

# FICE Australia Report re Kenyan Council Meeting and Professional Exchange

Overall, this was an amazing experience which allowed those who participated the opportunity to see, at firsthand, what is currently occurring in Kenya and Africa. The established links to community which shape all practices here are a reminder of what has been lost, to a large extent, in more developed countries where policies and practice have taken priority over the individual, the family and the community.

## Professional Exchange

This was an amazing opportunity to observe child and youth practice in Kisumu and the surrounding areas. Everyone participated and enjoyed the variety of experiences offered. FICE Australia delivered three workshops (1x MMS mentors; 2x Careers workshops at YMCA Kisumu). It is felt these went very well and the initial feedback in the collected evaluations supports this.

What was missing was the opportunity for us to share our experiences formally with each other from Council. Although this was done informally it would have been nice and greater learning could have been gained.

It was also noted by many that there wasn't much sharing occurring between FICE members and the Kenyans involved. Rather it was more a case of look and observe. The opportunity for sharing was limited it at all.

## Federal Council Meeting

The Federal Council Meeting was one day in length and covered all topics on the agenda. Most agenda items were quickly attended to; however, the presentation from Bangladesh about the proposed project, although very interesting, was longer than expected and made the day longer than necessary.

The only thing of note that was missing was time for the various Working Parties. With only one official meeting this year this means that these important aspects of the Federal Council have the potential to fall away and drop off in importance. One possible solution could be a half day dedicated to them. This would make the Federal Council's scheduled time together 1 ½ days, which has been the case in previous years.

## Conference

The theme was very appropriate and allowed for a great number of varied presentations. FICE Australia appreciated the opportunity to share and learn about practices and situations globally and locally in Kenya.

Time keeping was a factor that needed to be addressed sooner than it was, especially as the first presentation went for almost 30 minutes. There may have been a number of factors as to why this occurred; however, it is important that presenters keep to their allotted time so that others towards the end of the program do not feel pressured to reduce their important content in an effort to ensure that the advertised time lines are maintained.

### Masai Mara Experience

A wonderful way for those who attended to unwind and spend time together. Sharing this amazing experience together brought the group closer together and is one that all will remember for a very long time.