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International Learning:  
Learning to be International  
A world of Views

### Presentation Abstract

<b>Strand 4: Culture Learning</b>	
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Transformation or Confirmation of Timeless Notions? Abstract</b>
<p><b>Tracy Davies &amp; Helen Gregory</b> Tracy Davies-Exchange Programs, New South Wales Department of Education and Training Helen Gregory-Teacher Exchange Program, New South Wales Independent Education Union tracy.davies@det.nsw.edu.au./helen@ieu.asn.au.</p>	<p><b>Teacher Exchange Programs – benefits and challenges</b></p> <p>Teacher Exchange Programs provide the opportunity for teachers to practice in overseas education systems, experience and exchange ideas and knowledge about pedagogy, and observe different educational systems while living in other cultural contexts.</p> <p>Exchange programs have continued for many decades because of their</p>



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significant value in promoting international understanding and goodwill while fostering international communication and the exchange of ideas. These mutual benefits assist participants, their educational communities and students to prepare for global citizenship.

Educational and exchange coordination authorities from Australian states and territories meet regularly in the forum of the “National Council for International and Interstate Teacher Exchange” [NCIITE]. This group seeks to initiate uniform approaches to the establishment and maintenance of exchange programs with each other and with partner organisations internationally.

NCIITE members and counterparts focus primarily on year-long, reciprocal, simultaneous teacher exchanges in which participants exchange professional work assignments and accommodation with overseas and interstate teachers.

Along with benefits of long-term exchange programs come great challenges, both expected and unexpected, personal and professional, at local and international levels.

Many NCIITE exchange arrangements between commonwealth countries originated in the 1920s and offered their own challenges in the form of great distances, long sea voyages and difficulties in communication.



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The exchange programs have had to adapt to the modern world and technological age. They have had to address greater regulation, increasing fees, and more complex requirements relating to taxation, teacher registration and immigration to name a few.

Meeting these challenges – and seeking sensible change for the sake of maintaining the huge positive outcomes for teachers and schools involved in exchange – can be extremely difficult.

The opportunity to share our experiences and challenges with the international community at the AIE conference would prove beneficial, as solutions and ideas may emerge for the future of long-term exchanges. It might also generate excitement about untapped exchange opportunities around the world.