

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON GUYANA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 21 March 1967.
2. **Membership on the Executive Board: not currently.**
Guyana was Member of the Executive Board from 1983 to 1987 and from 1993 to 1997.
3. **Current Membership on Intergovernmental Committees/ Commissions or Boards: 1**
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
(Guyana has never been Member of any Subsidiary Organ of the General Conference).
4. **Salient points from the speech by Mr Shaik Baksh, Minister of Education and Head of the Guyanese Delegation to the 35th Session of the General Conference (2009):**

"I wish on behalf of Guyana, to thank Director-General Matsuura for the human service to UNESCO during his two terms in office. I also would like to congratulate and welcome the incoming Director-General Irina Bokova (...)."

"Guyana has made significant progress in achieving the six EFA goals. (...) Guyana has achieved Universal Primary Education. (...). The education sector enjoys the highest percentage of the budget and the GDP. Education is also provided free by the state from early childhood to post secondary levels. University education is heavily subsidized. Education is also compulsory by law from age 5 years 9 months to 15 years."

"The EFA Goal of gender parity has also been achieved in both primary and secondary education while at University level girls outnumber boys. (...). The challenge confronting Guyana is the EFA Goals of Quality Education. (...) Meeting what UNESCO has called the quality imperative is fundamental if the education sector is to contribute to meeting the lifelong learning needs of the population (...)."

"Promoting equity and overcoming inequality is at the heart of education policy in Guyana. Clear targets backed by practical strategies have been set for reducing disparities between rural-urban centres and rich-poor areas and different ethnic groups through more equitable allocation of financial and other resources and placement of trained teachers.(...). As UNESCO 2009 Global Monitoring Report states "Good governance practices can help foster development of more inclusive, more responsive education systems that address the real needs of the marginalized". In Guyana, the education system is decentralized giving more power and responsibility to local and regional governments; vibrant parent teachers associations are encouraged; community alliances are promoted and school based management are being expanded. Building partnerships is a core element in the education sector. (...). Guyana has one of the highest rates of migration of teachers and university graduates. I urge UNESCO to continue to support efforts in this area."

"(...) Guyana led by its president His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo has been at the forefront of climate change debates and has widely formulated and disseminated,

including at the recent United Nations meeting in Low Carbon Development Strategy, which is to be tabled at Copenhagen in December.”

5. Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:

- **Ambassador and Permanent Delegate:** Mr Laleshwar Kumar NARAYAN SINGH, since July 2011.
- The Permanent Delegation has no Office at UNESCO Headquarters; it is based in the U.K.
- **Previous Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates :**

M. Cedric JOSEPH	1983-1986
M. Cecil S. PILGRIM	1988-1992
Mme J. FLETCHER	Jan-Oct 93 (Acting)
M. Laleshwar Kumar Narayan SINGH	Nov.1996-Sept.1997
M. David DABYDEEN	Nov. 1997- 2010

6. Guyana National Comisión for UNESCO:

- Established on 22 August 1978 by a Cabinet decision.
- **Chairperson** (since November 2006): Hon. Shaik Baksh, Minister of Education.
- **Secretary-General (since Jan. 2008):** Ms Inge Nathoo.
- **Officer-in-Charge (since Sept.2007):** Ms Paula Tulloch.
- **Structure of the Commission:** the National Commission meets at least once per year in General Assembly. The Commission is divided into sub-Committees, each being in charge of one of the following Sectors: Education; Science; Technology; Culture; and Communication. These sub-Committees meet at least once a term.
- **UNESCO's contribution to the capacity building of the National Commission:**
 - Ms. Inge Nathoo, Secretary General attended the Training Seminar for Caribbean National Commissions for UNESCO and cluster Meeting in Preparation for the 36th General Conference, 07/2011, Georgetown Guyana;
 - Ms Inge Nathoo, secretary-General attended the Interregional Information Seminar for New Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO, 03/2009, Paris France;
 - Mr Inge Nathoo, Secretary-General attended the Training Workshop and Cluster Meeting in the Caribbean Sub-Region, 07/2009, Roseau Dominica.
- **Participation in the DG's Consultations on C/4 and C/5:**
 - Ms Nathoo, Inge, Secretary General attended the Director-General's Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO of Latin America and Caribbean Region on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36/C5), 07/2010, Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago;
 - Ms Inge Nathoo, Secretary-General attended the 14th Quadrennial Conference and Director-General's Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5), 06/2008, Panama City Panama;
 - Dawn Braithwaite (Ms), Secretary-General attended the Director-General's Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO in Latin America and the Caribbean on the Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5), 07/2006, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

7. UNESCO Cluster Office in Kingston (Jamaica):

- **Cluster office covering 13 Member States and 3 Associate Member States** of the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Santa

Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands form the Associated Member States (Curaçao and Sint Maarten will probably seek associated membership after the split of the Netherlands Antilles in October 2010).

- **Director:** Mr Kwame Boafo (Ghana, D-1) since July 2006.
8. **Guyanese personalities associated with UNESCO:** none.
 9. **UNESCO Chairs: 2**
 - UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Utilization of Rain Forest Resources (1995).
 - UNESCO Chair in Freedom of Expression (signed on 8 January 2003).
 10. **UNESCO Clubs:** 5 clubs.
 11. **Biosphere Reserves:** none.
 12. **World Heritage Sites:** none.
 13. **Tentative List: 5**
 - City Hall, Georgetown (15/11/1995)
 - Fort Zeelandia (including Court of Policy Building) (15/11/1995)
 - Georgetown's Plantation Structure and Historic Buildings (28/01/2005)
 - Shell Beach (Almond Beach) Essequibo Coast (15/11/1995)
 - St. Georges Anglican Cathedral (15/11/1995)
 14. **Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity:** no inscription.
 15. **Memory of the World Register:** 2 inscriptions.
 - Dutch West India Company (Westindische Compagnie) Archives
 - Records of the Indian Indentured Labourers
 16. **Convention, ratifications:** Guyana has ratified **3** UNESCO's standard-setting instrument:
 - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972). Acceptance, 20/06/1977.
 - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005). Adhesion 14/12/2009.
 - International Convention Against Doping in Sport (Paris, 19 October 2005). Adhesion 05/06/2010.
 - The other 32 UNESCO's Standard-setting instruments remain not ratified.
 17. **Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2010-2011:** none.
 18. **Participation Programme:**
 - **2010-2011:** 4 projects were approved for a total amount of US\$ 92,000.
 19. **UNESCO fellowships Programme 2000-2011:** 4 fellowships for a total value of **US\$ 58,400.**
 20. **UNESCO Coupons:** Guyana does not participate.

21. Payment of assessed membership fees:

- Last payment: March 2011
- Assessment rate: 0.001 %.

22. Representation within the Secretariat: non-represented
Maximum 4 and minimum 2.