

"Education for All – pipe dream or moral imperative?"

A Public Lecture by Prof. Seamus Hegarty on 24th May, 5-6:30 pm, in Room 1.04, 3 College Green, Dublin 2.

In 1948 the global community affirmed that everyone has the right to education. In 2000 the second Millennium Development Goal stated that by 2015 every child should be able to complete primary schooling. In point of fact, we missed the 2015 target, especially in respect of girls and children with disabilities.

The challenge has been re-set for 2030, with a higher bar: attendance at school, Yes, but also meaningful learning. What might that look like, and can it be measured on a global basis? TIMSS, PIRLS and PISA claim global measurement but do not cover low-income countries.

Seamus Hegarty will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, which have superseded the Millennium Development Goals. He will look at the steps being taken to achieve them, particularly in East Africa, and outstanding challenges. In particular, he will report on the challenges of measuring progress toward the Goals.

- How are we doing?
- Are the targets achievable?
- Does it matter?
- Where does disability fit in?

Seamus Hegarty is a member of the Learning Indicators Task Force of the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) which is tasked with resolving the technical measurement issues surrounding SDG 4.1. He is a member of the Learning Outcomes Advisory Board for the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) and leads the Breadth of Learning project for the Brookings Institute. He chaired the Working Standards Group within the Learning Metrics Task Force under the aegis of Brookings and UIS. He served as Chair of the International

Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) from 2005-2012 and Director of the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) from 1993-2005. He was a contributor to the 2011 WHO/World Bank World Report on Disability. He has been adviser on special needs issues to UNESCO since the 1980s and served as Principal Academic Adviser for the World Conference in Salamanca in 1994. He served on the National Council for Special Education from 2007-12.