

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

New Chair and New Team take office at the UK National Commission for UNESCO

London, UK – 5 February 2010. Professor William John Morgan FRAI FRSA was appointed the new Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Kingdom National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO on 1st February.

"Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information - all play a vital role in every country's fabric. In the next three years the UKNC will expand its activities of providing expert analysis to UK policy-makers on key UNESCO conventions; participating in UNESCO's programmes internationally and raising awareness in the UK about UNESCO and its global contribution to international development and to peace," Professor Morgan said.

Professor Morgan holds the University of Nottingham's UNESCO Chair of the Political Economy of Education. Between 2002 and 2008 he was a member of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom and chaired that Commission's Academic Staff Fellowships and Professional Fellowships committees.

He is also a member of the UNIVERSITAS 21 advisory group on Higher Education and the Millennium Development Goals. A visiting fellow of the China Policy Institute, he was a joint convenor of the EU-China Forum on Comparative Social Policy, hosted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2007 and is a special adviser to the Hong Kong section of the China National Commission for UNESCO.

He is an editorial board or correspondent member of a number of academic journals, has published numerous articles, reviews and books and supervised many doctoral students.

Professor Morgan takes over from Professor Alec Boksenberg CBE FRS FInstP, who was Chair since the National Commission's re-establishment in 2004.

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome Professor Morgan as the new Chair of the UK National Commission for UNESCO," Professor Boksenberg said. "The National Commission today is one of the most highly regarded both by UNESCO and among the 196 National Commissions globally. Professor Morgan's support and insight has been important in achieving the National Commission's successful progress to date. As Chair, he will build on past achievements to continue to ensure the UK's strong contribution to UNESCO's work and mission."

Professor Boksenberg will continue his longstanding service with the UK National Commission as a member of its Board and as Chair of its Sciences Committee.

The UKNC Board of Directors also appointed two new Vice-Chairs on 1st February. They are Sue Davies and Tim Williams.

Sue Davies currently chairs the Culture Committee, and is a founder-director of the UKNC. She is an archaeologist by training and her day job is Chief Executive of Wessex Archaeology, an educational charity which provides land and marine heritage services across the UK and abroad.

Tim Williams currently chairs the UKNC Communication and Information Committee. As a radio editor and media development specialist, he has experience in working with media, government and civil society organizations in 35 countries. He worked for 18 years at the BBC World Service, and has set up his own consultancy company that undertakes project assessment and project management assignments in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

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For further information, photos, or to arrange an interview, please contact Ian White at the UK National Commission for UNESCO on +44 (0) 20 77 66 34 92 or iwhite@unesco.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

- *The UK National Commission for UNESCO is the focal point in the UK for UNESCO-related policies and activities. As an independent body, the UK National Commission brings together a network of nearly 250 experts from across the UK in the fields of education, culture, sciences and communication. Working closely in partnership with HM Government and UK civil society, the UK National Commission aims to provide expert advice to Government on UNESCO related matters, develop UK input into UNESCO policy-making and programme implementation, promote reforms within UNESCO, and encourage support in the UK for UNESCO's ideals and work.*
- *The Commission is governed by a Board of Directors and operates four sectoral committees (Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication & Information), one cross-sectoral committee (UNITWIN UNESCO Chairs) and two country committees (Wales and Scotland).*

The Board of Directors is supported by a Secretariat. The Secretariat acts as point of coordination in day-to-day matters, liaison and carries forward agreed programmes and activities of the Commission. On 1st January 2010 Mr Harry Reeves OBE was appointed the Secretariat's Secretary-General.