



GAPS
GLOBAL ACCESS TO
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
Connecting the Unconnected



Building the pipeline: How do we ensure equitable access to post-secondary science, technology, engineering and mathematics education?

A Global Access to Post-Secondary Education (GAPS) Initiative Forum supported by the University of Newcastle, Australia

Friday 28 November, 2014

The Legacy Suite, The Marriott Hotel, Singapore

8:30am to 1:00pm, followed by lunch

There has been increasing debate in recent years regarding the importance for economic growth and social progress at national and regional levels, and the importance of increasing the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) higher education graduates. It is not only imperative that such graduates are individuals who have the ability to succeed, but also that all students with the ability to succeed have *access* to STEM higher education. The available evidence around the world suggests that this is not happening and that inequitable access to post-secondary education is holding back individuals and countries. GAPS, an initiative of the European Access Network, works across sectors to bring together those committed to extending economic and social prosperity, advocating to policymakers and leaders to make the changes necessary to open up access to post-secondary education.

This **invitation only** roundtable discussion brings together those from higher education, business and policy to examine the challenges faced in ensuring equitable access to post-secondary STEM education in Asia, and globally. It is one of a series of 3 events, with forums to be held in Europe and the USA in 2015. The aim is to develop an agenda for action regarding how to meet these challenges, which will be launched at the 2nd GAPS World Congress in Malaysia in October 2015. GAPS will then work with partners across the world to progress initiatives.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

CHAIR: Professor Liz Burd, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, University of Newcastle, Australia.

Dr Graeme Atherton, Chair of the GAPS Initiative. Dr Atherton will outline the work of GAPS and some of the key trends in access to STEM higher education globally.

The forum will also include a number of key policy makers, academics and practitioners from the region who will share their diverse experience in this area.

About the hosts

The Global Access to Post-Secondary Education (GAPS) Initiative

The GAPS initiative works across sectors to bring together those committed to extending economic and social prosperity, advocating to policymakers and leaders to make the changes necessary to open up access to post-secondary education.

Founded in 2013, GAPS is led by a consortium of organisations including the International Association of Universities, the Lumina Foundation and Educational Testing Service (ETS) from the USA, the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON) from England, ECHO from the Netherlands and is supported by the European Access Network (EAN). To find out more about GAPS and how to work with us please go to www.gaps-education.org.

The University of Newcastle, Australia

The University of Newcastle is a leader in equity of access to higher education. This is reflected in our institutional values and demonstrated in our successful history of providing a range of pathways for entry into higher education, supporting students from diverse backgrounds to achieve a university education. We have a proud reputation of supporting motivated and talented students, regardless of their background or circumstances, not just to gain entry, but to thrive in their field of study.

We are a research intensive university ranked in Australia's top 10 institutions for research outcomes and 6th for Industry-funded research. Our Faculties of Engineering and Built Environment, and Science and Information Technology are world class and are at the forefront of research and development both nationally and internationally.

The University of Newcastle's [Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education](#) (CEEHE) is a national and international hub for collaborative practice-oriented research, strengthening practice in higher education and building partnerships for success.

CHAIR



Professor Liz Burd, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, University of Newcastle, Australia.

Professor Burd joined the University of Newcastle from University of Durham in the UK, where she was the Dean of Undergraduate Education and Chair of Information Technology. With an international reputation in the field of education, Professor Burd is particularly recognised for her pioneering research into Technology Enhanced Learning.

Professor Burd holds a Bachelor of Education (Hons) from Worcester College of Higher Education; a Master of Science Human Computer Interaction and D.Phil. Risk Management from the University of York; and a Ph.D. Software Maintenance from the University of Durham.

Professor Burd is a member of key international bodies including Vice President of the Institute of Educational Activities for the Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society, Pre-university Education Coordinating Committee, where she is responsible for promoting Engineering and Technology education to its 400,000 members, and 2nd Vice-President for the IEEE Computer Society, which hosts more than 75,000 members.

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Dr Graeme Atherton, Chair of the GAPS Initiative. Dr. Graeme Atherton has been working in the field of access to post-secondary education.

Based in London, he is the founder and Head of AccessHE which is a network of over 200 organisations working on extending access to higher education. He is also the founder and Director of NEON (National Education Opportunities in Education), which is the professional organisation for access to higher education in England.

He is also a Visiting Professor at London Metropolitan University and Amity Business School, London and has produced over 120 publications and conference papers.

The forum will also include a number of key policy makers, academics and practitioners from the region who will share their diverse experience in this area.