
Pak Tee Ng

Received: 22 December 2008 / Accepted: 23 December 2008 / Published online: 26 February 2009
© Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2009

Abstract  This is a report of the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA) 2008 conference, held at the National Institute of Education, Singapore (NIE), from 26 to 28 November 2008.

Keywords  Asia Pacific · Educational research · Conference · Report

The Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA), National Institute of Education, Singapore (NIE), and Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS) jointly hosted the APERA 2008 Conference from 26 to 28 November 2008 at the NIE campus. At this conference, renowned academics, researchers and practitioners worldwide gathered to discuss important issues of standards of education research, impact of educational research on policies and capacity building for educational research particularly in developing nations. To coincide with the APERA conference, the presidents of over 30 educational research associations from around the world came to the NIE for their fourth meeting to set up a global body of research associations called the World Educational Research Association (WERA).

There were a total of 1,084 participants at the conference, of which 386 were from overseas (not from Singapore). The participants came from a total of 39 countries across all continents except Antarctica. The countries (in some cases economies) were (in alphabetical order): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, United Kingdom and Vietnam.

The previous APERA conference, held in 2006 at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, was attended by 613 participants from 31 countries. Building upon the foundation laid by a very successful 2006 conference, the 2008 conference showed a marked increase in scale
over its previous run with 1,084 participants from 39 countries. This also indicated a rise in educational research in the Asia Pacific region.

The theme of the conference was “Educational Research for Innovation and Quality in Education: Policy and Pedagogical Engagements across Contexts”. Based on the theme, the conference addressed the following strands:

- Classroom practices in education innovation
- Community support for education innovation
- Counselling in schools
- Educational policy
- Educators’ values and beliefs towards innovation in education
- Equality of access to education
- Evaluation of education innovation
- Flexible learning at workplace
- Globalization of education
- Holistic development in education
- Innovations in educational leadership
- Innovative assessment
- Innovative knowledge building in education
- Innovative knowledge management in education
- Lifelong learning
- Professional development of teachers
- Reflective learning
- Social context of education
- Sports science and physical education
- Supporting infrastructure in education innovation
- Teacher education
- Technological innovations in education
- The ‘commoditization’ of education: education as a package?
- The economizing of education: gain or bane?

The keynote speeches were delivered by the following renowned academics:

Professor Julian (Joe) Elliott  
Durham University, England

Professor Colin N. Power  
Chair, Commonwealth Consortium of Education and former Deputy-Director General, UNESCO

Professor Yin Cheong Cheng  
Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong

Professor Eva L. Baker  
UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, USA

Professor Bienvenido F. Nebres  
Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines