

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Seminar to highlight need for interdisciplinary action in Development

**Edinburgh, UK – 17 March 2009.** Over 130 experts from government, academia, Development organisations, and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are set to meet in Edinburgh this week to discuss emerging issues of best practice in international Development. The seminar, organised by the UK National Commission for UNESCO Scotland Committee, will explore successful practices in a range of Development fields, focusing on the key role interdisciplinary action has to play in tackling today's global challenges.

The seminar, 'Good Practice in International Development From an Interdisciplinary Perspective', will be held on 18 March at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Frederick Russell-Rivoallan of the UNESCO Bureau of Strategic Planning will deliver the Keynote address, elaborating upon the role UNESCO plays in promoting longer-term, holistic approaches to Development. A panel of academics and development practitioners will lead a range of workshops covering issues including gender and diversity in Development, local voices and knowledge in environmental Development, the importance of higher education & lifelong learning, integrated approaches to water management in Development, and the role of Culture in reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

Through its focus on education, culture, the sciences and communication, UNESCO applies an interdisciplinary approach to tackling complex, global problems. UNESCO, as a UN Specialized Agency, is not a Development Aid agency, but plays a crucial role in Development by fostering international debate, supporting the establishment of global standards and indicators, and the sharing of analysis and experience.

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#### Notes to Editors

##### **Seminar details:**

**Date:** 18 March 2009 (10:00 to 15:45, registration at 9:30) **Venue:** Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh

**For further information, please contact Ian White at the UK National Commission for UNESCO on +44 (0)797 922 7060 or [iwhite@unesco.org.uk](mailto:iwhite@unesco.org.uk).**

- **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.