

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE EDUCATION
(CRICE)

Welcome to the first edition of *Journal of International and Comparative Education*. This new journal, I hope and believe, will become a seminal site for published work that will have profound implications in the International and Comparative Education field. This journal commemorates the launching of the Centre for Research in International and Comparative Education. A heartfelt thanks to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ghauth Jasmon, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Professor Hamzah Abdul Rahman and everyone at University of Malaya for their rigorous support and assistance for the centre, and the journal. The papers in this journal are peer-reviewed and assured to be the quality readers expect. For that, I sincerely thank my Editorial Board and International Advisory Board who have worked hard to ensure standards of papers published in this journal are not compromised in any way.

In today's globalised world, many issues in education are interconnected and interrelated in one way or another. Consequently one cannot begin to discuss it effectively without recourse to International and Comparative Education. Most important educational questions can best be addressed by drawing an international-comparative dimension to them. Many practitioners have realised the significance of this academic field, thus the amplified popularity of it. This multi-disciplinary field of study concerns the educational policies and practices, international development in education and bridging theoretical frameworks to educational outcomes. The list, is but of course, not exhaustive. International and Comparative Education illuminates the contextual and cultural understanding of education, and the effects that globalisation have, and will have, on education.

The papers in this journal give us insights into theoretical discussions and empirical studies on the contextual implications of International and Comparative Education. This inaugural edition on 'Global Challenges and the Emerging Roles of International and Comparative Education' includes papers by Michael Crossley, Colin Brock and Richard Pring as presented in CRICE's first lecture series. Keith Watson discusses comparative education within the context of South East Asia. The issues of learning regions and knowledge societies are also addressed in this edition, with special reference to the Philippines and Malaysia (Lorraine Symaco). Garry Hornby follows with a discussion on the issue of inclusive education of children with special educational needs in New Zealand with reference to possible policies re-orientations for developing countries. Despite the focus on the Asia-Pacific region of this journal, it is envisioned that one paper outside the region will be included in every issue to present a broader perspective of issues in international and comparative education beyond the region. With this, Emefa Amoako illustrates how Ghana's Education Strategic Plan is shaped through the interaction of various stakeholders, specifically examining the role of globalisation through these points of connectedness.

I commend the journal to all readers involved and concerned with this field of study, as you, and I also, seek to find ways in which we can engage actively in International and Comparative Education. I hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to your readership.

LORRAINE SYMACO
Director