



CONGO Education Committee Report

February 2009

The CONGO Education Committee's work in 2008 can be separated into 3 areas.

Organization

Two sub-committees were formed: Non-Traditional Education and Learning through the Arts.

Focus of Work: Highlights of Meetings

The Sub-Committee on Non-Traditional Education launched the year's meetings with a diverse panel offering positive change in every arena of education. Speakers ranged from college professors, Mr. Khalfani who spoke of Ubuntu, Mr. Parker who spoke of Brain Education for Dignity and Human Rights, Representative Chivukula, a New Jersey legislator, who addressed sustainable development issues and education, Andreas Jackson who demonstrated the use of Hip-Hop and popular culture and Robert Pollard who addressed new technologies in education. Moses Williams chaired the meeting.

Subsequent meetings incorporated and developed further some of the ideas of this panel.

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The May meeting demonstrated the work of the Global Playback Theatre and the possibilities it can offer for human rights learning through the arts. Their presentation led to meetings of a Sub-Committee on Learning through the Arts, which explored ways of engaging schools, communities and civil society.

On June 20, the CONGO Committee on Education co-sponsored the Fourth International Brain education Conference and on August 12, the Committee participated in the 4th International Brain Education Olympiad. These were major NGO/UN events.

On August 30, Co-Chair Faye Feller was a guest on WBAI, discussing UN International Youth Day. Andreas Jackson from the Hip-Hop Association and Faye Feller were also interviewed on UN radio, discussing youth perspectives in conjunction with International Youth Day.

Education Committee members continued to make contributions to UNESCO's North American Alliance for Sustainable Development and Education in the area of urban biospheres.

Plans for 2009

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CT07 – CR.B3.007.NYC - 02242009

The Committee discussed the need to increase membership and revitalize its activities.

The Co-Chairs had discussions with Mr. Bautista and began working on a plan in the Fall of 2008.

In the January and February meetings of 2009, the Committee Co-Chairs highlighted the refocusing of the Committee's work and bringing it back to its original mission: working strategically with the other committees of CONGO to highlight the educational aspects of their areas and the UN system. In addition, the Committee plans to increase youth participation and as in 2008, continue to be a forum for new ideas and initiatives in education.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Feller and Diane Paravazian

Co-Chairs, CONGO Committee on Education

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