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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2012

2PM TILL 4PM

ROOM to be confirmed, ST. ANDREW'S BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

**The development of a network of
learning cities and a learning city
index: rationale and objectives**

Presentation

In recent years, several studies have shown that the creation of learning cities has become an effective instrument in promoting lifelong learning in the international community, despite various challenges. A nation aspiring to build a learning society or develop a lifelong learning system may use the names 'learning cities', 'learning regions' or 'learning communities' to mobilise or encourage their local authorities. To facilitate the development of learning cities in the international community, a truly global network of learning cities is needed. UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), in collaboration with interested national, regional and international organisations and agencies as well as private sector corporations, proposes the establishment of the UNESCO Global Learning Cities Network (UNESCO-GLCN) to enhance and accelerate the practice of lifelong learning in the world's urban communities.

The overall aim of the establishment of the UNESCO-GLCN is to create a global platform to mobilise cities and demonstrate how to use effectively their resources in every sector to develop and enrich all their human potential to foster lifelong personal growth, the development of equality and social justice, the maintenance of harmonious social cohesion, and the creation of sustainable prosperity.

One of the objectives of the UNESCO-GLCN is to develop a Global Learning City Index. To be reliable and instrumental, the development of the index needs to reflect – *inter alia* - a variety of principles, policies and approaches in building learning cities in the international community, including political will and commitment, partnership and networking, increasing learning opportunities, combating exclusion and enhancing social cohesion, promoting wealth creation and employability, as well as recognising and rewarding all forms of learning.

Biography

Dr. Jin Yang carries out research on lifelong learning policies and strategies, facilitates the development of an international network of learning cities/regions, and coordinates UIL's programme to develop capacity for establishing lifelong learning systems in UNESCO Member States. Before his secondment to UIL in 2008, Dr Yang served as the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Basic Education in the Ministry of Education of China and the National EFA Coordinator. He led the development and implementation of many national programmes in the fields of early childhood care and education, primary and secondary education, technical and vocational education as well as adult literacy in China. He received his BSc in engineering at Xi'an Jiaotong University in China, MEd in comparative education and PhD in economics of education at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

Over the years, Dr Yang has published many books, papers and book reviews in English and Chinese, including most recently a *Study on Key Issues and Policy Considerations in Promoting Lifelong Learning in Selected African Countries* - a paper prepared for the 2012 ADEA Triennale co-authored with S. Walters, and P. Roslander (2012); *Analytical Tool on Lifelong Learners* – one of the toolkits of the UNESCO Education Sector's General Education Quality Analysis/Diagnosis Framework (GEQAF), co-authored with W. Mauch (2012); *Conceptual Evolution and Policy Developments in Lifelong Learning* co-edited with R. Valdes-Cotera (2011); and *An Overview of Building Learning Cities as a Strategy for Promoting Lifelong Learning* - a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Adult and Continuing Education* (2012).

Questions and discussion are encouraged as part of the Seminar.



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If you intend to come along to the Seminar please e-mail us at cradall@educ.gla.ac.uk and provide your name, institution/department (if appropriate) and a daytime contact telephone number (in case of cancellation). Thank you.

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