

EUROPEAN & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date: 7 July 2005
Time: 09:30 - 12.00
Venue: Glyndwr Suite, Bryn Howel Hotel, Llangollen
Title: The British Council Media Project



Briefing paper

Issue

**The British Council Wales Media Project “The role of Journalists in facilitating pluralist democracy in multi-cultural societies”
Participation in the European & External Affairs Committee of the young media professionals (7 July 2005 Llangollen)**

Background

The British Council works in close co-operation with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, and its principal task is to connect with and to understand millions of people in the UK and all over the world, not just those in governments, policy making and influencing structures but with a new and young audience.

The BC Wales Media project aims to encourage young journalists with creative ideas in governance in the UK and to awake thinking about their responsibility in the development of pluralist democracy in a modern multi-cultural society.

Young journalists from 12 countries - Belgium, Egypt, Latvia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey and the UK (Scotland and Wales) will come to Wales to get a unique insight into the current democratic processes in a devolved administration and to experience the accessibility of the Welsh government and to see how it engages with the people in order to deliver its pledges on economic revitalisation of the region, issues of social justice and equality.

A project description is attached at Doc. 1.

This initiative is a result of a fruitful co-operation between the British Council Wales, the National Assembly for Wales/Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff County Council, Cardiff University, International Eisteddfod Musical Festival and many other institutions and sectors. Participating in the programme of the leading Welsh politicians - the Presiding Officer for the National Assembly for Wales, the First Minister for Wales and other ministers, Assembly Members and leaders of the political parties, the Lord Mayor for Cardiff - demonstrate high level of engagement with public and accessibility of the key figures in Wales.

A copy of the programme is at Doc. 2.

Young media professionals were selected by the BC offices overseas through a rigorous competition. A list of the participants is at Doc. 3. Some of these media professionals may well become the leading journalists and opinion formers and we have every intention of keeping in touch when they return in their countries, to nurture an appreciation and mutuality of the relationship with the UK.

7 July 2005

Meeting of the European & External Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales

The BC Wales has initiated the invitation to the journalists to attend the Committee as we believe this will equip young media professionals with a deeper understanding of Wales's aspirations in a new European political landscape and the role of the National Assembly for Wales in placing the region on the international map.

Points to note

The spectrum of themes in governance which the BC Wales aims to share within the UK and internationally:

- The National Assembly for Wales and its commitment to "Open Government"
- Active citizenship and participation
- Human rights and Child's rights
- Issues of Equality
- Multi-ethnic and intercultural relations
- Modern bilingual society
- Experience in economic regeneration and sustainable development and private sector participation; issues of social justice

- Internationally renowned training opportunities in media (Cardiff, Aberystwyth, the Thomson Foundation)

BC Wales recent projects in governance implemented in partnership with the National Assembly for Wales:

- A study case for the Tanzania President's Office to consult on human resource policy and management in civil service and the public service. (8-10 February 2005). The delegation was received by Sue Essex AM, Minister for Finance Local Government and Public Services, and there were a number of sessions with senior officials of the Assembly/Government.
- A study visit of the delegation of Mrs D. Simsic, Mayor of Ljubljana Slovenia, and His Excellency Mr I. Mirosic, Ambassador for Slovenia. The case study was focused on Welsh experience in economic regeneration and issues of social justice and equality.
- An innovative twinning project between the Children's Commissioner for Wales Office and a 'Children's Champion' from South Africa. Mr D. Schroeder shadowed P. Clark, Children's Commissioner for Wales, and his colleagues for 2.5 months (February-April 2005). The programme included visits to the Assembly, meetings with the Assembly Members; Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Education and Life-Long Learning, and Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Social Justice. Mr Schroeder shadowed Val Lloyd AM for Swansea in her constituency and worked with a wide range of relevant organisations, agencies and academics and visited North Wales and Scotland. The BC Wales arranged for Mr Schroeder to be received by the High Commissioners for Lesotho and Botswana, and Cultural Counsellors from the High Commissions for South Africa and Uganda. We plan to build on this experience and next year will initiate a project on child's rights which will involve the UK and Africa.
- The BC Wales has initiated an international seminar 'Parliament. Participation. Representation' which will be focused on the role of women in politics, policy formulating and delivery. The seminar will be held in Cardiff in November (w.c. 20 November 2005) and will explore Wales's leading position as a country with equal representation of elected members and gender balance at the Welsh Cabinet. On this project we work in partnership with the National Assembly for Wales and the Equality Policy Unit of the Welsh Assembly Government, academics, Welsh Local Government Association, local authorities, Wales Council for Voluntary Actions and NGOs.
 - The UK –South Eastern European Project 'Tomorrow Politicians'

In spring and June of this year Assembly Members were invited to share experience with the counterparts from the emerging South

Eastern European democracies (international seminars in Zagreb and Sarajevo). Two weeks ago we received a request from the Balkans to host a group of young politicians from the region so that they could learn about the Assembly's work. This workshop has been provisionally scheduled for September 2005.

Further information:

Background notes

Sir David Green - Doc.4

Dr Kevin Higgins - Doc.5

Dr Howard Barrell - Doc. 6

Dr Olga Kelly - Doc.7

Dr Olga Kelly

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Ymwelwch â'n gwefan www.britishcouncil.org/cymru

British Council Wales

The Project: The role of media in building trust between the governments and nations.

Rationale:

To enhance the perception of the UK as a multicultural and tolerant society and recognised as the country of choice for partnering positive social change.

To improve the BC network with young opinion formers/trend-setters and potential key influencers in target countries.

Objective:

(focused on the British Council 's Strategy 2010 and the FCO priorities including emerging priorities of the UK Presidency of the EU 2005)

- To bring together young journalists from the UK and overseas.
- To equip young opinion makers with first-hand information and insight in to the democratic processes in governance in the UK and shape their positive perception of the UK as a modern society which values human rights and diversity.
- To built rapport and better understanding between young professionals from different cultures
- To foster lasting relationships through professional networks

Project Period: Initially two years 2005 – 2006

Project Description

- In partnership with the internationally renowned Cardiff School of Journalism and the National Assembly for Wales organise workshops bringing together young journalists from overseas and the UK.
- Issues of multiculturalism will be explored via the medium of the Llangollen International Festival which was established in 1947 with the assistance of the British Council, to promote peace friendship and mutual understanding. Competitors from more than fifty countries come together for one week to stand side by side through music. In 2004 the Festival was nominated by Terry Waite for the Noble Prize. The

nomination received personal recommendations from ambassadors, religious leaders, educationalists and media personalities.

- Welsh families will host delegates in Llangollen.
- There will be collaborative production of the festival reports, print and broadcast formats. The project in Wales will be documentary filmed. Copies of the film will be given to the delegates to take back to their own countries and hopefully broadcast there or used as a promoting resource.

It is planned that the cohort will meet frequently through BC videoconferences and IT to foster better understanding between cultures.

Topics:

- Openness of Government: Access to Government
- Mirrors? Bridge Builders? Whistle Blowers? Pioneers? – What is the role of media?
- The symbiotic partnership (politicians and media)
- Multiculturalism of the UK and Welsh society studied via the medium of the Llangollen International Festival.

Format

The workshops in Wales will be held over 10 days. **3-12 July 2005.**

3 July

Arrival in Cardiff.

Welcome Dinner at the Hotel

4 July

9.15 a.m. Cardiff University, School of Media, Journalism and Cultural Studies; Bute building.

Welcome by Dr Howard Barrell. Introductions.

Professor Leighton Andrews AM: "Wales in the UK. Devolution. Plural Politics and the Journalism of Respect".

12.00 Visit to the National Assembly for Wales

"How the Assembly works?" – Paul Silk, Clerk to the National Assembly for Wales

13.00 A buffet lunch, by Lord Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer to the National Assembly for Wales. The guests: Assembly Members representing all political parties in Wales, and political correspondents.

14.00 An informal discussion with the Rt Hon. Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister for Wales;

Visit to the BBC or S4C.

Evening. Reception

5 July

9.00 a.m. Cardiff University, School of Media. Briefing on Welsh culture and the significance and history of the International Eisteddfod.

Discussion of projects and instruction on equipment

12.30 Lunch at the Aberdare Hall.

Leave for Llangollen by bus.

18.00 Arrive Llangollen. (Itinerary for the festival; accommodation with the Welsh families)

6,7 July

Issues of multiculturalism and diversity via the medium of the Llangollen International Festival

An opportunity to meet /talk informally/interview

Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Education & Life-Long Learning

David Green, Director of the British Council

To attend

The European & External Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales After the meeting there will be an opportunity to talk/ask questions informally.

Return to Cardiff by coach taking in sightseeing tour of the mountainous region of North and mid-Wales, visits to Portmeirion and Machynlleth.

Return Cardiff/Holiday Inn, late evening of the 7th of July

8 July

9.30 a.m. Cardiff University. School of Media.

Discussion of work/projects

11.30 Discussion on the media independence with Professor Ian Hargreaves.

12.45 Lunch at the Aberdare Hall

14.00 Work on projects.

P.m.

Cardiff Community

Presentation on the regeneration of the Cardiff Bay as one of the most successful European waterfront projects.

Attending the Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival as the guests of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff

9 July

“Embedded in the community. Diversity. Equality. Social inclusion” Discussion chaired by Professor T. Threadgold, Head of Cardiff School of Media, Journalism and Cultural Studies.

Writing session/Production, School of Journalism

Personal free time

10 July

Visit to St Fagans or free day for sightseeing etc

11 July

9.00 Bute building. Cardiff University. School of Media.

Presentation of projects. Analysis of editorial presentations.

12.00 – 13.00. Meeting with Jane Hutt AM, Minister with responsibility for Managing the Business of the Government in the National Assembly for Wales; Openness in Government; Equality.

Followed by a Buffet lunch with Neil Kinnock, Chairman of the British Council.

14.00 – 16.00 Debate : Social responsibility of media in divided societies

Evening. A guided tour and the Dinner at the Cardiff Castle, hosted by the Welsh Assembly Government.
Distribution of Certificates

12 July

Round up before departure.

Participants:

Max twenty in total (overseas plus the UK). The sessions in Cardiff may be enriched by opening them to students from abroad who are studying at the Cardiff School of Journalism and Chevening scholars.

Countries: Belgium, Egypt, Latvia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey, UK.

The language of the workshops will be English.

Outputs:

1. The documentary, to be produced during the visit, will become a resource in its own right.
2. The articles / reports by the participants. These may also be posted on the website for greater access by those outside the immediate group.
3. Establishment of links between the participants themselves and between the participants and the BC offices overseas.
4. The workshop is the first stage in the establishment of enduring relationships with young gifted people who may well become influential opinion or policy makers in the target countries. The workshop's participants may be actively involved in the promotion of the BC's projects in the future.
5. The use of the BC vc technology is designed to assist in the maintenance of the links between the individual journalists and the BC posts in the target countries.

UK Partners

The School of Journalism Media and Cultural Studies; the National Assembly for Wales; Cardiff County Council; BBC, ITV; S4C, the Western Mail, South Wales Echo; International Eisteddfod Festival; BC UK Governance Team and the BC think-tank 'Counterpoint'.

Logistics

Workshop will take place in July 2005.

Olga Kelly, BC Wales, will co-ordinate logistics, liaise Media Working Group of the UK Governance team and with partner organisations on content, speakers etc.

Resources

Country Funds (to cover the cost of travel to the UK/Cardiff and subsistence for participants)

BC Governance Funds

BC Wales Governance Funds

Partner/sponsor contributions

BRITISH COUNCIL MEDIA PROJECT
3-12 July 2005**List of the participants****Belgium**

Ms Barbara Debusschere, “De Morgen”, Flemish daily

Egypt

Mr. Moustafa El Menshawi, the main weekly English language newspaper in Egypt (Al Ahram Weekly).

Ms. Dena Rashed, Al Ahram Weekly Newspaper.

Mr. Ashraf Naggui, the Egyptian Gazette, the only daily English newspaper in Egypt

Ms. Rasha Sadek, Al Ahram Weekly

Ms. Salwa Abdel Tawab, Al Ahram newspaper, the main daily Arabic language newspaper

Latvia

Ms Agnese Margevica, Reporter Independent Morning Daily for Latvia

Macedonia

Ms Biljana Zafirova, “Vecer daily”

Malaysia

Mr Hamzah Abdul Hamid, “Kosmo”, Malay language daily newspaper

Nigeria

Casmir Igbokwe, Correspondent with “The Punch”, a leading newspaper with circulation of over 2000,000.

Poland

Ms Dominica Cosic, “Wprost”, Warsaw

Russia

Mr Yuri Safronov, "Novaya Gazeta", Moscow

Slovenia

Ms Neva Nahtigal

Turkey

Mr Hasan Erel, TRT Foreign News Department, 12 years experience.

UK

Hazel Mollison, Scotland

Helena Drakakis, Greek- Welsh



Doc.4

**Sir David Green KCMG
Director-General
BRITISH COUNCIL**



David Green has been Director-General of the British Council, the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations, since July 1999. Under his leadership, the British Council has focused on reaching younger audiences and on nurturing relationships between the UK and those with the potential to become future decision-makers. It has also embarked on an ambitious project of building a network of state-of-the-art IT-based Knowledge and Learning Centres in fifty of the world's major cities.

He was previously the Director of VSO - the first to have had first-hand experience as a VSO volunteer - and has a background in development, education and the voluntary sector. In the early 1970s he taught in two comprehensive schools before becoming Director of Children's Relief International which subsequently merged with Save the Children Fund, where he undertook a number of posts before becoming Deputy Director-General. His VSO placement as an English teacher in Pakistan was to have a profound effect

on his future career. In his spare time, David is an avid artist and supporter of the theatre. He is married to a head teacher and has three children.

Director, British Council, WALES

Dr Kevin HIGGINS

Kevin Higgins has lived and worked in Wales for almost 5 years although only took up the post of Director Wales for the British Council in August 2004. He is married and is learning to speak Welsh in order to keep up with his almost-fluent wife and the rapidly improving, bilingual skills of his 2 year old son.

On completing a Ph.D. in Chemistry, he worked for 7 years in the private sector in the UK, for ICI Paints, a period which included participating in a one year, collaborative research project in the USA. On moving to the British Council he worked in Tanzania (for 5 years), Vietnam (for 5 years, on a posting with diplomatic status), and in the UK (for 4 years, reporting to London but based in Wales).

The main interests for the British Council in Wales are education, science, governance and the arts/creative industries.

Dates	Role and responsibilities
August 2004 to date	Director, British Council WALES
July 2001 to August 2004	Business Team Leader, Finance & Business System (FABS) Programme, LONDON
April 2000- July 2001	Head, Management Information , Grant-funded Services, LONDON
January 1998 - October 1999	Deputy Director (First Secretary (Cultural)), VIETNAM
For periods up to 6 months (1995-98)	Acting Director (Acting Cultural Attaché), VIETNAM
August 1995- December 1997	Assistant Director (Science & Resources Management) (Assistant Cultural Attaché), VIETNAM
March 1994- August 1995	Assistant Director (Health & Finance), TANZANIA
January 1991- March 1994	Assistant Director (Projects & Finance), TANZANIA
1988-1991	Group Leader, ICI Packaging Research Group, ICI Paints Division, Slough, UK

1987-88	ICI-funded Research Fellowship at University of Massachusetts, USA (for ICI Paints Division)
1984-87	Technical Team Leader, ICI Polymer Research & Refinish Paints Groups, ICI Paints Division, Slough, UK
1976-77	Computer Programmer, Kodak Limited, Ruislip, UK



Doc.6

Dr Howard Barrell

Howard Barrell is a senior lecturer in the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University. He coordinates the MA International Journalism.

He is a former editor of the *Mail & Guardian*, the leading political weekly in South Africa. Before his editorship, he worked for many other news organisations in Africa, Europe and North America, including *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times* in the UK.

He holds a doctorate in politics from Oxford University. His doctoral thesis was on revolutionary strategy in South Africa in the struggle against apartheid, a conflict in which he was both political participant and journalistic observer.

Formerly a member of the ANC, he has been politically independent since 1988. He describes himself now as a liberal and an admirer of Karl Popper's notion of an 'open society'.

Speaking of his approach to journalism in multi-cultural societies, he said: "What I learnt from the struggle against racism in South Africa was that people probably contribute best towards achieving social justice and an open society by asserting their individuality. The alternative – subordinating one's individual judgement to what is said to be a group's standpoint – is, in the long term, a dangerous, though often a more comfortable, way to behave.

"The individual's assertion of a critical voice is a prerequisite for an open society. The moral obligation on the individual in doing so is to voice his or her

criticisms with sufficient simplicity and precision for others to be able to engage directly with them.

“This is what, I think, others have meant when they have talked of ‘speaking truth to power’. In a multi-cultural society experiencing inter-communal tensions – such as South Africa still does 11 years after liberation – no-one should be excused from the journalist’s critical gaze,” he added.



Doc.7

Dr Olga Kelly

Governance Co-ordinator Wales

British Council

Cardiff

Nationality: Belarusian

Olga’s background is in journalism, politics and diplomatic service. In twelve years her career in journalism has progressed from a junior correspondent for the Belarusian national daily newspaper to the member of the editorial board and the editor of the education and science department. Issues of social justice, human rights, ‘glasnost’ (respect pluralism of political views) and importance of the development of the national identity were always in the centre of her priorities and interests. Olga was actively involved in training and coaching of students and young journalists in Belarus; her contribution was recognised by the Journalists Union of the USSR and, after 1991, the Journalists Union of the Republic of Belarus.

In 1990 Olga became a member of the Belarusian People’s Front. During the elections in 1991 Olga was elected as MP for the Belarusian Parliament and participated in a formation the first democratic opposition in Belarus.

As MP she enjoyed the strong support of her colleagues and constituents and was elected the Deputy Chair of the Committee on Social Security, Family and Youth Affairs. Her active involvement in the development of the national legislation in the areas of social security and justice, education and freedom of speech, urgently needed by a young independent country, led to a successful passing the bills by the Parliament, the majority of which consisted of the communists and ‘soviet traditionalists’.

A new independent Belarus required the diplomats of a new school and Olga was encouraged to learn diplomacy. In 1994 she graduated with distinction from the Diplomatic Academy (Moscow) and obtained a doctorate in politics.

Her doctoral dissertation was on the UK in the European Union ('from M. Thatcher to John Major').

Olga was posted to London as the Counsellor for the Belarusian Embassy in the UK in November 1995. In the environment of frozen political relationships between the UK and Belarus Olga focused activities on the bilateral educational and cultural exchange and elevation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus.

Affiliation with the democratic opposition led to her resignation from the diplomatic post in 1999.

Olga joined the UK civil service in 2000 and worked for the National Assembly for Wales, then newly established democratic institution. 'I felt incredibly privileged to be able to contribute to the establishment and the development of the Assembly's international services, she said: 'There is such a strong desire to place a devolved and revitalised Wales on the international map and I am very happy to play my modest part in this process. My move to the British Council gives me an opportunity to contribute to this country even fuller and to build bridges between the people and the countries, and I very much hope that the Media project will prove it.'