

UNESCO & the GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL
World Conference on Arts Education
Building Creative Capacities for the 21st Century

Lisbon, 6 – 9 March 2006

P R E S S R E L E A S E

UNESCO, Paris: March 2006

The **World Conference on Arts Education, *Building Creative Capacities for the 21st Century*** was organized by UNESCO and the Government of Portugal, with the participation of NGO partners InSEA (The International Society for Education through Art), ISME (International Society for Music Education), IDEA (International Drama/Theatre and Education Association) and MUS-E (International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation). The Conference was a culmination of a five-year international collaboration between UNESCO and its partners in the field of Arts Education and was attended by 1200 participants from over 97 Member States. The Conference discussed issues related to the following themes; **Advocacy and Implementation** of Arts Education at a policy and governmental level, **Impact** of Arts Education on social, cultural and academic areas, **Quality of Education** relating to teachers training and pedagogical methods and **Promotion of Partnerships** for implementing Arts Education programmes. The following main outcomes of the Conference will support the implementation of future developments in the field of Arts Education.

1. The preparation of a **Road Map**, a work in progress proposal designed to provide an adaptable framework that will encourage UNESCO Member States to develop their own guidelines that are country and culturally specific. The current stage of formulating the Road Map involves a draft that was formulated by a drafting committee in Lisbon and will be sent to Member States and NGOs for further comment.
2. The announcement by the Korean Government that it will host a **second World Conference on Arts Education**, to be held in Korea.
3. The announcement of an **alliance between the three participating NGOs** InSEA, ISME and IDEA, in order to form a stronger coalition in the promotion of Arts Education.
4. The establishment of a **stronger basis for the exchange of ideas, practice and knowledge**. In bringing together representatives from Ministries of Culture and/or Education, representatives from NGOs, researchers, artists, practitioners, and specialists in the field of arts education, the Conference provided a dynamic forum of exchange and discussion to encourage future developments in the field of Arts Education.

In addition, UNESCO intends to produce online and hardcopy publications focusing on the deliberations of the Conference. Updated information will be available on the Lea International website: **<http://www.unesco.org/culture/lea>**

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