

World Bank Issues Results of ECDVU Program Evaluation

"In summary, ECDVU has met and exceeded all of its core goals..." that is the essence of the most recent external evaluation of the ECDVU program. This, the second major external evaluation of the program, surveyed African (SSA) participants from the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd deliveries.

Key findings include:

- Impressive completion rates with over 95% completion across SSA 1, 2, 3;
- 99% of those who complete stay in their countries;
- Over 97% of those who complete remain in child and family services.

- "Virtually all graduates stated that they would recommend ECDVU to ECD colleagues."

The findings reinforce the title of the recent ECDVU video produced by the World Bank, "*Brain Gain*" (see related story below).

ECDVU's decision to focus on one-year deliveries, to increase the numbers who would be able to access the program and to better position the program to dovetail with existing and emergent Master's degree programs in Africa, was not made lightly. It is rewarding to see very significant ECD growth in activities 'on the

ground' in participating countries coming from the one-year programs, as had been the case with the SSA1 three-year delivery (see ECDVU Evaluations from 2011 and 2005 on the ECDVU website: <http://ecdvu.org/publications.php>).

ECDVU is also very pleased to note significant progress being made in transitioning the Graduate Diploma program to an African university (see University of Ibadan story, page 2). It is hoped that this is the first of several transitions that will take ECDVU-type programs to other countries and regions in Africa.

Inside this Newsletter

ECDVU – a finalist for the WISE Awards

ECDVU in Action – SSA 4

ECDVU Works with Nigerian University

Special Section of Child Development Perspectives

Scholars and Institutes Workshop held in Zambia

What the ECDVU Family is Up to...

Upcoming Conferences and Other Opportunities



ECDVU
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700
TEF Bldg., Room 233
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2
Canada

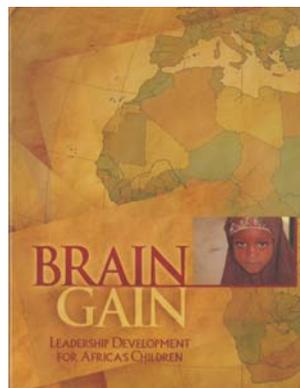
Contact us:

Email: info@ecdvu.org
Phone: 250-721-6299
Fax: 250-721-8977

www.ecdvu.org

New Video Features ECDVU Graduates

We are delighted to announce that the World Bank video "*Brain Gain*" is now available for viewing via the ECDVU website! Here are the cover notes from the video but remember – when it comes to video "seeing is believing", so please set aside 30 minutes from your busy schedule to watch the video itself. We hope it will inspire you to send us your comments!



To view this video go to:

<http://ecdvu.org/news.php>

As noted on the video cover:

"*Brain Gain* tells the stories of three Africans who stayed home to make their home country a better place.

Brain Gain shows the power of African know-how, the reach of technology, and the impact of on-the-ground work by determined patriots to make Africa a better place – truly the proving ground of *Brain Gain*."

ECDVU in Action – SSA4



The SSA4 cohort represents an unusual experience for ECDVU: it is the first time we have had a single-country cohort in Africa. Nigerian officials and the World Bank contacted ECDVU early in 2010 with a proposal to mount a Nigerian-specific cohort to help address ECD training challenges in the country.

The focus is on building Nigerian states' capacity to address ECD training needs. With 36 states and a population of over 155 million, with 41% of that population under the age of 15, Nigeria's challenges are indeed very great.

The 30 members of the current cohort, comprised of senior-level educators and

administrators, are strategically positioned to facilitate the advancement of ECD in the country.

The cohort has enjoyed a rich variety of experiences both online and at the two seminar intensives. The first seminar, which took place in Zanzibar in December 2010, included interactions with the Zanzibar Madrasa Resource Centre and one of their ECD community development initiatives. The cohort traveled by bus to the Madrasat Nural Islamiya, located in Jendele, a rural village near Stone Town.

The cohort observed this ECD program in action, and met with the head teacher, school management committee members, and Community Resource Team members to

discuss parental involvement and community development. The visit to Jendele was followed by a site visit to the Madrasa Resource Centre in Stone Town, where the cohort participated in a guided tour of the model ECD classroom, with emphasis on the utilization of local materials.

The second seminar was held in Cape Coast, Ghana in June, 2011. The cohort met with Ghanaian graduates of earlier ECDVU cohorts to learn more about the progress that Ghana has made in promoting quality ECD over the past decade, including the adoption of a national ECD Policy. In addition, the cohort travelled to the University of Education Winneba (UEW) to meet with faculty and senior students of the Early Childhood Care and Development Department, and to take part in guided site visits to two nearby child care facilities.

The SSA4 delivery concludes at the end of August, 2011 with the submission of final post-seminar assignments.

The entire ECDVU family is united in wishing success to the newest members of our ever growing and strengthening family.

ECDVU, finalist for a WISE Award

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) is an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Founded in 2009, WISE makes six awards annually and the ECDVU is amongst 20 programs that have been shortlisted as Finalists for 2011.

"WISE is based on the practical awareness that the challenges in education are no longer bound by countries' political boundaries... WISE recognises that the challenges facing the world community have never been greater - that we need innovative solutions not achieved by traditional approaches alone."

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation

The ECDVU is honored to have been selected as one of the twenty finalists for the 2011 awards.

ECDVU Works with University of Ibadan, Nigeria

A very important step in the evolution of the ECDVU took place following the June SSA4 Seminar in Ghana— Dr. Esther Oduolowu, a participant in the ECDVU SSA4 program and Senior Lecturer at the University of Ibadan (U.I.) in Nigeria and Prof. Alan Pence travelled to Ibadan for discussions with senior administration regarding an ECDVU-related program being established at the U.I. starting in 2012.



Prof E.A. Bamigboye U.I. Deputy VC Administration and Prof. Pence at the University of Ibadan in June 2011

The discussions were very positive with both parties expressing their commitment to see the possibilities realized.

The ECDVU is currently working with Dr. Oduolowu and her colleagues to develop a budget, approve the program, secure funding, and undertake appropriate revisions for a University of Ibadan-led delivery.

Special Section, Child Development Perspectives, June 2011

In 2008 Prof. Kofi Marfo, long-time ECDVU instructor and Professor at the University of South Florida, and Alan Pence, Director of ECDVU, submitted a proposal to the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) to host a Workshop focused on 'Strengthening Africa's Contributions to Child Development Research'.

Profs. Marfo and Pence had long been concerned with the paucity of published child development research led by African scholars, and when the SRCD announced funds to host small Workshops addressing issues of diversity and international development, they leapt at the opportunity—and were pleased to learn their

proposal had been accepted.

The Workshop was held in February of 2010, attended by key senior researchers who had long advocated for increased attention to African based and led research. Papers prepared for the Workshop were published in the June 2011 issue of *Child Development Perspectives*,

one of the key journals published by the SRCD. (These papers will be posted to the Publications page of the ECDVU website in late 2011.)

See related Scholars & Institutions story below

Scholars & Institutions Workshop

The Workshop referred to under the *Child Development Perspectives* story above, confirmed the importance of engaging with African tertiary institutions to help promote research and scholarly activity based in and led from Africa.

When the results of the SRCD and ECDVU Workshop were shared with the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) for UNICEF, they agreed to fund two follow-up activities:

1) collect information from ESARO tertiary institutions regarding courses and programs focusing on Child Development and ECD, and

2) support a two-day Workshop that would bring interested Universities from the ESARO area together to discuss and plan ways to promote research and scholarly work in the region.

The Workshop, co-led by

ECDVU Profs. Pence and Anamuah-Mensah, was held in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2010 in conjunction with the Biennial Congress of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD—like SRCD, a scholarly association).

The Lusaka Conference, hosted by the University of Zambia, was the first time the ISSBD Congress has been held in Africa.

The Report from the ESARO supported Workshop is available in the publications section of the ECDVU website.

The Workshop Report attracted the attention of UNICEF and UNESCO leadership based in Western and Central Africa and it is hoped that a similar set of activities will be able to take place for those regions in the near future.

What the ECDVU family is up to...

James Kaboggoza Ssembatya, SSA3 graduate, has been confirmed in the post of Assistant Commissioner of Children's Affairs in the Uganda federal Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development. Well done James!

Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah, SSA 3 & 4 professor, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Open University of UK. Congratulations Prof. Anamuah-Mensah!

Dr. A. Bame Nsamenang, SSA 3 & 4 professor, notes the scheduled release date of Aug. 20, 2011 for *African Educational theories and Practices: A Generative Teacher Education Handbook*. The volume, co-edited with Prof. Therese M.S. Tchombe, features 36 articles written by African academics and their Africanist collaborators.

We encourage all our ECDVU family members and supporters to continue to share with us stories of positive impacts and steps forward in the ECD world in Africa. Send your updates to dblakely@uvic.ca.

Upcoming Conferences and Other Opportunities

Association for Childhood Education International Global Summit – Washington March 2012

Visit the following website for details about the Summit: <http://acei.org/knowledge/conferences/annual-conference/> and call for papers due September 30, 2011: <http://acei.org/knowledge/conferences/annual-conference/call-for-papers/>.

The Journal of African Studies and Development (JASD)

is an open access journal that provides rapid/monthly publication of articles. The Journal welcomes submission of manuscripts that meet their criteria. There are no specific deadlines for submission. For further information, please visit their website at <http://academicjournals.org/JASD/index.htm>.

These announcements/notices are for information purposes only and are not specifically endorsed by ECDVU.