



“Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future”



48TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

(25-28 NOVEMBER 2008 GENEVA - SWITZERLAND)

UNESCO-IBE

UNESCO defines inclusion as “a process of addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all learners through increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities, and reducing exclusion within and from education...”

Guidelines for inclusion: Ensuring Access to Education for All. Paris: UNESCO, 2005.

The 48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE)

Since 1934, the IBE has organized the International Conference on Education (ICE) to promote global policy dialogue on education.

The ICE allows Ministers of Education, government representatives, civil society and international organizations, to actively participate in an open and constructive discussion about visions and concepts, share experiences and practices, and set agendas for concrete action in the field of education on a national and regional level.



© UNESCO

The 48th session of the ICE (Geneva, November 2008) will focus on the theme: “**Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future**”.

The long-term objective of the 48th ICE is to support UNESCO Member States in providing the social and political conditions which every person needs in order to exercise his/her human right to access, take an active part in, and learn from educational opportunities.

Creating inclusive social and educational environments where learners can take part and benefit from quality education is at the heart of EFA.

The International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE)

The IBE is the UNESCO institute specializing in educational contents, methods and structures. Its overall mission is to contribute to the attainment of quality Education for All.

The IBE builds communities of practice to foster national capacities for curriculum change and development in all regions of the world.

It aims to introduce innovative approaches in curriculum design and implementation, to improve practical skills, and facilitate international dialogue on educational policies and practices.

Discussion topics of the ICE



© UNESCO Website

The IBE Council, consisting of 28 Member States, has suggested that the ICE should be organized around several debates and parallel workshops within the following structure:

- An introductory debate, focusing on the theme: “**From inclusive education to inclusive society**”, intended to highlight social and educational challenges of inclusive education and social inclusion.
- Four workshops on the following sub-themes:
 - *Inclusive education: approaches, scope and content*; to broaden the understanding of the theory and the practice of inclusive education.
 - *Inclusive education: systems, links and transitions*; to create education systems which offer opportunities for life-long learning.
 - *Inclusive education: public policies*; to demonstrate the role of governments in the development and the implementation of policies on inclusive education.
 - *Inclusive education: learners and teachers*; to foster a learning environment where teachers are equipped to meet the learners’ diverse expectations and needs.
- A final debate on the theme “**Inclusive education: from vision to practice**”, intended to discuss proposals for action on an international policy agenda for inclusive education.

“...(Inclusive education) involves changes and modifications in content, approaches, structures and strategies, with a common vision which covers all children of the appropriate age range and a conviction that it is the responsibility of the regular system to educate all children.”

Guidelines for inclusion: Ensuring Access to Education for All. Paris: UNESCO, 2005.

Where to find more information about the ICE and related topics?

- Information about the International Conference on Education:
<www.ibe.unesco.org/policy/ice.htm>
- Information about the 48th ICE:
<www.ibe.unesco.org/International/ICE48/English/index.html>
- Information about inclusive education:
<www.unesco.org/education/inclusive>
- Questions and/or suggestions regarding the ICE can be sent to the following e-mail address:
<conference@ibe.unesco.org>