

## **COMENIUS MEDAL AWARDED TO NINE LAUREATES**

Geneva, September 10 – The Comenius Medal, one of UNESCO's most prestigious awards honouring outstanding achievements in the fields of education research and innovation, will be awarded to nine laureates here this evening during a special ceremony at the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Conference on Education.

The nine laureates are:

**Mary Hatwood Futrell**, the President of Education International, in recognition of her efforts in favour of girls' and women's education, human rights and diversity;

**Jean Elie Larrieux** for his devotion to the development and improvement of education in Haiti;

**Meilè Luksiené** for her contribution to the development of a democratic society and modern education system in Lithuania;

**Munther Wasef Masri** for his groundbreaking work in the development of vocational education in Jordan and his continuing efforts to improve the quality of education at all levels;

**Munawar S. Mirza** in recognition of her work to improve the quality of education in Pakistan;

**Amédée Joseph Alexis Odunlami** for his efforts to develop educational programmes providing youth in Benin with the skills and knowledge required for employment and active participation in civil society;

**Ernesto Schiefelbein** in recognition of his remarkable work in the area of educational planning, research, evaluation and innovation in Chile;

**The "Cellule Tutorat" of the Université Libre de Bruxelles** for the development of an innovative partnership between university and secondary students in Belgium;

**The Southern and Eastern African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (Sacmeq)**, grouping 14 countries, for its important contribution to Education for All in southern and eastern Africa through the preparation of projects, training of technicians, production, collection and analysis of data and the distribution of research results.

The Comenius Medal, which bears the name of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Czech humanist Jan Amos Comenius was established by the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic and UNESCO in 1992 and is awarded at each session of UNESCO's International Conference on Education (ICE).

The 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference, organized by UNESCO's International Bureau of Education and attended by delegations from over 130 countries including about 70 ministers

.../

UNESCOPRESS

of education, will close tomorrow following three days of intense debate on the theme “Quality Education for All Young People.”

**Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Abdulla Al-Misnad**, Consort of the Emir of the State of Qatar, who is also a UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, will address the closing ceremony which begins at 9a.m. at Geneva’s International Conference Centre.

\*\*\*\*\*

Contacts in Geneva:

Luis Vazquez and Sue Williams,  
tel: +41(22) 791 9300 or +41 (0)79 436 95 84

[luis.vazquez@ibe.unesco.org](mailto:luis.vazquez@ibe.unesco.org)

[s.williams@unesco.org](mailto:s.williams@unesco.org)