



# ISFTE NEWSLETTER

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# International Society for Teacher Education

Since 1981

BY SHERYL RUSHTON

## GREETINGS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Members:

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. It gives me great pleasure to update you on the recent developments within the International Society for Teacher Education (ISfTE) and express our heartfelt appreciation for the successful seminar held in Bhutan.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kezang Sherab and Kinley Dorjee for organizing and leading the seminar in Bhutan. It was a truly remarkable experience, filled with enriching activities and opportunities for growth. From hiking to Tiger's Nest (Paro Taktsang) and visiting schools to indulging in a Mindful Meal at the Buddhist school and exploring the captivating sights of Timphu, we had an unforgettable time. Moreover, our paper groups facilitated insightful discussions, allowing us to learn from one another's research. It was a truly memorable event that fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange.



ISFTE NEWSLETTER

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## ... GREETINGS (C'TINUED)

### **Mark your Calendars:**

I am pleased to announce that the next ISfTE seminar will be held at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, USA from April 29 to May 3, 2024. The conference theme, "Crossroads of Education and Technology," promises to be an engaging and forward-thinking exploration of the intersection between education and technological advancements. We are eagerly anticipating this event, as it will provide an exceptional platform for exchanging ideas, sharing research findings, and fostering collaborations that will shape the future of teacher education.

### **Call for conveners:**

ISfTE was created to enable international teacher educators from around the world the opportunity to gather together to explore important professional issues of common concern, go beyond formalities and begin to understand other while forging lasting friendships, and above all, feel professionally enriched. The ISfTE executive board would like to keep at least three years of seminars lined up to convene. We will convene in Utah, USA on 2024. There are two other universities working on completing the proposal process for 2025 and 2026. **Please consider submitting a proposal to host the joyous occasion in 2027.**

### **Business Matters:**

At the seminar in Bhutan we expressed our appreciation to Susan Tilley, Ugochukwu Agi, and Cornelia Brodahl for their invaluable contributions during their time on the executive board. Their dedication and commitment have greatly enhanced the work of ISfTE. I am delighted to welcome back Ugochukwu Agi as a returning member from Nigeria, new member Karoline Nilsen Kongshavn from Norway, and new member Kezang Sherab from Bhutan to the ISfTE executive board. Their expertise and passion for teacher education will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success of our organization.

Melina Alexander is keeping excellent track of the ISfTE finances. Leanna Taylor and her editorial board and reviewers are doing amazing things with the journal. Katarina Anderson-Pantic is keeping us up- to-date and informed with the website and other communication media. (Please see their reports below).

If you have any suggestions, comments, or concerns that the board should address, please feel free to contact any one of the members of the board so they can bring it to meetings.

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to advancing teacher education worldwide. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the profession and shape the future of education.

Warm regards,  
Sheryl

# REPORT ON THE BHUTAN 2023 ANNUAL SEMINAR

BY KEZANG SHERAB  
AND KINLEY DORJI  
(CONVENERS)



## Introduction

The Bhutan 2023 Annual ISfTE Seminar, which was held from 11-16 June 2023, was co-hosted by Paro College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan and the Academy of Himalayan Art and Child Development at the Paro College of Education campus. A total of 90 delegates from more than fifteen countries participated along with six accompanying persons. The theme of this year's seminar was - Transformative education post Covid-19 pandemic: From self-healing to social transformation. This was the second ISfTE seminar hosted in Bhutan, first being held in 2012.

## Participants

The table on the right shows a comparative glimpse of the number of delegates who participated in the Bhutan 2012 and Bhutan 2023 Annual ISfTE Seminars along with their accompanying persons.

Sl. No.	Country	Bhutan 2012		Bhutan 2023	
		Number of Delegate	Accompanying Person	Number of Delegate	Accompanying Person
1	Australia	24	2	1	0
2	Bhutan	35	0	35	0
3	Brazil	2	1	2	0
4	Canada	2	0	1	0
5	China	0	0	7	0
6	Denmark	6	1	3	0
7	Ecuador	1	0	0	0
8	Hong Kong	10	0	1	0
9	India	5	1	4	2
10	Japan	3	0	3	0
11	Malaysia	0	0	1	1
12	Nepal	1	0	0	0
13	New Zealand	1	1	0	0
14	Nigeria	2	0	0	0
15	Norway	3	0	6	0
16	Philippines	0	0	1	0
17	South Africa	5	3	0	0
18	Spain	2	0	1	0
19	Sweden	0	0	1	0
20	Switzerland	0	0	1	0
21	Taiwan	2	1	0	0
22	Thailand	1	0	0	0
23	United Kingdom	1	0	0	0
24	USA	24	12	22	3
25	Vietnam	2	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>6</b>

# REPORT ON THE BHUTAN 2023 ANNUAL SEMINAR

BY KEZANG SHERAB AND KINLEY DORJI  
(CONVENERS)

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## **Seminar Organization**

The seminar began with an opening ceremony on the first day, which was graced by the Honourable Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Bhutan and the Vice Chancellor of the Royal University of Bhutan. As a part of the opening ceremony, an International book on 'Happiness Education: Holistic learning for sustainable learning' edited by Gerald W. Fry and Haelim Chun was launched. The College students performed a variety of cultural programmes while the guests and the delegates enjoyed the welcome dinner.

The seminar had three interesting Keynote addresses by different speakers that included Professor Thakur S. Powdyel, former Minister of Education (To teach is to heal!), Dr Craig Elevitch from Hawaii, USA (Regenerative Education) and Aum Jamyang Dolma from Hawaii (How to awaken the power of nourishment!). One interesting feature of this year's ISfTE seminar was the inclusion of a total of four panel discussions: From Self-Healing to Social Transformation; Himalayan Art in Education/Mindful Art; Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity in Education; and Transformative Parenting Practice for Future Generations. Each panel had four to eight members who responded to a variety of questions asked by the moderators. Another unique feature was the hour-long workshop on 'Embodied sonic meditation' offered by Jiayue Cecilia Wu from the University of Colorado.

The delegates were divided into six thematic paper groups- STEM Education; Technology/Blended Learning; Wellbeing/Non Cognitive Skills; Teacher Education; Curriculum/Pedagogy; and Educational Leadership/Assessment/Inclusive Education in which the delegates shared their papers inviting constructive feedbacks. The paper groups were the highlight of the seminar and most delegates shared their satisfaction being a part of the paper group. Apart from the academic discourse, the delegates had opportunities to take a day's hike to Taktshang monastery (Tiger's nest) and visit a few schools and important places such as the National Museum of Bhutan in Paro, National Institute of Zorig Chusum, VAST Bhutan, Buddha Point, Craft Bazaar to experience the culture and tradition of Bhutan.

On the final day, the Annual General Meeting of the ISfTE was convened followed by sharing of the plans for ISfTE 2024 by the conveners from the Weber State University in USA and concluded with the interesting paper group presentations. The seminar was officially closed with a closing dinner where each delegate had an opportunity to participate in circle time-sharing. Most delegates wanted to sow a seed of gratitude, care, compassion, joy, empathy, honesty, volunteerism, etc. A cultural programme was performed by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts.

## **Feedback of the Seminar**

In general, the feedback on the conduct of the Bhutan 2023 Annual ISfTE Seminar was good except for few comments to improve on the future conduct of the seminar (detailed report on the feedback will be shared later).

## **Conclusion**

On the whole, the Bhutan 2023 Annual ISfTE Seminar was a great success. It was indeed an immense achievement for the Paro College of Education. Almost all the delegates expressed their satisfaction. We look forward hosting a similar one in the near future with better organizational skills and vigor.



# ISFTE 2024 - OGDEN, UTAH, USA

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BY SHIRLEY DAWSON AND MELINA ALEXANDER



The Annual Seminar will be held in **Utah**, USA from **29 April to 3 May, 2024**. Known as the Crossroads of the West for gathering and connection, Utah is also home to the “greatest snow on earth”, unique natural park scenery, the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, and the Great Salt Lake. The state symbol is the beehive for its hardworking people and productive past. USA is known for independence and welcoming of people around the world.

**Weber State University** is honored to welcome ISfTE again to its beautiful campus nestled next to the Rocky Mountains near the shores of the Great Salt Lake. WSU was established in 1889 and is nationally ranked. Approximately 30,000 students attend WSU. Teacher Education is in the top 10 degree programs at WSU. The university campus elevation is at 1437 meters or 4715 feet. Average temperatures during the seminar are comfortable to cool ranging between highs of 65°F (18° C) to 75° F (24° C ) to lows around 45°F (7° C) . Recognizing the value of the natural beauty surrounding the area and the emphasis Weber State University places on sustainability, the 2024 Seminar strives to be an environmental green experience. Meetings will be held in sustainable carbon neutral capable spaces, attendees will travel via public transportation during seminar events, and technology will be used to reduce paper waste.

Those attending the seminar will enjoy time with colleagues from around the world reading papers, having enlightening conversations, and hearing from keynote speakers. As in past seminars, the convening country will provide excursions to learn more about their country. These excursions are included in the price of the seminar. This year tentative planned excursions include visits to three different types of public schools (traditional elementary, innovative secondary, and digital university), three museums (historical, religious, and genealogical), local tours, and performances (choir and cultural). All meals are included and planned to be representative of the food in Utah’s past and present. In addition to the Seminar Program, attendees could have the option to add an extended tour at an additional cost to southern Utah Natural Parks (i.e. Zion) and Las Vegas, Nevada through an independent Utah Travel Company.

Please see <https://weber.edu/isfte> for more information regarding proposal submission, events, fees, and more. Applications to travel to the USA are delayed and backlogged. If you will need a VISA to attend the 2024 Seminar you are strongly encouraged to submit your abstract early.



## UPDATES FROM JISTE

### **Greetings from the Editor**

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our global team of dedicated volunteers, whose hard work drives the ongoing success of JISTE. A special thank you to our new Associate Editors, Jacqueline Beres (Canada) and Megan Hamilton (USA), for their dedication and contributions to this issue. Your expertise in APA and copy-editing, as well as thorough English language editing, has been instrumental in supporting our international authorship base. It has been a genuine pleasure working with both of you.

### **Seeking Blind Reviewers**

We are always looking for reviewers. Please invite colleagues and doctoral students who have expertise in different areas of education. This work is vital in ensuring the quality of our journal. Those interested may contact me directly.

### **Welcome New JISTE Editorial Board Members**

In addition to our Associate Editors, I would like to welcome Kinley Seden from Bhutan and Oupa Lebeloane from South Africa for a three-year term as Board members. The contributions of the Editorial Board are greatly appreciated and essential to the success of JISTE.

### **Recent Publications**

Volume 27 (1), was published in July 2023, featuring the theme Enhancing Educational Practices: Insights and Innovations. In December 2022, we published Volume 26 (2), which included papers from the ISfTE 2022 Seminar in Brazil, exploring Education During Fast Times: Sustainability, Virtuality, and Teaching Practices in a Post-COVID 19 Context.

### **Call for JISTE Paper Submissions**

The submission deadline for Vol. 27 (2) is August 15, 2023, with publication set for December 2023. The submissions deadline for Vol. 28 (1) is February 15, 2024 with publication set for July 2024. 28(1) will prioritize papers presented at the 2023 Annual Seminar in Bhutan under the theme "Transformative Education Post COVID-19 Pandemic: From Self-Healing to Social Transformation."

### **Coming Soon: Updated Author Guidelines**

I am excited to announce that we are currently revising our author guidelines for JISTE. Our goal is to provide a user-friendly guide, along with an up-to-date checklist, to help authors easily submit and edit their papers in accordance with APA 7. These new guidelines will ensure a seamless and standardized submissions process and enhance the overall quality of published articles. I look forward to sharing these updated guidelines with you soon!

Thank you for your continued support of JISTE.

BY **KATARINA PANTIC**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the website got migrated to a Bluehost server located in the US. Since the migration has been finalized, everything has been running smoothly and the costs have been reduced. Without any increases in prices, we expect the annual cost for privacy, domain, hosting, security and maintenance to be less than or close to 400 US dollars in the next few years, which is a meaningful decrease for our non-profit.

With the changes that we introduced last year, when we added both an Instagram and a LinkedIn account to our existing communication effort, our traffic has increased a bit. We posted 23 times on Facebook, 12 times on Instagram, sent 9 email announcements, six posts on LinkedIn and seven times on the website. Regular posting on Facebook during the seminar in Brazil alone increased our "views" four times. If you have any suggestions on how to improve communication, please let us know.

The newly integrated Google Analytics allowed us to add nuance to our understanding of website visitors. This is how we learned that we had 1814 unique users of the site in the past year, 164 of which were returning users (or regular). Most visitors (844) were from the US, followed by visitors from China, Norway, Bhutan, Canada, Australia, India, Philippines, Brazil and Hong Kong. We currently have 1013 followers on Facebook, 60 on Instagram, and 32 on LinkedIn.

Please help us spread the word about ISfTE. If you follow us on any of the social media or you are a member who received email updates, please make sure you share the content with your friends who might be interested in joining one of our future seminars.

ISfTE website: <https://isfte.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/isfte>

Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/isftecontact/>

LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/isfte-international-society-for-teacher-education/>

Email: [isftecontact@gmail.com](mailto:isftecontact@gmail.com)



**Katarina Pantic**  
**Communication Manager**

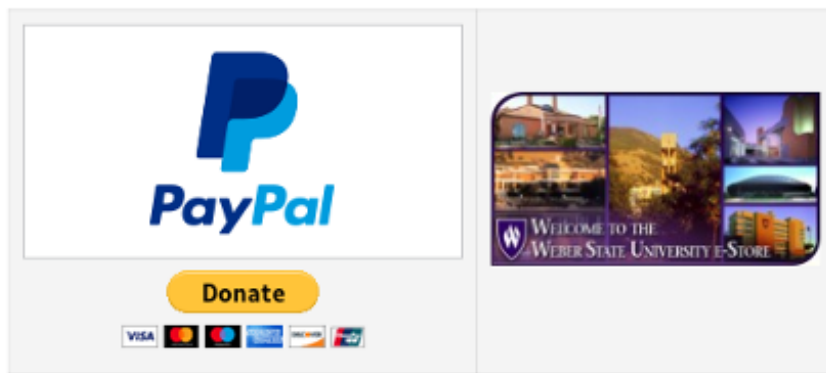
For you to vote in any upcoming elections or publish in JISTE, you will need to have your membership fees paid. If you attended the ISfTE 2023 Seminar in Paro, Bhutan, you are considered a current paid member of ISfTE. Membership fees were included with the 2023 registration. All other people need to submit their fees to maintain their membership.

1. Click on "Become A Member" in the left column or follow this link:

<https://isfte.org/index.php/become-a-current-member/>

There you will find 2 options for making a membership payment.

2. There are links of sample payments for both the PayPal option and the Weber State University E-Store option found in the middle of this webpage.



3. **Annual Membership in ISfTE is USD \$100.00.**

If you have any difficulty, please contact Melina Alexander (ISfTE Treasurer) at [melinaalexander@weber.edu](mailto:melinaalexander@weber.edu)