



INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

organized by the

Learning Development Institute

in collaboration with

Information and Decision Support Center of the Egyptian Cabinet

Friends of Environment and Development Association

Fundación Cultura de Paz

Universe Awareness

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

CAIRO, EGYPT, 10 TO 14 MAY 2009

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THIRD ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL  
COLLOQUIUM ON  
BUILDING THE SCIENTIFIC MIND (BtSM2009)

*IN SEARCH OF A HOME IN THE UNIVERSE*

A dialogue among the disciplines organized by the

*Learning Development Institute (LDI)*

in collaboration with

*Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) of the Egyptian Cabinet; Friends of Environment and Development Association (FEDA); Fundación Cultura de Paz; Universe Awareness (UNAWA); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

**WHERE?**

We meet in Cairo, Egypt, on the premises of FEDA, the Friends of Environment and Development Association, in the historic centre of the city among beautiful buildings that date back to the early part of the past millennium.

**WHEN?**

- Sunday 10 to Thursday 14 May 2009.

**WHO?**

Anyone, from any discipline, interested in and dedicated to building and nurturing the scientific mind at all ages, in all circumstances and for all people. This includes researchers, developers, designers, policy makers, practitioners and thinkers from areas across the arts and the sciences, professionally or otherwise engaged.

**WHY?**

Because:

- never before has awareness of our home in the universe been more crucial than exactly now, when so much, including the sustained existence of our own species on Earth, depends on how we will collectively manage our planetary environment
- we wish to restore the human mind in its rightful place as an apt focus of attention for a serious conversation on the development of learning and communication in both informal and formal settings
- the scientific mind is a good starting point in the above context
- the practice of science and the contemplation of insights thus obtained have distinctly contributed to the understanding of who we are, where we come from and where we may choose to be going.

**WHAT?**

BtSM2009 builds on the work and experience of the previous two colloquia, BtSM2005 (The Hague) and BtSM2007 (Vancouver), promoting critical inquiry in and raising debate about such issues as:

- the dimensions and attributes of the scientific mind as distinct from and overlapping with those of other mindsets
- the conditions that foster the development of the scientific mind
- nurturing the scientific mind in diverse learning settings
- practical ways to improve and complement existing implicit and explicit efforts to develop the scientific mind
- implications of building the scientific mind for innovative interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

In addition, this year's colloquium has a special focus on the theme *In Search of a Home in the Universe*. The choice of this focus relates to the celebration of 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy, commemorating the publication 400 years ago of Kepler's laws of planetary motion and Galileo's introduction of the telescope. It equally reflects on the commemoration of Charles Darwin's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. Galileo's and Kepler's contributions to improving our astronomical insights in combination with Darwin's ideas about evolution have profoundly influenced how we view ourselves in a perspective that greatly transcends our immediate timeframe and the spatial limitations of our earthly existence.

Inspired by these considerations, and taking into account interests expressed by prospective participants, the colloquium provides ample opportunity for the collaborative work of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on topics such as:

- *Learning for Sustainable Futures*
- *Problem Oriented Learning*
- *Personal Health and the Scientific Mind* (with specific attention to the challenge of endemic diseases)
- *Transdisciplinarity*
- *Development of the Scientific Mind in the Age of the Internet* (exploring opportunities and distractions)
- *UNAWA* (Universe Awareness—see [www.unawe.org](http://www.unawe.org))<sup>1</sup>
- *Big History*<sup>2</sup>
- *Diverse Cultural, Philosophical and Religious Perspectives on the Scientific Mind*
- *Science and Pseudoscience*

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<sup>1</sup> UNAWA will carry out work with the children in the Cairo district where we meet as part of its contribution to BtSM2009.

<sup>2</sup> An approach to developing insight from an evolutionary-historical perspective into who we are, where we stand, and where we want to be going.

- *Early Child Development and the Scientific Mind*
- *Developing the Scientific Mind in and for a Developing World.*

**HOW?**

The BtSM colloquia are distinct from the larger professional conferences that take place within given disciplinary boundaries. They are characterized by:

- the multidisciplinary mix of participants
- the transdisciplinary nature of the conversation
- emphasis on dialogue as opposed to too exclusive reliance on the 'presentations followed by questions' mode
- intense social and professional contact across traditional boundaries, often resulting in post-colloquium linkages and collaboration
- creativity and critical exploration of and reflection on issues
- seriousness in the search for practical applications and solutions.

**ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS**

DATES AND VENUE

May 10-14, 2009, Cairo, Egypt.

DEADLINE PROPOSALS (FOR PAPERS, WORKSHOPS, PANEL SESSIONS, ROUNDTABLES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.)  
April 1, 2009.

FEES

- Early registration (paid by April 1, 2009): €160 (or US\$ 220).
  - Standard registration: €200 (or US\$ 275).  
(US\$ equivalents at current exchange rate)
- Registration covers colloquium participation, lunch each colloquium day, an official colloquium dinner, and coffee and tea.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are asked to make their own hotel bookings. Suggestions will be made available on the BtSM2009 Web page (see URL below).

WORKING LANGUAGE

English is the working language throughout the colloquium. Papers in other languages may be considered for the proceedings if accompanied by an abstract in English.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

<http://www.learndev.org/BtSM2009.html>.

CONTACT

[ldi@learndev.org](mailto:ldi@learndev.org)