



International<sup>®</sup>  
Baccalaureate

**IB community theme:**  
*sharing our humanity*

IB Asia –Pacific Conference  
5-8 October 2007, Singapore

# International Baccalaureate

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**The IB community -**

**a global community of**

- 2,075 schools
- 546,000 students
- in 125 countries
- 70,000 teachers plus parents, staff, examiners and other colleagues

**.... and growing**

# International Baccalaureate

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## A global community with **ONE MISSION**

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect...”

## IB community theme

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# A global community with ONE MISSION

In an effort to strengthen this large and growing community and the IB mission, which we share, the IB has initiated an exciting new project -

the **IB community theme**.

## IB community theme

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The intention is that the theme, lasting three years, will form a focus for the whole IB community – IB and IB World Schools.

# Aims

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- Demonstrate the commitment of the IB to its mission statement and the learner profile
- Demonstrate the extent of activities related to the mission in IB World Schools



## Aims / 2

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- Develop knowledge and understanding of global issues
- Encourage appropriate action on global issues



## Aims / 3

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- Support collaboration between IB World Schools and across programmes
- Strengthen the IB community



# IB learner profile

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“The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their **common humanity** and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.”



## IB community theme 2007 - 2010

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# *Sharing our humanity*

“High Noon” by J. F Rischard, 2002

## IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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- The fight against poverty
- Peace keeping, conflict prevention, combating terrorism
- Education for all
- Global infectious diseases
- Digital divide
- Natural disaster prevention and mitigation

“High Noon” by J. F. Rischard, 2002

## IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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### Global poverty

- Over 1 billion people live on less than \$1 a day.
- Nearly half the world's population (2.8 billion), live on less than \$2 a day.

UN HDR, 2003



# IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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## Conflict



- 29 continuing conflicts, the earliest dating back to 1964
- Poor countries 4 times as likely to have conflict as rich ones.

Oxfam

# IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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## Education for all

- 46% of girls in the world's poorest countries have no access to primary education.
- Universal primary education would cost \$10 billion a year - that's half what Americans spend on ice cream.



Action Aid

# IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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## Global infectious diseases

- Malaria causes more than 300 million acute illnesses and at least one million deaths annually.

Oxfam



# IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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## Digital divide

- Only 2% of children in Africa have touched a computer before they leave school.

Digital Links International



# IB community theme: *sharing our humanity*

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## Natural disaster mitigation

- Five-fold increase in disasters from 1975 to 2005
- 2.54 billion people affected by disasters in the decade from 1995 to 2005.
- Poor are especially vulnerable to the effects



Oxfam

## How?

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Encourage **IB World Schools** to share **current** work and activities that relate to *sharing our humanity*

**IB** will highlight and showcase **current** work and activities in schools that relate to *sharing our humanity*

## How?

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**IB will encourage and facilitate schools to explore and address the theme through:**

- Regular classroom teaching
- “Special projects”
- Community service

individually and/or collaboratively with other IB  
World Schools

## How?

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### **Schools can explore and address the theme**

- by adjusting the focus and slant of normal classroom work, not by adding to it
- and within the existing curriculum frameworks

# In the Primary Years Programme

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Within the transdisciplinary themes.

Examples:

- Global infectious diseases within “How the world works” – interaction between the natural world and human societies; impact of scientific advances on society
- Global poverty within “Sharing the planet”

# In the Middle Years Programme

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Within normal subjects and requirements

Examples:

- Selection of relevant literature in languages A and B
- Global infectious diseases within sciences and technology
- Selection of appropriate relevant material in statistics
- Selection of topic of personal project

## In the Diploma Programme

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Within normal subjects and ToK

Examples:

- Selection of relevant books within language programmes
- Studying aspects of global infectious diseases within the science group project
- Using statistical examples relating to ICT access, income levels, disease infection rates etc in Maths.
- Considering ethical aspects of global poverty within ToK

# Cross-programme coordination

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The community theme gives the possibility of coordinating between two or three programmes, engaging all students on a common topic, e.g. global poverty.

## “Special projects” / service

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Work beyond or different from regular classroom teaching e.g. research, action, service

- within schools
- between schools

IB provides opportunities for

- networking
- posting projects
- recognition

## How?

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# IB will reflect and address the theme in

- Presentations at IB conferences
- Publication of selected speeches
- Special features in IB World and on the website



## How?

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### **IB will encourage and facilitate the theme by**

- Development of a dedicated web platform
- Recognition of activities and projects



## How?

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### **On-line environment for students, teachers, parents and others:**

- Information and resources (from IB and school)
- Knowledge sharing and exchange
- Project collaboration
- “Wiki” environment moderated by IB
- Hosting global online conferences
- Linked to OCC and public website
- Publication of projects and reports of activities by schools
- Access through school “gatekeeper”

## Timeframe 2007 - 2010

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- **20 April 2007**  
Announcement at AGM
- **April – December 2007**  
Further planning and preparation;  
communication; promotion
- **January 2008**  
Launch of web platform
- **March 2010**  
Conclusion of *sharing our humanity* theme
- **April 2010**  
Announcement of second community theme

## ***Sharing our humanity:* objectives**

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- Enhanced student knowledge and understanding of global issues relating to the theme
- Practical actions in service and elsewhere, as appropriate
- Greater understanding within schools of how global issues can be addressed within IB programmes
- A showcase and archive of exemplary school projects and initiatives articulating IB values and student achievement

## ***Sharing our humanity:* objectives / 2**

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- A bank of resources and materials for future use
- A web platform for future themes
- Collaboration between IB programmes, IB schools, and between IB and non-IB students within IB World Schools
- A strengthened IB community

# IB community theme: sharing our humanity

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## Next steps for schools

- Finding out more about global issues
- Call for examples of relevant current activities within IB World Schools
- Call for individuals who can offer guidance and suggestions to schools on addressing the theme
- Suggestions / ideas for how IB can help schools

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# IB community theme: sharing our humanity

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## Next steps for IB

- Developing on-line environment
- Internal communication
- External communication
- Articulation of community theme and Schools-to-Schools projects
- Development of content for on-line environment
- Further consideration of theme implementation e.g. how do we involve / engage parents?