

**Paolo Renato Souza**

**Minister of Education**



*Born in 1945, Mr. Souza holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Chile, and a Doctor's degree in Economics of the State University of Campinas. He became Full Professor in Economics at the State University of Campinas, and took part in academics activities at several United Nations Agencies Training Courses in Latin America. From 1984 to 1986, Mr Souza was Secretary of Education of the State Government of São Paulo In 1986, he became President of State University of Campinas – UNICAMP. From 1991 to 1995, he was Operations Manager of the Inter-american Development Bank - IDB -Washington, D.C. In 1995, Mr. Souza took up the post of Minister for Education of Brazil.*

## **Education for all for learning to live together**

The Jomtien Commitments, which were reaffirmed in Dakar 2000, clearly show how all countries in the world have been addressing the challenges of promoting education with quality and equity.

Education however, in spite of the remarkable achievements registered in the educational system of each country, remains a permanent construction site in which progress is intermingled with distortions, insufficiencies and failures, We are still far from where we want to arrive at and from what we are able to achieve and should ensure to all in the educational field.

**The main challenge for many countries today is much more related to the quality of education than to the necessity of increasing the number of openings available for the enrollment of all school-age children and adolescents. It is imperative that we all invest in teacher education, in training and remuneration, in materials to be used by teachers in the classroom, and in programs aimed at speeding up the learning process to correct the age/grade gap still prevailing in many countries as the result of high repetition rates.**

**In a globalize world the use of new technologies in education raise many new and complex questions and there is the risk that the digital divide deepens the inequity between theses who have and those who have not access to education.**

I want to congratulate the International Bureau of Education for reinforcing and renovating the high level political dialogue already existing among those who are responsible for education in all countries. Such a dialogue will certainly contribute to forster new and creative solutions to the challenge of supplying quality education for all,in order to enable a better life together in the XXI century. *ℳ*