

1 Feb 2010

To: **all Heads of IB World Schools in the Asia Pacific Region**
From: **Rod Fraser, Immediate Past Chair, Regional Council, Asia Pacific**

Dear Colleagues

Re: Report from November 2009 Meeting of the Regional Council

I am writing to you as Chair of the Regional Council (RC) in order to provide updated information which flows from the meeting held in November 2009 and which will provide a context for a range of matters that will become evident during 2010 with regards to the work of the Regional Office.

At the outset we congratulate Sally Holloway, Head of KIS, Bangkok on her election as Chair of the Heads Council. It is wonderful to see that this group will be led by someone from within our Region and I have no doubt that Sally will fulfil the role very effectively.

On a related matter David Walker, a member of the Regional Council and Trustee of the IB Asia Pacific since 2008 succeeds me as Chair of the Regional Council starting 1 January, 2010. Having made a decision not to re-stand for Heads Council it was appropriate and timely for the Regional Council to elect a new Chair which they did in November last year.

As Heads of IB World Schools would be aware, the role of the Regional Council has changed from the days when it was a representative group, elected by Heads within the Region (Regional Heads Representative Committee – RHRC). The Regional Council is made up of elected/appointed Heads from within the region and appointed ‘non Hyphen’ Heads.

The Regional Council has evolved as a result of an amalgamation of the RHRC and the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and is very much a group providing support and advice to the Regional Director and his/her office.

The following matters arising from the recent Regional Council meeting might be of interest to Heads.

1. **Communication** – The RC had extensive discussion on the importance of improving communication. Eleanor Oh has been appointed as Communications Manager and will be working directly with the Regional Director with an objective of improving communication between the Regional Office and IB World Schools in the Asia Pacific region.

A new website is to be launched in the first quarter – please look out for this.

The Regional Director (RD), Siva Kumari, is very aware of the importance of effective communication and is seeking input and comment from Heads in the region as to how this might be improved. We discussed an email address strategy which might be adopted to make communication from the Regional Office to schools less 'individual person' specific, thus not relying on accuracy with regards to personnel to ensure that the emails were received at the School ie emails would be directed to IB Coordinator@xxxx.edu.xx or Head IB World School@xxxxx.edu.xx.

Whilst this has not been adopted as yet it is a suggestion along with others. I know that the RD would openly welcome your feedback on how communication can be improved.

2. **Regional Conference, 25-28, Mach 2010** - I'm sure that many of you have registered for the IB AP Annual Regional Conference. It is intended that the Regional Council be prominent at the Conference and be available for Heads to meet with them and to engage in conversation regarding their role and how this might be made as effective as possible. Moreover, the Heads Council will also be meeting there and they are expected to make a presentation as well.

If you haven't registered I would encourage you do to so. The quality of the program and key note speakers alone will make it a very worthwhile experience.

3. **Professional Development** - Some of you would be aware that during September last year the RD invited a number of professional development external providers to meet and discuss ways in which they might be involved in supplementing the current delivery of IB PD workshops into the future in order to make these more accessible to Schools in our diverse region.

Heads of IB Schools should be assured that the quality assurance requirements of any use of external providers would be a key requirement and strictly enforced by the IBO. The workshop leaders will continue to be IBAP endorsed and the providers will be those with whom the office has prior experience in one way or another.

The potential use of external PD providers follows the global experience in other parts of the IB world, particularly in North America where it has been very successful.

4. **IB Organizational Strengthening** - Finally the Council received a report from the Regional Director on the relationship between regional matters and global organizational structures and the current implementation. Under Vision 2020 this restructuring is very evident across all areas and the Council definitely came away with a greater understanding of the benefits that such a relationship can bring to schools especially around professional development and school services.

I hope that this provides you with some context in regards to some of the matters that will flow from the Regional Office in the coming months.

I and the other members of the Regional Council look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the IB AP Conference in March.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely
Rod Fraser
Immediate Past Chair
Regional Council Asia Pacific