

Caribbean Union of Teachers  
4<sup>th</sup> Educational Conference “Teacher Quality and Student Performance”

03-05 December 2008

**EVALUATION RESULTS**

Participants were kindly requested to rate the sessions on a scale of 1- 4:

1 = poor

2 = fair

3 = good

4 = excellent

**Opening Ceremony**

96% of respondents rated the Opening Ceremony as good to excellent.

The Rendition by Master Kareen Agard, a student of the Alexandra School was highly commended. However, some respondents noted that the Ceremony should not have exceeded 90 minutes, and that in future, speakers must be mindful of their audience and limit their remarks accordingly.

**Session 1: Gender Differentials in Student Performance**

***Four-country Survey Report on Gender Differentials in the Caribbean***

75.4% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. Some commented that the presentation was too lengthy.

***Boys and Education***

95.6% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

**Session 2: Impact of Migration on Children in Educational Settings in the Caribbean**

***UNICEF Video Presentation on the Effects of inward migration on the experiences of children in educational settings***

95.5% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent and thanked UNICEF for bringing the issue to the fore.

***21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges to Caribbean Education: the Impact of Migration on the Region's Curricula***

93% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***Programming for Early Childhood Education in increasingly Diverse Settings Lessons learnt from the Commonwealth of Dominica***

89.5% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

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**Session 3: Violence and Indiscipline in Schools: Challenges**

***The Experience of Barbadian Secondary Schools***

95.4% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***The North American Experience***

88% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***The Experience of Trinidadian Schools***

85.7% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***Results of Barbados Survey on Flogging***

89.3% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

**Session 4: Violence and Indiscipline in Schools**

***Impact of Health and Family Life Education on Student Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour in relation to Sexuality and Violence in selected Caribbean Countries***

90.5% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. Some respondents noted presenters in this session were not allowed enough time.

***Learning Positive Discipline: A Strategic Approach***

85.3% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. Some respondents noted presenters in this session were not allowed enough time.

***Stopping Violence in Schools: What Works***

82.5% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. Some respondents noted presenters in this session were not allowed enough time.

**Session 5: The Transferability of Teacher Qualifications and Professional Recognition: A Must for The Common Single market and Economy (CSME)**

***The Qualified Early Childhood Teacher: A Must for Achievement in Later Schooling***

95.7% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***The Regulation of Teacher Education in South Africa through the Development and Implementation of National Qualifications Framework***

94.7% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***Building Capacity to Create and Sustain Accreditation***

87.5% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

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**Session 6: Using Technology to Improve Student Achievement**

***Teaching and Learning in a Digital Environment: The Factors required to Support to Effective Use of Technology?***

95% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

***How Can Schools Ensure That Technology Really Benefits Students?***

75.7% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent.

**UNICEF Closing Statement**

96.5% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. However a significant few was concerned that UNICEF’s stated position for the banning of corporal punishment was pushed throughout the Conference.

**Closing Ceremony**

***A Call for Action***

90.7% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. Several respondents would have liked a written copy to review the same during the session.

***Firing Up the Business of Educating: Looking Beyond What you See!***

100% of respondents rated this presentation between good to excellent. Mr. Reg Weaver, the Speaker was considered truly inspirational and phenomenal by many respondents. The organizers were commended for ending the Conference in this innovative and upbeat way.

**Overall Comments**

**Participants were kindly requested to assess the following statements on a scale of A- D:**

A= Strongly agree

B = Agree

C = Disagree

4 = Strongly Disagree

***Overall this workshop was useful to me***

71.4% of respondents strongly agreed, while 28.6% agreed that this Conference was useful to them.

***I learnt information at this workshop that will be helpful to me in my profession and for the organization which I represent.***

67.3% of respondents strongly agreed, while 22.7% agreed that the information presented would be useful to themselves and their organizations.

***The discussion time for each session was adequate***

21.1% of respondents strongly disagreed, while 66.1% disagreed that the discussion time for each session was adequate.

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***Respondents identified the following aspects as most liked about the Conference:-***

1. The diverse, yet topical and relevant issues addressed during the Conference and the fact that in most cases there was an evidence base to support the positions of the presenters.
2. The professionalism and expertise of the Presenters.
3. The fact that presenters came from within and beyond the Caribbean therefore providing both regional and extra regional information and perspectives.
4. The ability to network with teaching professionals from across the Caribbean.
5. Exposure to new and emerging issues such as migration and the impact on children and the tremendous work being undertaken in the harmonization of teaching qualifications and issues of transferability.
6. The fact that Early Childhood Development, which is often overlooked in sector-wide discussions on education, came to the fore in this Conference.
7. The innovation of ending the Conference with the motivational speaker left participants energized and inspired to make a difference in the lives of their students and in their profession generally.
8. The professional management and conduct of the Conference proceedings.

***Respondents identified the following aspects as least liked about the Conference:-***

1. The time constraints for presenters and participants to engage in discussion.
2. The fact that in some sessions, too many acronyms were used that were unfamiliar to some participants.
3. The fact that the Caribbean Union of Teachers started each day with a silent period, rather than prayer.

***Respondents provided the following recommendations for the improvement of future Conferences:-***

1. Consider lengthening the Conference to three full days or reduce the number of topics to be covered and the number of presenters per panel.
2. Consider integrating break-out sessions in which interested participants can further engage presenters on topics.
3. Insist that presenters submit their presentations beforehand and that they restrict their slides to 20 only. Have the slides reviewed to ensure that the entire audience can clearly view them. Restrict presenters to twenty minutes (20) only.
4. Consider including practical aspects such as visits to selected schools in the host country.
5. Integrate more opportunities for social interaction and networking among participants.