

Regional Perspectives on University Civic Engagement by Maureen Keegan and Lorraine Hoyt

From December 16 through December 19, 2013, the Talloires Network and Kettering Foundation co-hosted a workshop in Boston, Massachusetts, entitled “Regional Perspectives on University Civic Engagement.” Director of Programs and Research, Lorraine Hoyt, and Program Officer, Derek Barker, co-organized the workshop bringing together 14 participants from seven countries in seven different regions around the world: Australia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Scotland, South Africa, and the United States. These seven pairs represent exemplary university civic engagement programs in their region. To explore university civic engagement from various local perspectives, each pair included a university faculty or staff member and a student or community partner. The participants and their programs are shown below.



University civic engagement leaders from every region of the world, Talloires Network and Kettering Foundation staff, Boston, Massachusetts, December 2013

AUSTRALIA

Loshini Naidoo, Senior Lecturer in Social Justice Education
Eric Brace, Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation
Refugee Action Support project at the University of Western Sydney

ARAB STATES

Nelly Corbel, University-Based Civic Engagement Manager
Ms. Rana Gaber, Director of Programs, Egyptian Youth Federation
Lazord Academy at the American University of Cairo

ASIA/PACIFIC

Dr. James Koh Kwee Choy, Senior Lecturer
Pam Wan Amni Zulkiflar, Graduate Student

Kampung Angkat Project at the International Medical University in Malaysia

LATIN AMERICA

Ernesto Benavides Ornelas, Program Director
María Fernanda Pacheco Bravo, Graduate Student
Brigadas Comunitarias at Tecnológico de Monterrey University

EUROPE

Helen Martin, Lecturer
Margaret Layden, North Glasgow Housing Association
Activate Program at the University of Glasgow

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Joseph Francis, Director of the Institute for Rural Development
Hlekani Kabiti, Graduate Student
Amplifying Grassroots Community Voices at the University of Venda

Thabo Putu, Program Manager

Community Work Camps at the University of the Witwatersrand

NORTH AMERICA

Mark Wilson, Director of Civic Learning Initiatives
Marie Cirillo, Community Developer
Living Democracy at Auburn University



Workshop participants engage in discussion, Boston, Massachusetts, December 2013

Throughout the three and a half day workshop, discussion topics included: universities and their civic mission, focus on students & citizenship, engaging students beyond service learning, engaging students in practice, focus on communities & civic capacities, and civic capacity in practice.

On Wednesday, December 18, the workshop participants attended an award dinner with Talloires Network partners from the Boston region. As part of the dinner, TN Executive

Director, Robert Hollister, made a special presentation of the 2013 MacJannet First Place Prize to Dr. James Koh and Pam Zulfikar from the International Medical University in Malaysia.



Dr. James Koh and Pam Zulfikar, International Medical University, Malaysia, and Robert Hollister, Talloires Network Executive Director (from left to right), Boston, Massachusetts, December 2013.

On the final day, the group reviewed a set of abstracts for proposed research each pair will develop over the next year. Stay tuned for more information as this emerging community of practice takes shape in coming months!