



***Launch of the 2007 Education for All Global Monitoring Report
Strong foundations, early childhood care and education***

International panel on early childhood care and education

**New York, 26 October 2006
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO,
in collaboration with
the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF**

*Labouisse Hall, UNICEF House
3, UN Plaza, East 44th Street
New York, NY10017*

The fifth edition of *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, published by UNESCO, monitors progress towards the six Education for All goals, with a special focus this year on early childhood care and education. Despite the proven impact of early interventions on child well-being and future achievement in school, very few countries have national policies for early childhood integrating care, education, health and nutrition.

This launch and high-level panel aim to generate stronger commitment to education for all, and in particular to early childhood care and education programmes, drawing attention to their multiple benefits and highlighting national instances of good practice.

Among the themes to be addressed in the panel are the following:

- Trends in early childhood care and education: who benefits and where?
- Why programmes matter for young children's well-being and future
- How early childhood programmes move the anti-poverty agenda forward
- Sound national policies for early childhood in action
- The role of the international community

Agenda

9:30a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Launch of *Strong foundations, early childhood care and education*, EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007

Master of ceremonies: Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

Welcome by Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director, UNICEF

Opening remarks by Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General, UNESCO

Message from United States First Lady Laura Bush

Presentation of the *2007 EFA Global Monitoring Report*
Nicholas Burnett, Director of the Report

Press question and answer period

10:30a.m.–10:45a.m.

Coffee Break

10:45a.m. – 12:30p.m.

**High-level panel on early childhood care and education:
Good practice in action**

Chairs: Peter Smith and Alan Court, Director, Program Division UNICEF

Nicholas Burnett and Michelle Neuman, special advisor on early childhood care and education, represent the Report.

- **Video message of President Michelle Bachelet, Chile, introduced by Yasna Provoste, Minister of Education, Chile**
- **Maxine Henry-Wilson, Minister of Education, Jamaica**
- **Lothar Krappman, Member of United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child**
- **Papa Owusu Ankomah, Minister of Education, Ghana**
- **Joy Phumaphi, Assistant Director-General, Family and Community Health, World Health Organization**
- **Inderjit Khurana, founder and director of the Ruchika Social Service Organization, India**

Questions from the audience

▪ **Closing remarks: H el ene Gosselin, Director, UNESCO New York and Alan Court, Director, Programme Division, UNICEF New York.**

12:30 – 2:00. Lunch Reception at Danny Kaye hosted by Kul Gautam, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF.

Background Information

- **Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General, UNESCO**

Koïchiro Matsuura has served as Director-General of UNESCO since 1999. Over this period, he has carried out major institutional reforms while advancing a range of programs from universal basic education to freshwater management to the preservation of living arts and cultures. His term has also been marked by the addition of new countries, including the United States, to membership in UNESCO. Mr. Matsuura began his diplomatic career with a posting to Ghana in 1961 covering ten West African countries. He has worked in development cooperation throughout his career, and in political affairs with a focus on North America. He notably served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1992-1994, as Japan's Sherpa for the G-7 Summit and as Japan's Ambassador to France. He is the author of several books on international relations, diplomacy and development cooperation.

- **Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director, UNICEF**

Ann M. Veneman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, assumed the leadership of UNICEF on 1 May 2005, becoming the fifth Executive Director to lead the UN children's agency in its 60-year history. While at the United States Department of Agriculture, Ms Veneman directed programs that included school meals, nutrition assistance and nutrition education, foreign food aid, and development assistance both at home and abroad. Much of Ms Veneman's career has been focused on child nutrition, public health, and alleviating hunger, including new approaches to help fight malnutrition around the world.

- **Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO**

Peter Smith took up his new responsibility as UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Education in June 2005. His tenure so far has been marked by a renewed commitment to the Education for All (EFA) movement. Mr Smith lays particular interest in building partnerships and mapping the role of EFA partners to build on each institution's competitive advantage. Peter Smith joins UNESCO after a career in higher education spanning several years and including such distinguished positions as founding president of California State University–Monterey Bay (1994) and Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at George Washington University (1991). He is also a former U.S. Congressman and lieutenant governor for the state of Vermont.

- **Nicholas Burnett, Director, EFA Global Monitoring Report Team**

Nicholas Burnett, an economist with extensive experience in the fields of education and human development, has been director of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report since October 2004. After working for the British Government Economic Service and as an economic consultant, professor and journalist, he held several positions in the World Bank from 1983 to 2000, including in the Education Group and as sector manager for human development in Africa. Mr. Burnett ran his own consulting company from 2001-04, specialized in human development and strategic management. He is the author of many publications in education and economics. Just before joining the Report team he helped to establish the Roma Education Fund.

- **Yasna Provoste, Minister of Education, Chile**

Early childhood care and education is a priority for the current government. In recent years Chile has expanded coverage for children from the poorest households, improved quality and strengthened coordination of ECCE policies. New measures aim to further increase coverage, especially for children under age 3, reach the most vulnerable, ensure high quality training and learning standards and empower families.

- **Maxine Henry-Wilson, Minister of Education, Jamaica**

Jamaica has a long tradition of early childhood care and education, with close to universal enrolment for children age 4 and 5. An Early Childhood Commission fosters an integrated approach with one set of policies, standards and regulations for services to children under age 6. Recent policy efforts focus on improving staff training and education, expanding programmes for children under age 3 and providing support to parents, particularly in rural areas.

- **Lothar Krappman, Member of United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world and an important instrument for advancing children's rights. Mr Krappman made a significant contribution to the drafting of the Committee's General Comment no. 7 on Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood.

- **Papa Owusu Ankomah, Minister of Education, Ghana**

Ghana stands out among sub-Saharan African countries for relatively high enrolment rates in early childhood care and education, though they remain under 50%. The country developed a national early childhood policy through extensive consultation and considers kindergarten as an integral part of universal basic education. An integrated child-centred curriculum, learning in local languages, training provisions for ECCE educators and learning standards developed with UNICEF are among the features of this policy.

- **Joy Phumaphi, Assistant Director-General, Family and Community Health, World Health Organization**

A former Minister of Health of Botswana, Joy Phumaphi will focus on the powerful links between nutrition, health and education in the earliest years, with particular attention to children and families in the most difficult circumstances. She will stress the urgency of scaling up comprehensive programmes to improve child survival and well being, especially in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. What are the foremost challenges and obstacles? What does it take to raise the visibility of early childhood/public health issues on national agendas? How can the international community better support the process?

- **Inderjit Khurana, founder and director of the Ruchika Social Service Organization, India**

Inderjit Khurana has received numerous awards for her work with children. She is an eminent educationist whose Social Service Organization reaches over 5,000 children in urban slums and railway stations in Orissa, providing them with education, health care, nutrition, shelter, medical care, hygiene and family services. She has created innovative learning programmes to provide all children with a joyful and creative school atmosphere and gives them the knowledge necessary to become active participants in their communities.