

Building Capacity in Higher Education

Annual Report

2009

AHED Representatives at Canadian Colleges and Universities

AHED now has fifty-one Representatives at over forty-five colleges and universities in Canada. The Representatives play a central role in fulfilling AHED's mission. They help AHED in finding projects and volunteers and with fund raising and publicizing the organization. (See <http://www.ahed-upesed.org/about/representatives/> for the list of Representatives)

Board of Directors and Advisory Council

AHED held two Board meetings in April and September, 2009. Céline Saint-Pierre, Phil Gold, John Waterhouse and Nancy More were elected to the Board. Joann Perry, Josiane Ayoub, and Michael Maxwell resigned from the Board. Bernie Schiff's and Arch Ritter's three year terms came to an end in December, 2009 and they decided not to stand for another term. Steven Davis has been appointed to another two year term on the Board and has stepped down as Chair. Yu-Ling Cheng has been appointed treasurer and Nancy More Chair of the Board.

Céline Saint-Pierre is a retired professor of sociology and Researcher Emeritus of the Inter-university Centre of Research in Science and Technology at the University of Quebec at Montreal and a former vice-rector of teaching and research at the same institution; Phil Gold is the Douglas G. Cameron Professor of Medicine, and Professor of Physiology and Oncology, at McGill University; and Nancy More was the Director, Global Technology Development for Interbrew, a world leader in the brewing industry. (See <http://www.ahed-upesed.org/about/directors/> for the list of Board members.)

Arthur Porter has joined our Advisory Council. Arthur Porter, who is a native of Sierra Leone, is the Director General and CEO, McGill University Health Centre and a member of the Privy Council. (See <http://www.ahed-upesed.org/about/advisory-council/> for the list of members of the Advisory Council.)

Staff and Consultants

Wendy Allen has moved from her position as Associate Executive Director to the job of Director of projects; Michael Keating has been appointed Associate Executive Director; Mary Stuart has become a Consultant; and Raïsa Mirza is now the Executive Assistant for AHED.

From 1998 to 2007, Wendy Allen was the Project Director of the McGill-State Islamic University Yogyakarta cooperation; Michael Keating is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Democracy and Development, University of Massachusetts Boston; Mary Stuart is the former Executive Director of VSO Canada and Raïsa Mirza is in her fourth year finishing a Bachelor of Arts in International Development and Environmental Studies at McGill University. (See <http://www.ahed-upesed.org/about/friends-and-staff/> for AHED's Staff, Consultants, and Supporters.)

Fund Raising

We received two grants from the Zeller Family Foundation, for a total of \$5000. We have received three grants from the McCall – MacBain Foundation for a total of \$69,543 US for our work in Liberia. (<http://www.mccallmacbain.org/>)

We had a fund raising campaign this fall, which will extend into 2010. We have asked the members of the Board, some of our Advisory Council members, and our Representatives to send out letters to their friends, family, acquaintances, and colleagues soliciting donations. To date, we have raised over \$5000 from the campaign.

In 2009, we have received about \$10,000 in donations through our website and our Board members have contributed over \$17000.

Partnerships

Vancouver Island University, St. Thomas University, and the Association for Higher Education and Development, an Ethiopian Diaspora organization that works with Ethiopian universities, have been added to AHED's list of partners.

Our partnership with CUSO VSO, which had been an important source of project funding for AHED, has been discontinued. The reason is that VSO International, with which CUSO VSO is a partner and which provides most of its funds, has had financial problems. VSO International is funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development in British pounds, which have lost 30% of their value with respect to other currencies in effect cutting VSO International's budget. VSO International has had to cut back and has decided to concentrate on on-going projects to which it has a commitment and thus, has ended its relationship with AHED.

Our partnership with Chartwell has been terminated, since it has been sold to KPMG and has ended its operations as a separate company

Projects

Completed Projects

John Waterhouse, the former VP Academic at Simon Fraser University, and Michael Keating, the senior fellow and associate director at the McCormack Graduate School's Center for Democracy and Development at the University of Massachusetts – Boston, served as consultants to Dr. Emmet Dennis, the president of the University of Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia. John and Michael provided Dr. Dennis with revised five year and senior management plans and a programme for visiting academics for the University of Liberia. The project was funded by the McCall – MacBain Foundation.

On Going Projects

The State Islamic University in Yogyakarta has established a Centre for Disabilities Studies and Services. It is the first university in Indonesia to provide services for disabled students. The Centre's goals include developing awareness of inclusive education both within and outside the university and implementing changes in the university in Indonesia to accommodate disabled students. AHED is providing a volunteer, Marion Steff, who is spending a year at the Centre (August 2009- July 2010) to assist it in developing its capacity through workshops, fundraising, lectures and research. See [Conversations with Volunteers](#) for two video clips from a pre-departure interview with Marion and monthly Newsletters for the Centre. AHED is funding this project.

Future Projects

AHED is sending James Cranston, the former Chief Information Officer at Simon Fraser University, to the University of Liberia to do an assessment of the University of Liberia's Information Technology needs. Jim will be at the University of Liberia from January 20 – 28, 2010. The McCall – MacBain Foundation is funding the project.

AHED is organizing a Workshop on science at the University of Liberia for the summer of 2010. The Workshop leaders for the project are Adam Cohen, Ben Rapoport and Elizabeth Wood. Adam is an assistant professor of chemistry at Harvard, Ben is a medical student there and a doctoral student at MIT in computer science, and Elizabeth is also a graduate student at MIT in civil, environmental and biological engineering. The McCall – MacBain Foundation is providing funds for this project.

AHED is applying to the Canadian International Development Agency's Volunteer Sector Fund (VSF) for a project at the University of Addis Ababa's Faculty of Medicine (UAA's FOM) in partnership with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine. <http://www.taaac.com/> The project is to support UAA's FOM in building capacity that would enable it to provide training in a variety of medical sub-specialties, the

training for which is not now available in Ethiopia. AHED is committed to providing the up-front costs of preparing the application to VSF. If AHED receives funding, it will contribute over the three years of the project, \$25,000 towards the total funds for the project, since CIDA requires that NGSs, which receive CIDA funding, contribute a percentage of the total costs of the project in cash and kind.

AHED shall send two consultant/faculty for a month to the Computer Scientist and Information Technology Department at the University of Cape Coast in Cape Coast, Ghana. The purpose of the consultation is to explore the possibility of upgrading the qualifications of the faculty of the Department so that it can set up a graduate programme in which it can offer masters and doctorates. In addition, our volunteers will offer intensive courses over the month stay for the faculty and students. AHED will seek funds for the project from foundations and government agencies.

Projects under Consideration

The Medical School at the National University of Rwanda (NUR) with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario to upgrade medical education at NUR.

The Registrar's Office at the National University of Rwanda to introduce modern protocols for the Office so that it can have more accurate information about its student body that would enable it to plan its educational programmes and maintain the integrity of the institution in granting degrees.

Withdrawn Projects

The Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has withdrawn its request for volunteers. It has filled its positions with Tanzanian citizens.

Web Site

AHED continues to have access to free advertising from Google through a Google Grant.

Fund Raising Strategy

HEC, the business school at the University of Montreal, has provided AHED, pro bono, with a fund raising strategy. The report was prepared by a group of students as part of their MBA project.

Name and Acronym Change

AHED has decided to change its name and acronym. Rather than use both the English and French versions of its name and acronym conjointly, it has decided to use Academics for Higher Education and Development (AHED) in English texts and Universitaire pour l'éducation superior et development (UPESED) in French texts.