

BASIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE (BEE)

**FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS**

September 30- October 4, 2002

The following highlights were culled from the Feedback Forms completed by the BEE participants in Addis Ababa. A total of **62** questionnaires were submitted (from a total of about 146 participants). Note that the questionnaire was available only in English (a "Lesson Learned" for future conferences of this type).

1. In response to the question "**Did the 12 Track Sessions capture the relevant issues?**" the answers were 100% "Yes".
2. In response to the question "**Did the 12 "one-Time" sessions capture the relevant issues?**", the answers were 100% "Yes".
3. In response to the question "**Did you find the optional evening sessions useful?**", **five** responses was negative. Six people said they did not attend, with one of the latter commenting that there "were too many things going on".
4. In response to the question "**Did you find the sessions were participatory?**", given the choices of "Yes", "Somewhat" and "Not at all" , **10** persons gave the answer "Somewhat".
5. "**THE DAILY BEE**" received positive comments:
  - "The Daily BEE was nice"
  - "Very informative and provided summaries of activities".
  - "Need better system for collecting information;.recorders assigned to each session. For this to be assigned to a participant meant that I was missing some of the session...then got so caught up in the session I forgot to fill in the information".
6. **LOGISTICS:** Received uniformly excellent reviews:
  - " Excellent conference facilities and support. Very smooth; well run. Bravo!

"Logistics were well-done and coordinated. Thanks also to the Ethiopians whose assistance and support have been useful."

" Logistics went very well. CAII was very helpful. Everything was smooth".

"The logistics were excellent and Creative Associates did a great job".

"Excellent".

" Excellent facility" Conference staff very efficient and friendly.

"The AV was good (except in the general session room)".  
Good (AV) resources throughout".

BUT:

"Meeting rooms were OK; AWASH room too dark for afternoon sessions".

"Avoid double scheduled activities that are related subjects (workforce development and child labor).

"Unfortunate that the bus trip to the media center (the second time) took people away from other sessions; would be better, since Alternative Education already had 4 sessions ....to have used one of these (slots). Instead that subject ended up using 5 sessions, dominating the conference and taking away from other subject areas".

"In the future choose a ??? luxury hotel that is not close to host country people."

**7. The Resource Center:** received several good comments.

Example: "The Resource Center had many useful documents";

"Very good but better to have all materials available so (participants) can take them with them".

BUT:

"Lots of documents referred to in the meetings didn't seem to be in the resource center".

8. **Internet Access:** One comment: "Internet access was great; more time would have been better".

8. **In the Future:** Responses to the question "**In Future Basic Education Exchanges I would like to see**" ... It appeared that while the participants generally liked this BEE, they had a barrage of ideas for the next meeting of its type...or to make the BEE better.

"Build in more time for seeing Addis; the "Cradle of Civilization".

"Structured shopping time".

"...don't go to a place of such high elevation...too many (everybody?) people dragging and/or not feeling well.

"Highlights on significant innovations"

"More people who execute programmes of the donor agencies should attend such a workshop as it encourages closer relationships with the workers of the donor agencies".

"Continuous assessment".

"HIV/AIDs"

"Cultural evening for those countries participation...do it themselves".

"More time spent on discussion and little time spent on presentation/lecture type approach".

"More time for discussion".

"More time for interaction and discussion."

"Country presentations to sessions should be few but greater depth eg, more like Malawi CA rather than teacher training practice in five countries".

"Regional vs global Education Sector coordination."

"Updates from USAID/W Bureaus on policy and strategies and opportunities to discuss".

"More 'learning from the field'"

"More opportunities for sharing by country programs. My biggest disappointment was not getting more from the country teams who came to share as well as learn from other's experiences." The majority of the sharing was done more informally than through presentations."

"More dialogue time for field missions to exchange information"

"In youth workforce (session) have a panel with more representation from Youth".

"(Should be based on our future needs but always a good networking and experience sharing."

"More partners participating and bring(ing) in their experiences and development models as well".

"Conceptual and theoretical presentations on.....? concepts".

"Girls' education issue treated as a major problem".

"Specific initiatives for women."

"All initiatives for Africa"

"The best experiences in teaching and learning".

"Curriculum Development"

"Focus on both Anglophone and Francophone host-country participants"

"Like the BEE, participation by both AFR-SD and EGAT".

"Translation French/English"

"Simultaneous translations and..."

"The translation of key documents in French"

"Translation of key documents and agenda into French; simultaneous interpretation French/English."

"Linkage between education and training and 'rural' employment".  
"Flexible education".  
"Participation of local people in curriculum construction."

"More networking opportunities with colleagues. Field staff taking a more leading role in the BEE".

"Issues on how countries can develop education strategies for sustainability under hunger, HIV/AIDS, war situations".

"Information and technology communication (ICT) tools in education".

"Discuss high school problems"

"Representative of the ultimate beneficiaries, like students, community representatives, teachers, etc."

"Some changes in the implementation of the program and I can use some important experiences of some African countries to solve the challenges we have in our own country."

"Budgeting and finance in education".

"More information on performance data...quality verification tools".

"Reforms in the education sector; how to go alone?"

"I think it would be helpful to have a session on how Washington gets its country level budget allocations. Countries need to understand how their OTB is set".

"Tighter session presentations to permit more discussions/exchanges."

"Child Soldiers"

"Child trafficking"

"More on incorporating child labor into USAID development strategies".

"Slight improvement of time allotted to issues to allow more engaged discussions".

"Discussions of how to take advantage of institutions of higher learning to improve our basic education institutions."

"More topics covered".

"Better coordination between organizers of the sessions and the presenters. Sometimes it seemed disorganized and they were coordinating on the spot. Better planning would be helpful."

"More on broad sectoral successes/strategies and their impacts. We tended to focus more on sub-sector issues and programs. Perhaps it would have also been appropriate to look at how USAID (develops?) education strategies".

"More time for the cybercafe."

"Field visit to a USAID-funded project".

"Participants (should have) more time for discussion on how to retrain teachers in the system (incentives....)

"More time for hearing from country programs".

"Partnerships between Government, community in improving the quality of education".

"More of country's reports because it is through such sessions that sharing of problems and solutions can take place".

"Best practices in promoting basic education".

"Less topics in order to be able to go in depth in them".

"More time for presentation".

"Accommodation of divergent views (especially from partners)".

"More info on disabled students".

Disabled/disadvantaged Education issues and best practices."

"Each country presents challenges and success(es) of the USAID-funded Basic Education programs".

"Opportunity to attend all topics and sessions".

"Need to repeat presentations so that nobody misses anything."

"What contribution does education make to economic development. More kids are educated but has or how has this led to social and economic development?"

"At least one session that deals with out-of-school youth and 'complimentary' learning methods".

"More interaction as to the role of higher education in education".

"A better and (more) rigorous discussion on the relationship between higher education and basic education, and the extent to which higher education can best improve and sustain the quality of basic education."

"Keep up the good work...I'd want to see the same level/standard of work."

"Get a new name!"