This chapter describes developments during my two-term tenure as President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES). In addition to facilitating improvements in the financial health of the WCCES, I negotiated upgraded status of the WCCES to become a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) in Operational Relations with UNESCO. Several administrative measures were adopted which strengthened the WCCES: in particular, standardising World Congress contracts, streamlining dues collection, and improving communications. The organisation of World Congresses of Comparative Education Societies in Cape Town, South Africa and Chungbuk, South Korea were highlights of my tenure. My two Presidential Addresses explored the history and development of the field of comparative and international education and the WCCES (Wilson 1998, 2003).

A Defining Moment
One defining moment which had considerable impact upon my WCCES Presidency took place long before I even became President. This was the realisation on 4 June 1989 that the events in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square would significantly affect the WCCES and, eventually, its President. At that time I was President of the Comparative and International Education Society of Canada (CIESC), and preparing to host the 7th World Congress in Montreal, Canada. I had also been serving as Chair of the WCCES Finance Commission since the 1986 meeting of the WCCES Executive Committee in Madrid, Spain.

The 9th World Congress was held in Sydney, Australia in 1996, hosted by the Australian and New Zealand Comparative and International Education Society (ANZCIES). I was elected WCCES President at this Congress for the customary term of either three years or until the next Congress. The 10th World Congress was held in Cape Town, South Africa, hosted by the Southern African Comparative and History of Education Society (SACHES) in 1998. I was elected to a second term as WCCES President in Cape Town. The 11th World Congress was held in Chungbuk, hosted by the Korean Comparative Education Society (KCES) in 2001, during which I completed my term.
As described in Mitter’s chapter in this book, major problems arose from the co-existence in the WCCES of the Chinese Comparative Education Society (CCES) and the Chinese Comparative Education Society-Taipei (CCES-T). After initial acceptance of the name CCES-T, the CCES requested that the WCCES should force the CCES-T to change its name or revoke the CCES-T membership in the WCCES. The CCES withdrew from participation in WCCES activities, declining every personal invitation that I tendered. For example, in January 2000 a letter from CCES President Gu Mingyuan to me as WCCES President stated:

Unfortunately, I am sorry to inform you that as the issue of the name of the Taiwan Comparative Education Society in the WCCES has not been properly solved, in accordance with our “One China” government policy, it is now impossible for me to attend the activity of the WCCES.

As WCCES President, and in consultation with the WCCES Executive, I continually replied that the CCES had agreed at the 1990 meeting of the WCCES Executive Committee in Madrid to accept the CCES-T by that name, which had been arrived at in consultation with the CCES and changed at that time to accommodate the CCES; and that while the WCCES Statutes and By-Laws contained provisions for admission of new member societies, the only provisions for the revocation of WCCES membership were because of protracted non-payment of dues.

However, I did agree, again in consultation with the WCCES Executive, to ask the CCES-T to clarify the CCES assertions that both the CCES-T constitution and web page contained different text in Chinese and English. The impasse remained unresolved not only during my Presidency but also during those of my immediate successors, though I was aware of continued efforts to address it.

During my tenure as WCCES President, I endeavoured to maintain and improve relations with CCES on a personal level, even though official channels were difficult. My correspondence with Gu Mingyuan, CCES President, and our cordial meetings at other conferences in Asia, kept dialogue open between the CCES and the WCCES. One result of this dialogue was the payment in 2000 of CCES arrears of dues. To avoid invoking suspension and revocation of CCES membership, I offered to exchange dues payments for the in-kind translation of the WCCES web page into Chinese. On several occasions, I invited CCES members to attend WCCES Executive Committee meetings when Gu Mingyuan was unable to attend. My successor continued with these invitations, which kept the lines of communication open during this difficult period.

**UNESCO Relationship**

Since 1972, the WCCES had been affiliated with UNESCO. It was first in Category C, and in the late 1980s in Category B. The different categories conferred increasing levels of consultative status, access to information, and invitations to meetings.

Having served twice with UNESCO while on leave from my university in Canada, I chose to strengthen the WCCES activities with UNESCO and to build