERF/KMS

Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite, CI

Ms Estelle Zadra, Chief, Communication and Publications Unit, IIEP

Ms Cristina Puerta, ERI/DPI

Ms Samantha Wauchope, ERI/DPI

I. Item 1. 2012-2013 Publications Plan and policy issues

1. The Chair presented an overview of the Publications Plans received from all sectors.
 - All sectors have made considerable efforts to reduce publications. While the targeted 50% reduction in the number of publications planned has not been met, a 45% reduction in the number proposed has been achieved overall, with further reductions in the quantity of printed copies to be produced. Many publications will be produced in online form only.
2. The Chair, ADG/ERI, has written to the Director-General to confirm the strong efforts made and is awaiting her final decision on whether to accept the Publication Plan.
3. All sectors and offices need to continue their efforts to reduce publications and to respond decisively to the call from the Director-General to reduce costs, especially printing costs.
4. The Chair referred to the Memo from ADG/MSS 'UNESCO's printed materials' [DIR/MSS/CLD/2012/014]. He praised MSS for taking this initiative and reiterated the importance of following UNESCO rules to avoid waste.
5. The Chair called on the Member for MSS to discuss the memo.
6. The Member for MSS summarized the contents of the memo, noting that the IOS review and recommendations called for a reduction in the Organization's printing activities.
7. MSS is available to help sectors in these efforts and to provide advice on print runs and other production possibilities. However sectors often bypass UNESCO rules and use external print suppliers, in which case CLD has little recourse to provide these important services.
8. CLD will follow the recommendations of the Board and will not print publications that have not been approved by the Board, or that have been approved for online publication only.
9. The Member for SHS requested that ERI/DPI produce a single document outlining all policy decisions taken by the Board.
 - The Chair agreed that such a document will be produced. Certain areas require finalization following input from Board Members. For example, the revised proposal concerning forewords and prefaces will be considered by the Board at the next meeting in May. Once complete, the policy document will be circulated.
 - The Secretary, Chief, Publications Unit, ERI/DPI, added that a unesco.int site is being developed by Samantha Wauchope, ERI/DPI, in conjunction with the Web team. Although this project has been delayed as a result of funding and staffing difficulties, it is a priority and will be completed shortly.
10. The Member for Field Offices suggested that revised publishing and submission guidelines be developed similarly reflecting the decisions of the Publications Board and included on the unesco.int site.
11. The Member for Field Offices pointed out that the Board is often presented with submissions in the final stage of development, often with launches planned only one week after the Board meeting. This makes it impossible for the Board's review to have any real impact on the work produced.
12. Noting that the Publications Board has met 11 times now, the Member for Field Offices suggested that it could be useful to evaluate the impact of a select number of the publications accepted so far.
 - The Board agreed that this would be a useful exercise, although the finalization of the policy document should be completed first.

II. Item 2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

1. The Board accepted final revisions and approved the minutes of the 15 February meeting.

III. Review of publication proposals

Following the withdrawal of one submission, twenty-five publication proposals were reviewed by the Board, including two series of two and six titles respectively, (see Annex 2). Of these, nineteen were approved and six were returned for reconsideration and review by the sectors concerned.

The following general points were made during the course of the discussions:

1. Members noted the large number of submissions presented to the Board at each meeting in the final stages of development or layout.
 - The Board called on all present to be proactively involved in ensuring that submissions are presented to the Board during the development stages of the publication project to increase the effectiveness and impact of the Board's recommendations.
2. Proposals are still being submitted using older versions of the submission form. Noting that the form was finalized in December, the Board called on all sectors to use the definitive version for all future submissions.
3. The representative for GE commended all present on the completion of Gender Review Checklists for every proposal submitted today.
4. The importance of ensuring that forewords or prefaces by the DG are limited to high-value or high-profile publications was reiterated.
 - Members agreed that policy guidelines must be finalized and circulated as soon as possible.
5. Attention was drawn to the inclusion of the costs of expert meetings in some publishing budgets. Members felt that this could be misleading and that these costs should be dissociated from publication costs.
6. Following discussion of publications to be produced in Indonesian and in Uzbek, Members highlighted the importance of encouraging multilingualism and the need to develop quality control and peer review guidelines for the publication of titles in languages for which qualified UNESCO staff members with the required linguistic skills are not available to review a publication's content.
 - The Board noted that such guidelines are especially important in the case of indigenous languages.
7. The Board emphasized the importance of its work, the results of which can be diminished when Members are not able to attend the entire meeting.
8. The need for impartial, external peer review was highlighted during discussions.
 - To avoid conflicts of interest, peer reviewers should have no connection to the authors or authoring agencies, or to publication partners.
 - For publications covering a number of countries or regions, a geographic balance is preferable among peer reviewers.

IV. Item 3. A.O.B.

1. The next meeting of the Publications Board will be held on 2 May 2012.

V. **Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 5.35 PM

*Minutes submitted by Samantha Wauchope, ERI/DPI/PBM
Minutes approved by the Publications Board, 24 May 2012*

Annex 1 – Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of previous meeting
2. 2012-2013 Publications Plan and policy issues
3. Review of publication proposals
4. A.O.B.
 - a. Dates for the next meetings

Annex 2 – Overview of proposals reviewed

Note: submissions are recorded in the order of the agenda, not the order of discussion.

			DECISION	EXPECTED MEDIA IMPACT
1	ED01	Positive Learning: Meeting the needs of young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) in the education sector	Approved	7
2	CLT01	Bethlehem Area Conservation and Management Plan	Revise and resubmit	
3	CI01	Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM)	Approved	7
4	SC01	<i>Kekuasaan, Negosiasi dan Perubahan: Ekologi Politik Hutan Siberut (Powers, Negotiation and Transformation: Political Ecology of Siberut Forests)</i>	Revise and resubmit	
5	<i>ED Good Policy and Practice in HIV & AIDS and Education series</i>			
	a	ED02 <i>Booklet 7: Gender equality, HIV and education</i>	Approved	6
	b	ED03 <i>Booklet 8: Addressing Homophobic Bullying in Educational Institutions</i>	Approved	9
6	CLT02	Secrets of Uzbek Block printing	Approved	6
7	CI02	Empowering Persons with Disabilities: State-of-the-Art in Education using ICTs RESUBMISSION	Approved	7
8	SC02	Toward Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Water Sector in Egypt	Revise and resubmit	
9	ED04	Disaster Risk Reduction in the Curriculum	Approved	6
10	CLT03	Authenticity and Innovation: Cataloguing the experience of the Folk Crafts Masters of Uzbekistan	Revise and resubmit	
11	CI03	Joint study: The relationship between local content, Internet development and access prices	Approved	7
12	ED05	YouthXchange Guidebook on Green Skills & Lifestyles	Approved	5
13	CLT04	The Treasury of Oriental Manuscripts of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Revise and resubmit	
14	ED06	Health-Seeking Behaviours and Perceived Quality of Care among Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender Women in Thailand: Case Study in 5 Provinces	Approved	
15	CLT05	Handbook: Policies and Procedures – Principle, Recommendations and Guidance for: Acquisition, Storage, Conservation and Communication	Revise and resubmit	

16 - ED Working Paper Series on Mobile Learning

a	ED07	1. Turning On Mobile Learning in Asia: Illustrative Initiatives and Policy Implications / 2. Mobile Learning for Teachers in Asia: Exploring the Potential of Mobile Technologies to Support Teachers and Improve Practice	Approved	6
b	ED08	1. Turning On Mobile Learning in Europe: Illustrative Initiatives and Policy Implications / 2. Mobile Learning for Teachers in Europe: Exploring the Potential of Mobile Technologies to Support Teachers and Improve Practice	Approved	6
c	ED09	1. Turning On Mobile Learning in Latin America: Illustrative Initiatives and Policy Implications / 2. Mobile Learning for Teachers in Latin America: Exploring the Potential of Mobile Technologies to Support Teachers and Improve Practice	Approved	6
d	ED10	1. Turning On Mobile Learning in Africa and the Middle East: Illustrative Initiatives and Policy Implications / 2. Mobile Learning for Teachers in Africa and the Middle East: Exploring the Potential of Mobile Technologies to Support Teachers and Improve Practice	Approved	6
e	ED11	1. Turning On Mobile Learning in North America: Illustrative Initiatives and Policy Implications / 2. Mobile Learning for Teachers in North America: Exploring the Potential of Mobile Technologies to Support Teachers and Improve Practice	Approved	6
17	ED12	Mobile Learning and Policies: Key Issues and Questions	Approved	6
18	ED13	The Cost and Cost-Effectiveness of School-Based Sexuality Education Programmes	WITHDRAWN	
19	ED14	Status of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the SADC Region: Assessment and Review of TVET in the SADC Region and Development of a Regional Strategy for the Revitalisation of TVET	Approved	5
20	ED15	Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary School Systems: A Self-Assessment Guide for Governments	Approved	8
21	ED16	<i>El derecho a la educación: una mirada legislativa comparada: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay y Finlandia</i> (The Right to Education: A comparative look at legislation in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Finland)	Approved	8