

Global Trends and Future Direction of School Physical Education

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Abstract: The presentation will review the evidence on world-wide trends in physical education, with emphasis on the “world-wide crisis” of loss of curriculum time and political support for physical education in school curricula across the world. There will be reference to the implications for physical education, of the dominance of intellectual and career-led models of education, and the increasing role of education as a servant of the economy in many countries.

Prof. Dr. Margaret Talbot is President of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), and Chief Executive of the Association for Physical Education (UK). Previous posts include Chief Executive of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, the umbrella organization for English and UK non-governmental sport organizations; and Carnegie research professor and Head of Sport at Leeds Metropolitan University. As ICSSPE Vice President (Education), she chaired the declaration sessions at the World Summits on Physical Education in Berlin in 1999 and Magglingen in 2005. She secured for ICSSPE, an international research project, funded by the IOC, on the value of sport and physical education in schools, which was completed by Professor Richard Bailey in 2004. She was President of the International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women from 1997 to 2005, when she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. During 1994-2001, she led a research project on the opportunities for women provided by the Commonwealth Games, for the Commonwealth Secretariat. Prof. Dr. Talbot was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to physical education and sport in 1993. Other awards include the AD Munrow Award by her peers in University sport and physical education; Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts; the Ling Award of the Physical Education Association UK; Companionship of the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management; and a Pathfinder Award from the USA National Association of Girls and Women in Sport. She was Vice Chair of the Government's Physical Education Working Group on the National Curriculum (England and Wales). She was national convener for "SPEEDNET", the Sport and Physical Education Network, providing a voice for all the UK national organizations for physical and sport education, and demonstrating the disastrous effect on physical education in primary schools (“Half a Million Hours Lost”), of the government's decision to disapply the statutory status of primary physical education for two years in 2000. She has continually fought to defend and promote the statutory entitlement to physical education, which is the cornerstone of its status and development in the UK. More recently, as Chair of the Interim Board, she led the establishment of the Council for Subject Associations, working closely with the other subject associations and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The distinctive nature and role of physical education will be outlined, and positions on the value of research evidence and advocacy skills, along with the role of national and international organizations for physical education, in making the case for its sustained future in national education systems.