

“Our decision to form Education International demonstrates our understanding that we must remember, now and forever, that when the issue is liberation and education of the children of the world, we will stand together.”

Mary Hatwood Futrell
Stockholm, 1993

1993

20th ANNIVERSARY

“We will, with conviction and insistence, re-assert the value of public education open to all.”

Robert Harris
Stockholm, 1993



1995



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

EI celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its foundation in January, 2013.

EI celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its foundation on 26th January, 2013. It was founded in Stockholm in 1993 by the amalgamation of the *World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP)* with the *International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions (IFFTU)*, which were then the two largest organisations representing unions and associations of teachers and education support staff in the World. Its initial membership of 210 organisations with 18 million members has grown to 390 organisations with approximately 30 million members in 2013. Its membership received a boost in 2004 when the World Confederation of Teachers, the last remaining substantial international teachers' organisation outside of the EI family, became integrated into EI. Education International brings together teachers, lecturers, professors, researchers, education administrators and other education workers, at all levels of education, who are members of democratic independent unions, across the globe.

The establishment of Education International was a remarkable achievement in trade union solidarity, bringing together as it did education unions from all over the world with diverse political and cultural backgrounds. It has gone from strength to strength thanks to the leadership of the many dedicated members of its Executive Board and Regional Committees, who have served during that time, and the hard work and commitment of the staff in its head office and regional offices. EI had the privilege of being served by inspirational Founding Presidents, Mary Hatwood Futrell (1993-2004) and Albert Shanker (1993-1995) and by another exceptional leader, Thulas Nxesi, who succeeded Mary as President in 2004, and with whom we had the privilege to work until 2008, when Thulas decided to accept an offer to serve his country as a minister in its government.

Among its most remarkable achievements is the fact that Education International has succeeded in uniting its diverse member organisations in pursuit of common policies on education and on human and trade union rights and equality. Its concerted actions on behalf of individuals, and of member organisations, whose rights have been threatened or violated, have succeeded, in many instances, in re-establishing those rights and, in some cases, in preserving or securing the freedom of the individuals. It has also succeeded in bringing education, education quality and the role of the teaching profession to the top of the political agenda of the international community. At its last Congress EI adopted a comprehensive education policy paper providing a template for quality education throughout the world. Today Education International is the voice of educators and the education sector wherever policies on education are being discussed at international and regional levels, whether in UNESCO, ILO, OECD, World Bank or in any other global or regional agencies.

After twenty years Education International has much to celebrate but it must not be complacent. It is confronted by many social and economic developments which threaten the provision and quality of education in many countries. With the continued commitment and solidarity of its member organisations and the dedication of its leaders and staff it will be an effective advocate for education and education workers long into the future.

Susan Hopgood,
President

Fred van Leeuwen,
General Secretary



1998



2001



2004



2007

“ We must re-affirm that quality education, which is the objective of any reform, is directly linked to the professional status of teachers and to the level of responsibility society is willing to delegate to our profession. The opportunity to bring about important changes is there. And we must seize it. ”

Fred Van Leeuwen
Stockholm, 1993



2011

20th ANNIVERSARY

“ There is no unionism without democracy. The first thing non-democratic governments do is to destroy the trade unions, because they are an independent source of power and ideas within a society. Unions and democracy – they go together. ”

Albert Shanker
Stockholm, 1993

2013

“Human rights battles, including the battles we wage every day as trade unionists – are never won with finality. All victories are temporary victories. We will always fight again the battles we thought we had won with finality.”

Mary Hatwood Futrell
Stockholm, 1993

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“You can have excellent teachers and excellent schools but if you send in children who are hungry, who have no proper healthcare, who live in communities where you have poverty, violence, discrimination and conflict, those children will not do well in school, no matter how excellent the teacher and how wonderful the school. One of the most important things we can do to ensure that children are able to benefit from an education is to eliminate poverty throughout the world.”

Albert Shanker
Stockholm, 1993

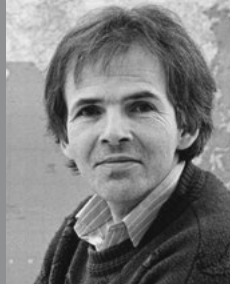
Teachers organisations must lead the discussion on education reform, on the adaptation of our school systems to present day needs, to the changing economic and social realities.

Fred Van Leeuwen
Stockholm, 1993

20th ANNIVERSARY

Let us assert that education in the 21st century must be conceived in the broader sense, that such education is an essential condition for the development of the individual and for the survival and the development of societies. This broader concept of education includes education for democracy and civic responsibility, education for respect for human rights, respect for a diversity of cultures, respect for the natural environment, and education which enables one to become a productive member of society, in every sense.

Robert Harris
Stockholm, 1993



Mary Futrell, former President of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession WCOTP (1989-1993), Founding President of Education International (1993-2004)

Albert Shanker, former President of the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions IFFTU (1981-1993), Founding President of Education International (1993-1995)

Fred Van Leeuwen, General Secretary of the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions IFFTU (1981-1993), General Secretary of Education International (1993-today)

Robert Harris, General Secretary of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession WCOTP (1988-1993), Director International Relations/Senior Consultant of Education International (1993-2011)



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HEAD OFFICE

5, Bd du Roi Albert II,
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 224 06 11
Fax +32 2 224 06 06
headoffice@ei-ie.org
<http://www.ei-ie.org>