

Keynote 1:
Helen Spencer-Oatey, University of Warwick

Developing 'Global People': Insights from International Partnerships

International partnerships/collaborations are a vital element of current higher education, yet their intercultural aspects are frequently overlooked. For example, George Mason University has recently announced plans to close their branch campus in the United Arab Emirates, and a report announcing this closure concludes that a key lesson to be learned is "know your partner". This concurs with the experiences of members of the eChina-UK Programme – that the roll-out of global programmes is less easily matched by the development of 'global people'.

In this talk, I draw on the intercultural experiences of members of the eChina-UK Programme (<http://www.echinauk.org/>) in order to reflect on this issue of developing 'global people'. The eChina-UK Programme was a major initiative between Britain and China (2003–2007), funded by HEFCE, which involved a number of British and Chinese universities working collaboratively to develop online teacher training materials. The project members experienced a number of challenges in working together – these were partly language issues but were also much more than that.

I start my talk by analysing some of these challenges and after this I describe the conceptual frameworks and practical resources that we have developed during the final phase of the programme (<http://www.globalpeople.org.uk/>) in order to help promote intercultural competence. I focus on two key components: the *Global People Competency Framework* and the *Global People Toolkit*. Each is grounded in both research and authentic experience – one provides a conceptual framework for considering intercultural competence; the other is a practical toolkit (with case studies, activities, tips and tools) for managing the life cycle of intercultural partnerships. I explain how these resources can help support all those (thinking of) engaging in international partnerships/collaborations, and I consider their applicability to other contexts and audiences (e.g. students).

Throughout my talk I will be reflecting on several key issues:

- The interconnection between communicative competence and intercultural competence;
- The learning process during intercultural interaction and how it can be optimised;
- The types of resources needed to help develop intercultural competence.

Biographical information

Professor Helen Spencer-Oatey is Director of the Centre for Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick. She has been manager for HEFCE of the eChina-UK Programme since its inception in 2002, and has directed the Global People project. She has worked extensively overseas, including teaching at Shanghai Jiaotong University for 7 years on a British Council project. Her book publications include *Culturally Speaking* (Continuum, 2000/2008), *e-Learning Initiatives in China* (Hong Kong University Press, 2007), *Handbook of Intercultural Communication* (Mouton de Gruyter, 2007) and *Intercultural Interaction* (Palgrave, 2009).