

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

# **UKNC Chairman says the Multi-Lateral Aid Review has strengthened the organization**

**London, UK – 2 August 2011.** The UK National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO has strengthened its work thanks to a Review of UK Multi-Lateral Aid by the Department for International Development (DfID), according to the UN advisory body's Chairman, Professor W. John Morgan.

In an open letter to UKNC former committee members, other national commissions and UNESCO staff in Paris, Professor Morgan said that the National Commission now had: "... a more influential role, a more focused brief, with the opportunity to make an impact on reform and effectiveness through advising government and working with UNESCO itself."

Following the announcement by DfID in March 2011 of the results of the Multilateral Aid Review, the former Board accepted the subsequent recommendations for the UKNC unanimously, and made way so that changes could be effected. A fresh constitution has been established and a new and smaller Secretariat has been recruited.

The members of the new Board have now been approved by the Minister of State for International Development, Alan Duncan, the lead Minister for UNESCO, following a transparent, merit based, open public appointment process. Professor Morgan has been re-appointed to chair the Board, together with deputy Chairs Sue Davies and Tim Williams. They have been in post since April overseeing the reform of the Commission. The other Board members approved by the Minister are: Mr Gary Brace, Professor Tariq Durrani, Dr Beth Taylor and Professor Sylvia Walby.

Professor Morgan and his team have also appointed a new Head of Secretariat, Mr James Bridge, who will be leaving his post as EU/International Adviser at the Royal College of Nursing to join the Commission. He will complete the Secretariat, which includes Finance and Office Manager Andrea Blick and Research and Communications Officer Ian White who were appointed in June and April respectively. Isa Uny continues as a part-time programme officer in Scotland, while arrangements for Wales and for Northern Ireland are to be reviewed.

The new Board of seven members reflects all aspects of competence in relation to UNESCO's mandate and the nations of the United Kingdom. It will hold its first meeting in September, together with orientation sessions designed to build a team and identify a programme of work. One of its first actions will be to engage the new Board members and the National Commission network in policy development aimed at supporting UNESCO reform. It should be noted that the UKNC is funded by the DfID, which manages HMG's relationship with UNESCO, with appropriate input from other ministries and the devolved administrations. UKNC is a key part of this team that works on behalf of the United Kingdom as a whole.

It is intended that progress towards these common objectives will be made by the time UNESCO holds its biennial General Conference in October and November this year.

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## **Board Biographies:**

**Professor W. John Morgan** is Chairman of the Board of the UK National Commission for UNESCO. He is also UNESCO Chair of Political Economy and Education at the School of Education, University of Nottingham. Between 2002 and 2008 he was a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner and chaired the committees for the award of Academic Staff Fellowships and of Professional Fellowships. His current academic research focuses on post-school education and economic and social change in the BRIC countries, especially China and Russia. In 2010 he was elected a Distinguished Professor of the International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education and was awarded the honorary degree of D. Sc., by the Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences. A Senior Fellow of the China Policy Institute, his most recent publication is *Higher Education Reform in China: Beyond the expansion*, (Ed., with B. Wu), Routledge, London, 2011. He is also interested in Peace Education and, with A. Guilherme, has published a number of articles on Martin Buber.

**Sue Davies** is deputy Chair of the Board of the UK National Commission for UNESCO. She is the Chief Executive of Wessex Archaeology Ltd., one of the leading heritage charitable companies in the UK. A professional archaeologist with over 30 years' experience in the UK and abroad, Sue has a particular interest in ensuring that the UNESCO cultural conventions, especially the 1972 World Heritage Convention, are used to greater effect in attaining UNESCO's goals and aspirations. She recently chaired the independent expert panel appointed by the DCMS to review applications for the new UK Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. She was awarded an OBE in the 2008 New Year Honours List for services to Heritage.

**Tim Williams** is deputy Chair of the Board of the UK National Commission for UNESCO. He is currently Panos London's Senior Advisor on Media Development. An award-winning journalist, he has managed media projects in over 45 countries in transition since 1992. He has worked for BBC MPM, BBC World Service Trust, The Institute for War and Peace Reporting and most recently as a consultant evaluator for DFID and fundraiser for media organisations. Some of his projects have established sustainable media houses in fragile states and conflict zones (Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Albania) as well as countries undergoing transition (Russia, Balkans, Central Asia).

**Gary Brace** has been Chief Executive of the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW) since its inception in 2000. Previously, he was Assistant Chief Executive with the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC) and prior to that, history officer with the Authority. He spent 15 years at the 'chalkface' teaching history and government & politics in a secondary school and a sixth form college in Cardiff. He has been author and co-author of a range of guidance booklets for teachers and has undertaken education advisory work in the Russian Federation and Georgia on behalf of the Council of Europe. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and has been awarded the University of Glamorgan Chancellor's Medal. He has twice climbed Mt Kilimanjaro.

**Professor Tariq S Durrani** is Research Professor at the University of Strathclyde, having joined the University in 1976. From 2000-2006 he was the University's Deputy Principal (Pro-Vice Chancellor). For the past twenty-five years he has worked on and supervised some sixty projects sponsored by the UK Research Councils, government and industry, the US government and the EU, amongst others. He is the author/co-author of more than 350 papers and six books. His research interests are in the areas of Technology Management and Higher Education Management and Signal/Image Processing. He is a member of the UKNC Scotland Committee since 2008, Vice President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2007-10), and is currently the Deputy Convenor of its International Committee. He was awarded the OBE in December 2002 for services to higher education and electronics research.

**Dr Beth Taylor** is Director of Communications and External Relations at the Institute of Physics (IOP), responsible for the Institute's relationships with stakeholders in the UK and internationally, including media relations, public affairs, science outreach activities and web developments. She also leads the Institute's international activities, including the physics for development programme which supports education and training for physicists in the developing world. Beth was previously Head of Communications for the UK Atomic Energy Authority. She has a BA and PhD in earth sciences from Cambridge University, and worked in the UK and USA as a civil servant, an energy analyst and a corporate strategist before moving into communications.

**Professor Sylvia Walby** is UNESCO Chair in Gender Research and Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Lancaster University, UK. She was awarded an OBE for services to equal opportunities and diversity; is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences; and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She has advised UNESCO, UNDP, UNDAW and UNECE on gender equality issues, especially gender-based violence against women. Recent publications include *The Future of Feminism* (Polity July 2011) and *Globalization and Inequalities: Complexity and Contested Modernities* (Sage 2009).

### **Secretariat Biographies:**

**James Bridge** has been appointed Head of Secretariat at the UKNC. He will be leaving his post as EU/International Adviser at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) where he is responsible for the global and EU elements of health care workforce, education and research policy. James also worked at the European Commission where he won the Commission/Japan prize; at the European Parliament, as adviser to the Majority Leader on Trade; and as Head of Office, Brussels, for the Law Societies. James has also worked at Age Concern (now Age UK), was Vice-Chair of the European Older People's Platform (AGE) Social Exclusion Group and a member of the UK's Social Policy Task Force. He has an MA (Econ) from the University of Manchester in Political Theory.

**Ian White** is Senior Research and Communications Officer. He has worked at the UKNC since 2008, previously as Communications Officer and Programme Secretary, specialising in the Communication and Information sector. He has an MA from City University, London in Media and Human Rights.

**Isa Uny** has been Fundraiser & Programme Secretary for the UKNC in Scotland since 2008. She is an international development professional with Masters degrees from New York University and Queen Margaret University (Edinburgh), where she is just starting a PhD, exploring the role of traditional birth attendants and the place of Culture in improving maternal health outcomes in Malawi.

**Andrea Blick** is Finance and Office Manager. She joined the UKNC in June 2011, having previously worked for 20 years as Finance Manager for a leading set of criminal barristers.