

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, LOCAL AND GLOBAL

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012 AND BEYOND

In a rapidly globalising economy, higher education is one of the UK's leading export sectors. The rapid global expansion of our sector, and of UEL in particular, exemplifies the way contemporary universities are meeting the challenge. We have been a centre of learning at the heart of our community for over 100 years, and now, in a global economy that is increasingly knowledge-led, we are pioneering innovative programmes and new modes of study that meet the needs of students and employers alike. We are also expanding our vision as a catalyst of economic development and social inclusion, connecting the local with the global, and enabling students from diverse backgrounds and nationalities to achieve new life opportunities.

With over 20,000 students from more than 120 countries worldwide, the University of East London is now a global learning community. We have forged close links with leading universities and colleges worldwide and many of our programmes are now available through distance learning.

Our collaborative provision stretches all over the globe, from India to America, Russia to Malaysia. In 2007, we ran a number of successful Creative Practice Workshops in Japan, China and Taiwan, which have helped strengthen our links with leading institutions. Our partners in the USA include the University of New Mexico and Columbia College, Chicago, and we are now developing new partnerships in Canada.

Our Alumni Network now numbers over 17,000 members worldwide. Many of our international alumni go on to distinguished career in government and industry, including Edison Chenfil James, former Prime Minister of Dominica, leading Singaporean industrialist Anthony Yee, and Celia Ibru, Director of the Oceanic Bank of Nigeria.

Throughout a busy year, we hosted a number of international conferences and delegations from across the globe. In June, we hosted A Brave New World of Higher Education, the culmination of the British Council's Shaping Higher Education for the 21st Century initiative, and in November, the One World Society Summit attracted several hundred student leaders and distinguished speakers from around the world.

We are working with local and global partners on programmes including Social Enterprise, International Development, International Social Work and NGO and Development Management. Childreach International, a registered international development charity set up by UEL students and based at our Docklands campus, has been linking UK students with community-led development projects in Asia, Africa and South America. ■

The advent of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games puts us in the global spotlight as never before. It marks the achievement of a long-held vision for all involved in the planning, consultation and bidding process over many years. The University of East London is closely involved in developments around London 2012, the Aquatic Centre, the proposed London Olympic Institute, and other legacy projects which are rapidly taking shape in and around the Olympic Park, on the doorstep of our campus in Stratford.

For several years, our researchers and policy development staff have been involved in various aspects of the bidding and planning process, on issues including infrastructure and transport planning, volunteering and community engagement. Our London East Research Institute has conducted a number of research and consultancy projects for the Olympic Delivery Authority and London

▼ Stratford Station - central focus of transport development for London 2012





Sports Knowledge Australia on the aquatic legacy project. In partnership with the National Paralympic Association, we are developing unique programmes in disability sport, and have set up a joint research office with the University of Loughborough and other leading universities to investigate how facilities for elite athletes can also develop sporting and health-related activity in our communities.

In September, we launched a pioneering partnership with the Amateur Swimming Association and British Swimming to maximise aquatics and related health, education, skills and employment benefits from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We are a key partner in the legacy infrastructure for the Games, and in November organised a major conference, Health and Wellbeing: The Legacy Challenge, looking at how we can use the opportunity to create long-term health benefits for our communities.

Linking local to global through the power of digital media is the theme of a number of pioneering research projects launched in 2007. In October, Dr Helen Kennedy, a leading researcher and practitioner in the field of new media at UEL, worked with our Rix Centre for Innovation and Learning Disability to launch Inclusive New Media Design. Dr Kennedy's project, funded

by the AHRC and EPSRC's Designing for the 21st Century initiative, aims to explore the most effective strategies for encouraging new media designers to build websites accessible to people with intellectual disabilities.

The Young Person's Guide to the Royal Docks, launched in March, is an interactive audio-visual website, created by and for young people in the Royal Docks area. The project, run by Loraine Leeson, an internationally renowned community artist and research fellow at UEL, aims to provide 11-18 year olds with an online guide to the area's heritage and rapid regeneration.

The East London Theatre Archive, part of a £22 million national archive digitisation programme funded by the Joint Information Systems Council, was launched at our Docklands campus in May, with partners including the Arts and Humanities Data Service, CAST, the Hackney Empire, Half Moon Young People's Theatre, Hoxton Hall, the London International Festival of Theatre, The Theatre Royal Stratford East, Wilton's Music Hall and Victoria and Albert Museum Theatre Collections. ■

Development Agency, and, in April, the Greater London Authority published the findings of a report by our London East Research Institute into the potential regeneration benefits of the Games, drawing on the experiences of previous host cities.

In 2007, we worked with partner institutions in Beijing to learn from the 2008 Games, and Professor Gavin Poynter, a leading authority on the Olympics, and Dr Iain Macrury, co-director of LERI, were among UEL researchers invited to present at conferences across China. We have also built links with universities in previous host cities including Sydney and Barcelona, and are working with

