

International Teaching Circle Report
June 19, 2007

The International Teaching Circle met twice during 2007-08, the first meeting on November 8, 2007 and the second on February 12, 2008. Both meetings were conducted over lunch in the President's Dining Room in Hogarth. The first meeting had seven in attendance and the second meeting had six in attendance.

Members of the Circle and the country they are representing included:

Dhruba Adhikari	Nepal	Meshack Afithile	South Africa
Kate Brown	Kenya	Richard Holden	Thailand
Youn Lee	Korea	Xiaoxia Li	China
George Pinchuk	Ukraine	Jiben Roy	Bangladesh/India
Sarah Sumners	China	Ross Whitwam	Canada
Shaochen Yang	Taiwan		

Topics of discussion included:

1. Comparison of the represented countries and their systems of education
 - a. Personalized stories of how each person viewed their represented country
 - b. Special emphasis given to mathematics, science and technology
 - c. Comparison of differences between elementary, secondary and university levels
2. The status and importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in the United States as compared to other countries and what can be done to improve it
3. The addition of STEM as a ninth-grade component to the courses replacing Tech Prep (ICT I for 7th grade, ICT II for 8th grade and STEM for 9th grade)
4. The new magnet school concept being adopted by the Columbus Municipal School District with one magnet being IB (International Baccalaureate). The possibility of the International Teaching Circle offering some assistance to help make that concept successful.

Participants drafted summaries of the educational systems in the countries they each represented. Some of the participants grew up in the country and attended school there. These participants had first-hand knowledge of practices and methodologies in their country that work best and those that needed improvement. Others in the group visited the country they represented and, therefore, had a more limited analysis of the country's educational system. A formal comparison of specific educational topics and features of each country has not yet been conducted, however, due to time limitations.

Richard L. Holden, Associate Professor
Teaching Circle Director