

**OPENING REMARKS BY  
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CHAIR OF THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF ARTS EDUCATION AND  
DIRECTOR OF WCS 2007**

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Nei ho. On behalf of the World Alliance for Arts Education, as President of the International Drama, Theatre and Education Association, and as the Director of this first World Creativity Summit, I would like to thank the Home Affairs Bureau of the Government of Hong Kong for their generosity in allowing us to open their Asian Cultural Cooperation Forum with this remarkable event, the World Creativity Summit. I would also like to thank our very first local partner, the Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture, for their extraordinary hospitality, organisation, and inspiring collaboration.

We have met today to begin a process of working together to advocate for new pedagogies of learning and transformation so that we can together re-imagine and rewrite the future. The World Alliance for Arts Education has formed to unify all the knowledges, all the expertise, all the visions that its members from more than ninety countries throughout the world contain, and to attempt now to speak to every sector of society, to every government throughout the world as partners in the development of new pedagogies of cooperation and learning.

The movement from an industrial based to a knowledge based society has been discussed and written about throughout the world, but these two images that you can see on this screen -- if I can have some help, can I have some help to bring these images up -- these two images that you can see behind me are images which show young people throughout the world advocating through visual arts, through music, through dance, and through theatre. They show young people who do not believe that there will be a future; young people who are asking us to use our authority and our expertise to talk and to transform, to talk about a future where drinking water will not be available, to talk about the increasing alienation in classrooms and in schools in every part of the world; an alienation of young people from learning, and the effects of that alienation, self-destructive cultures and a fear that if there is no future there is no need to take responsibility for actions in the present. We have united to define an integrated strategy that transforms our schools from using pedagogies based upon the arts of competition into pedagogies based on cooperation. Our young people see clearly the needs for this transformation, but so do our teachers. Teachers throughout the world are experiencing the pressure of delivering results, the pressure of working with incomes that do not respect their knowledge and the dedication, the pressure to delivering results that undermine the processes of learning.

The World Alliance for Arts Education is looking for the development of cultures created by young people, not just the critical reading of all of the cultures in their diversities produced for them to be consumed, but the possibility that young people can create their own intercultural identities, can create their own human cultures, can create images about themselves and about the future that become landmarks for the generations

to come, and become a way that young people can talk about their own needs and about the future that they will inherit.

In Hong Kong, as throughout many countries in Southeast Asia and throughout Asia where I have worked, teachers and young people are demonstrating the need to think about the developments of values of solidarity and cooperation that have existed for thousands of years within their traditional cultures. The needs to create pedagogies based in creativity, pedagogies that nurture creativity, pedagogies that use our artistic languages to transform the isolation that many teachers speak about, to transform the emotional and psychological despair that many teachers speak about, to transform our classrooms from classrooms of conflict and isolation into dramas and communities of cooperation.

I end with this image on the edge of the Amazon where teachers and young people wrote with burnt trees on the face of the earth a story of their past and of their future. They have created a sculpture in which they dance, and perform, and rehearse, and learn. They have created a poetic image to ask the world to reflect and to act to rewrite their own experiences and to write a new future of cooperation, of respect for diversity, and of peace with justice.

The World Alliance for Arts Education began in 2006, but my colleagues from the International Society For Music Education and the International Society for Education Through Art will tell you about our hopes and our plans for the present and for the future, and to invite them now to speak to you I would like to give them a gift in the name of idea, and in the name of the millions of art educators and educators who dream of using the arts within their schools, formal and informal, in the name of these people I would like to call on Liane Henschke from Brazil, the President of ISME. I give her a gift from her own country, but a gift which celebrates the culture and the creativity of the North of Brazil. I would like to call on Dr Ann Kuo from Taiwan, the President of ISEA to receive a gift celebrating the same cultures and the same histories and creativity from Brazil. And I would like to call on Ada Wong, our local partner and the founder Chair of the Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture to receive this gift which also contains -- would you like to show this gift?