



Announcement of a series of conversations about Teachers

The Education Sector Committee of the National Committee for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Faculty of Education at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), the Library at UJ, and JET Education Services (JET) will be launching a series of conversations about teachers, involving a variety of stakeholders on 28 April 2022 at 15:00. The stakeholders will, for instance, include teachers, school principals, teacher educators, pre-service teachers, representatives of the Departments of Basic Education and Higher Education and Training, depending on the focus of the conversation.

Why the focus on teachers?

The statement made in a 2007 McKinsey report, “How the world’s best performing schooling system come out on top” has become somewhat of a truism: “The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers”. Though this statement makes sense, one could argue that it may be an oversimplification and that it signals questions to consider and explore.

Some of these questions are:

- What does quality mean in relation to the role of teachers in an uneven society?
- What does quality mean in relation to the role of teachers in a fast-changing world in which technology is becoming increasingly pervasive?
- What does quality mean for the role of teachers in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How is the quality of teachers (and by implication teaching) supported or impeded by the system in which they work?
- What role does pre-service and in-service teacher education play in relation to the quality of teachers?
- What role does the professional status of teachers in a society play in relation to the quality of teachers?

These are some of the questions that the conversations, planned to run for three years, three times per annum, may address. The conversations will be facilitated online to allow wide participation.

The invitation to the first conversation will follow soon.



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