



PRESS RELEASE

26 September 2008

DERRY TO HOST NORTHERN IRELAND'S PREMIER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The programme for this year's Association of Northern Ireland Education and Library Boards (ANIELB) conference was launched at Stranmillis University College, Belfast, recently.

The annual conference focusing on the future of education in Northern Ireland will take place in the Millennium Forum, Derry on October 16-17 under the theme 'Education and Community: Making Connections'.

Attending the press launch were representatives from the Association of NIELBs, Chief Executives from the various education boards together with representatives of conference partners NorthgateIS, and sponsors: PricewaterhouseCoopers, Allianz, Fujitsu, Imex, Eteach and Amey.

A range of high-profile speakers from across the globe will address the conference including Professor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, author and daughter of Robert Kennedy; Professor John MacBeath, Chair of Educational Leadership University of Cambridge; Alan Dyson, Professor of Education University of Manchester; David Armstrong, Associate Partner and Joe McGuinness Consultant (PwC); and Dame Anna Hassan, UK senior educationalist and mentor for new head teachers.

Incoming ANIELB President, Pat Brannigan, a member of the Southern Education and Library Board, said that the conference provides a vital showcase for a wide spectrum of education providers in Northern Ireland at a time of great change.

He added: “The future of Northern Ireland is in the hands of all of us who are charged with the education and care of our young people. We have a generation of young people in our schools, colleges and universities who have the opportunity to build a society in which each is valued and an economy which is capable of sustaining them without the need for the best and most educated to leave for more affluent lifestyles further a field.”

Concluding he said: “As we approach the end of the first decade of the 21st century, we have the responsibility to develop our education system into one which is not only fit for purpose now but which can meet challenges that no one has yet thought about.”

Anyone wishing to attend the conference should contact Siobhan O’Hanlon on 028 8241 1335. For more information and a full list of speakers, log on to www.anielb.org.



Ends...

For further information contact:

Angela Devine/ Wendy Kerr

Communications Office, Corporate Services, WELB HQ, 1 Hospital Road,
Omagh, BT79 0AW

Tel: 028 8241 1468/ 028 8241 1472 / Mob: 07500966953

Email: angela_devine@welbni.org / wendy_kerr@welbni.org