



## UNESCO Publications Board

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting date:** 3 July 2013

**Meeting time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Room 2.005, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

#### Call to order

The Chair, ADG/ERI, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. 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/THE

Mr Qunli Han, Director/SC/EO

Mr Indrajit Banerjee, Director/CI/KSD

Ms Angela Melo, Director/SHS/HPD

Mr Vincent Defourny, Chargé de Mission/BFC [*representing the member*]

Ms Lynne Patchett, Chief/CLT/EO

Mr Cvetan Cvetkovski, ODG/GE [*representing the member*]

Mr Martin Wickenden, Chief/Pre-Media Unit/CLD [*representing the member*]

Ms Estelle Zadra, Chief/Communication and Publication Unit, IIEP [*representing the member*]

Ms Vida Habash, Senior Programme Planning Officer, AFR/CEO/CEM

Ms Ranwa Safadi, Programme Specialist, BSP/PB

##### Secretary

Mr Ian Denison, Chief, ERI/DPI/PBM

##### Observers

Mr Abel Caine, CI/KSD/ICT

Ms Catherine Domain, ED/ERF/KMS

Ms Natalia Denissova, CI/EO/IKM

Mr Engin Koncagul, SC/HYD/WWPP

Ms Katerina Markelova, ERI/DPI/PBM

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

Ms Patricia Toigo, ED/ERF/KMS

Ms Natalia Tolochko, SC/EO/IKM

##### Minutes Secretary

Ms Jinchai Clarke, ERI/DPI/PBM

## I. Item 1. Approval of minutes

1. The Board approved the minutes of the 29 May meeting.

## II. Item 2. Policy discussions

### Summary

- Open Access will go live on 31 July. The draft new licences are now available on-line for colleagues. Training for staff will begin in September/October.
- It has been difficult to access actual funding from the Saudi Arabia funds for publications that the Secretariat considers essential. The Chair will take up the matter with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia.
- In order to give more attention to publications that have a “house-wide” significance, the Publications Board will form a working group to look at how UNESCO publications can be divided into different categories so that the Board members in the future will be able to devote more time on flagship and key publications. The work on defining the criteria the categories will be completed by September.

### 2.1 Update on Open Access

The Secretary of the Board gave an update on Open Access:

- The Publications Board adopted the general policies on Open Access at its meeting of April 2013.
- Currently we are waiting for the agreement between those UN agencies that have adopted Open Access, including World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and Creative Commons. The launch of the new licences organised by WIPO will take place in Geneva on 31 July 2013. The Secretary of the Board will attend the launch.

The update was followed by the following discussions:

- The Member for CI Sector asked why CI Sector had not been more closely involved.
- The Secretary of the Board replied that he had sent relevant emails to the CI Sector. WIPO is taking lead on the work of Open Access at the UN because it is about intellectual property issues.
- The Member for CI Sector expressed the view that there should have been more consultation. The Chair endorsed the view of the Member for CI Sector.
- The Secretary of the Board clarified that it is difficult for UNESCO to do more because WIPO is the expert on intellectual property issues.
- The Chair commented that UNESCO’s participation in the launch of WIPO should be reviewed in terms of who will anchor it from UNESCO and of if and how the angle of New York will be covered. It is important that UNESCO should be visible because UNESCO has been the champion of Open Access.
- The Secretary of the Board informed Board members that as from 31 July, all UNESCO publications, including those that will be presented as new submissions, will be under the new regime of Open Access.
- The next few months will be difficult for colleagues when we begin to implement Open Access for publications.

- The Secretary of the Board suggested that during the coming months while colleagues are trained for open access, disclaimers for texts, images and photos should be used wherever necessary.
- The Publications Officer of ED Sector asked when the licences will become available.
- The Secretary of the Board replied that the licences under Creative Commons are already available on line for colleagues to consult.
- The Ex-officio Member for BSP asked what the training plan was.
- The Secretary of the Board replied that the CI Sector is currently working on the modules of the training, which will become available in September.
- One observer member from CI Sector, Mr Abel Caine, said that the CI Sector will roll out a new programme called “Open Educational Resources”. Staff will be able to use the resources there, and look at related information on high resolution images, photos, videos etc.
- The observer member from SC sector, Ms Natalia Tolochko, commented that colleagues in the Sectors will need a template letter for contacting authors about Open Access.
- The Secretary of the Board confirmed that ERI/DPI will prepare the template letter; in addition ERI/DPI will also contact all co-publishers about the move to Open Access. ERI/DPI is currently preparing a series of documents and tools which will become available to colleagues by the end of July.
- The Member for ED Sector asked when the training for staff would commence.
- The Secretary of the Board and Mr Cable replied that it would commence in October, of which both the Member for ED Sector and the Chair considered to be too late; the Member of ED Sector commented that the training should have taken place before the launch.
- The Member for CI Sector replied that they would try to bring forward the training to September.

## **2.2 Saudi Arabia funds for improved availability of UNESCO publications in Arabic language**

- The Secretary of the Board reminded members that a year ago the Board approved a list of publications that should be financed by the Saudi Arabia funds.
- The Secretary informed members that he met with the Saudi Arabia Ambassador ten days ago to discuss the funds because so far only three publications have been approved for the Saudi Arabia funds by the Saudi Arabia Ambassador. The reason for this low approval rating is because the Saudi Arabia Ambassador will only approve those publications that he considers relevant for the Arabic world. The publications that have been approved are the Science Report, one volume of the General History of Africa, and one publication of BSP on green economy. Some publications produced by the Bangkok Office and translated by the Beirut Office are perhaps accepted, too. But, the World Water Development Report is, for example, not approved.
- The Chair said that he was not aware of these complicated implications of the Saudi Arabia funds, commenting that it would have been impossible for the Secretariat if all extra-budgetary funding had worked in this way.
- The Member for CI Sector commented that it always takes the Ambassador a long time to approve a publication; in addition the Ambassador has found cheaper publishers.

- The Secretary of the Board reminded members that in the Agreement, the Ambassador has the right to veto any publications put forward to him by the Secretariat.
- The Chair asked where the Saudi Arabia funds are. The Secretariat of the Board replied that the money is with UNESCO but it has to be released by the Ambassador.
  
- The Chair said that he would speak to the Ambassador, hopefully at the Executive Board's special session on 4 July.

### 2.3 Strategizing UNESCO publications for impact

The Chair introduced this point:

The Publications Board has proved to be a very good system that we had established. There has never been any backlog due to the Board, and the work of the Board has help to improve the quality of UNESCO's publications.

However, at the outset of setting up the Board, we have also agreed that we will need to improve the way the Board works constantly along the way.

We are all aware that from time to time we spend too much time on some publications and not enough time on others. For example, we should have devoted more time at Board meetings to flagship publications, and should also have secured more involvement of the Director-General and of ERI in terms of publicity, communication, and promotion for flagship publications.

The proposal to the Board today is to divide all publications into four categories, i.e. Flagship Publications, Key Publications, Policy and Technical Publications, and Working Papers and Proceedings. In this way, the Board will be able to focus more on flagship and key publications and spend less time on, for instance, proceedings.

The Secretary of the Board added that the whole purpose is to use the resources of the Board more effectively to increase communication and hence impact.

The Ex-officio Member for Africa asked who would decide on the category of a publication proposal.

The Secretary of the Board replied that this should be decided jointly by the concerned Sector and ERI. Sectors could invite the Secretary of the Board to look at the proposals together them before submitting the proposals to the Board.

The Representative Member for DG/Gender commented that there would be disagreements from time to time in terms of the category of a publication proposal and asked who should have the arbitrating role.

The Secretary of the Board replied that there will always be border-line cases. In these instances, the Board should take the final decision. ERI/DPI will create matrix on guidelines as a tool.

The Member for ED Sector expressed the view that he fully supports the 4-category proposal, commenting that members now have gained sufficient experience in making judgments, and the implement of the proposal will free publication officers' time for other matters, such as the implementation of Open Access.

The Member for ED Sector also commented that he would like to propose to go one step further, i.e. the Board will only examine those proposals in category 1 and category 2 while leaving those in category 3 and 4 to the Sectors' own publications committees. To implement this, the Sectors could develop a set of criteria to be approved by the Board. The current way of working of the Board is too costly in terms of time. Since the categories need defining and fine-tuning, a small group could be set up to work with DPI to develop the matrix guidelines.

The Chair endorsed the suggestion of the Member of ED Sector, agreeing that it will be a good idea for Sector colleagues to work together with DPI/PUB on the guidelines.

The Chair mentioned, however, he personally does not feel that we have moved to a stage where category 3 and 4 proposals could be decided on outside of the Board because we still constantly see cases where rules and guidelines are not abided by.

The Representative Member for Field Offices commented that it would be good to add in the role of the Board for each category of publication proposals and to define the role of Country Directors in relations to those proposals in category 3 and 4.

The Member for ED asked what the final decision of the Board is.

The Ex-Official Member for BSP said her understanding is that more detailed criteria will need to be developed on the categories and once this is done, we will be able to move to the next stage.

The Member for SHS Sector asked the question of how the concrete contents for the different categories would be developed.

The Secretary of the Board replied that he would like to have a working group formed from members and observers of the Board, and the work will be completed by September.

### **III. Item 3. Review of publication proposals**

*Twenty proposals were presented to the Board, two of which had been revised following decisions from meetings of the Publications Board on 29 May. The Board approved ten proposals, including the resubmissions, with two returned for reconsideration, review and resubmission. Two proposals were withdrawn by the Sector and six proposals were not reviewed due to shortage of time.*

- The Chair asked why there were so many submissions to the Board this time.
- The Secretary of the Board replied that there might be three reasons for this: the first is that the meeting should have taken place in late June rather than today; the second is that colleagues are planning for their absence in August and have brought forward submissions due for later submissions; the third is that extra publications are being produced for the forthcoming General Conference.
- The Chair reminded members of the Board that the General Conference is not a good occasion for launching publications, particularly not this forthcoming General Conference.
- The Member of CI commented that 11 submissions are from the ED Sector.

### **IV. Item 4. A.O.B.**

The next meeting of the Publications Board will be held on either Tuesday 30 July or Wednesday 31 July 2013. DPI will inform Board members in due course.

### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jinchai Clarke, ERI/DPI/PBM

**Annex 1 – Agenda**

1. Approval of the minutes of the 29 May 2013 meeting
2. Policy discussion
  - 2.1 open access – update
  - 2.2 Saudi Arabia funds for improved availability of UNESCO publications in Arabic language
  - 2.3 strategizing publications for impact
3. Review of publication proposals
4. A.O.B.

**Annex 2 – Overview of proposals reviewed**

	<i>Proposal No.</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Estimated Media Impact</i>
1.	0613_SHS01A		<b>(Resubmission 0513_SHS01)</b> Ten Key Areas for Better Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India	Approved	5
2.	0613_ED01	EFA Global Monitoring Report	<b>(Resubmission 0513_ED06)</b> EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013-14. Learning and Teaching for Development	Approved	10
3.	0613_SC01	The United Nations World Water Development Report	The United Nations World Water Development Report 2014. Water and Energy	Approved	9
4.	0613_ED02		Education for Sustainable Development: Good Practices from Pakistan	Approved	4
5.	0613_ED03	Situación Educativa de América Latina y el Caribe (2007); Situación Educativa de América Latina y el Caribe (2012)	Situación Educativa de América Latina y el Caribe: Hacia la educación para todos 2015	Resubmission	
6.	0613_SHS01	Coleção filosofia e tradição, volume 1	Estudos clássicos I: as origens do pensamento ocidental	Withdrawn	
7.	0613_SHS02	Coleção filosofia e tradição, volume 2	Estudos clássicos II: história, literatura, arqueologia e metodologia	Withdrawn	
8.	0613_ED04		Laws and Policies Affecting Young People's Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV service in Asia and the Pacific	Resubmission	
9.	0613_ED05	Asia-Pacific Education System Review Series	Education Policy - Making in the Age of Migration in Asia and the Pacific	Approved	4
10.	0613_CI01	UNESCO Series on Journalism Education	Reporting Climate Change in Africa: A Practical Guide for Journalists	Approved	8

11.	0613_ED06		Technical Guide for the Holistic Early Childhood Development Index (HECDI) Framework Initiative	Approved	3
12.	0613_ED07	Asia-Pacific Education System Review Series	Expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training at Secondary Education Level in Asia and the Pacific	Approved	3
13.	0613_CI02		Women in African History: an E-learning Tool	Approved	10
14.	0613_ED08		Technology and Education in Africa	Not Reviewed	
15.	0613_ED09		Sistema Regional de Información Educativa de los estudiantes con discapacidad   SIRIED. Resultados de Primera Fase de Aplicación Año 2012	Not Reviewed	
16.	0613_SC02	History of Water and Civilization	Water History and Humanity	Resubmission	
17.	0613_ED10		Enfoques Estratégicos sobre las TICs en Educación en América Latina y el Caribe	Not Reviewed	
18.	0613_ED11		Adventures of Disaster Master	Not Reviewed	
19.	0613_CI03		Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development. First WSIS+10 Review Outcomes	Not Reviewed	
20.	0613_ED12	Good Policy and Practice in HIV and Health Education series	Good Policy and Practice in HIV and Health Education: Booklet 9: Menstruation Education	Not Reviewed	