

Appendix F

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TIMSS was truly a collaborative effort among hundreds of individuals around the world. Staff from the national research centers, the international management, advisors, and funding agencies worked closely to design and implement the most ambitious study of international comparative achievement ever undertaken. TIMSS would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of all involved. Below, the individuals and organizations are acknowledged for their contributions. Given that implementing TIMSS has spanned more than seven years and involved so many people and organizations, this list may not pay heed to all who contributed throughout the life of the project. Any omission is inadvertent. TIMSS also acknowledges the students, teachers, and school principals who contributed their time and effort to the study. This report would not be possible without them.

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Since 1993, TIMSS has been directed by the International Study Center at Boston College in the United States. Prior to this, the study was coordinated by the International Coordinating Center at the University of British Columbia in Canada. Although the study was directed centrally by the International Study Center and its staff members implemented various parts of TIMSS, important activities also were carried out in centers around the world. The data were processed centrally by the IEA Data Processing Center in Hamburg, Germany. Statistics Canada was responsible for collecting and evaluating the sampling documentation from each country and for calculating the sampling weights. The Australian Council for Educational Research conducted the scaling of the achievement data.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER (1993-)

Albert E. Beaton, International Study Director
 Michael O. Martin, Deputy International Study Director
 Ina V.S. Mullis, Co-Deputy International Study Director
 Eugenio J. Gonzalez, Director of Operations and Data Analysis
 Dana L. Kelly, Research Associate
 Teresa A. Smith, Research Associate
 Maryellen Harmon, Performance Assessment Coordinator
 Robert Jin, Computer Programmer
 William J. Crowley, Fiscal Administrator
 Thomas M. Hoffmann, Art Director
 Debora Galanti, Art Director (former)
 Jonathan R. English, Systems Manager
 José Rafael Nieto, Senior Production Specialist
 Ann G.A. Tan, Conference Coordinator
 Mary C. Howard, Office Supervisor
 Cheryl L. Flaherty, Secretary

INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER (continued)

Diane Joyce, Secretary
 Leanne Teixeira, Secretary (former)
 Kelvin D. Gregory, Graduate Assistant
 Kathleen A. Haley, Graduate Assistant
 Craig D. Hoyle, Graduate Assistant

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER (1991-93)

David F. Robitaille, International Coordinator
 Robert A. Garden, Deputy International Coordinator
 Barry Anderson, Director of Operations
 Beverley Maxwell, Director of Data Management

STATISTICS CANADA

Pierre Foy, Senior Methodologist
 Suzelle Giroux, Senior Methodologist
 Jean Dumais, Senior Methodologist
 Nancy Darcovich, Senior Methodologist
 Marc Joncas, Senior Methodologist
 Laurie Reedman, Junior Methodologist
 Claudio Perez, Junior Methodologist

IEA DATA PROCESSING CENTER

Michael Bruneforth, Senior Researcher
 Jedidiah Harris, Research Assistant
 Dirk Hastedt, Senior Researcher
 Heiko Jungclaus, Senior Researcher
 Svenja Moeller, Research Assistant
 Knut Schwippert, Senior Researcher
 Jockel Wolff, Research Assistant

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Raymond J. Adams, Principal Research Fellow
 Margaret Wu, Research Fellow
 Nikolai Volodin, Research Fellow
 David Roberts, Research Officer
 Greg Macaskill, Research Officer

FUNDING AGENCIES

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATORS

The TIMSS National Research Coordinators and their staff had the enormous task of implementing the TIMSS design in their countries. This required obtaining funding for the project; participating in the development of the instruments and procedures; conducting field tests; participating in and conducting training sessions; translating the instruments and procedural manuals into the local language; selecting the sample of schools and students; working with the schools to arrange for the testing; arranging for data collection, coding, and data entry; preparing the data files for submission to the IEA Data Processing Center; contributing to the development of the international reports; and preparing national reports. The way in which the national centers operated and the resources that were available varied considerably across the TIMSS countries. In some countries, the tasks were conducted centrally, while in others, various components were subcontracted to other organizations. In some countries, resources were more than adequate, while in others, the national centers were operating with limited resources. Of course, across the life of the project, some NRCs have changed. This list attempts to include all past NRCs who served for a significant period of time as well as all the present NRCs. All of the TIMSS National Research Coordinators and their staff members are to be commended for their professionalism and their dedication in conducting all aspects of TIMSS.

Argentina

Carlos Mansilla
Universidad del Chaco
Av. Italia 350
3500 Resistencia
Chaco, Argentina

Australia

Jan Lokan
Raymond Adams *
Australian Council for Educational Research
19 Prospect Hill
Private Bag 55
Camberwell, Victoria 3124
Australia

* Past National Research Coordinator.

Austria

Guenter Haider
Austrian IEA Research Centre
Universität Salzburg
Akademiestraße 26/2
A-5020 Salzburg, Austria

Belgium (Flemish)

Christiane Brusselmans-Dehairs
Rijksuniversiteit Ghent
Vakgroep Onderwijskunde &
The Ministry of Education
Henri Dunantlaan 2
B-9000 Ghent, Belgium

Belgium (French)

Georges Henry
Christian Monseur
Université de Liège
B32 Sart-Tilman
4000 Liège 1, Belgium

Bulgaria

Kiril Bankov
Foundation for Research, Communication,
Education and Informatics
Tzarigradsko Shausse 125, Bl. 5
1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

Canada

Alan Taylor
Applied Research & Evaluation Services
University of British Columbia
2125 Main Mall
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z4
Canada

Colombia

Carlos Jairo Diaz
Universidad del Valle
Facultad de Ciencias
Multitaller de Materiales Didacticos
Ciudad Universitaria Meléndez
Apartado Aereo 25360
Cali, Colombia

Cyprus

Constantinos Papanastasiou
Department of Education
University of Cyprus
Kallipoleos 75
P.O. Box 537
Nicosia 133, Cyprus

Czech Republic

Jana Strakova
Vladislav Tomasek
Institute for Information on Education
Senovazne Nam. 26
111 21 Praha 1, Czech Republic

Denmark

Peter Weng
Peter Allerup
Borge Prien*
The Danish National Institute for
Educational Research
28 Hermodsgade
Dk-2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark

England

Wendy Keys
Derek Foxman*
National Foundation for
Educational Research
The Mere, Upton Park
Slough, Berkshire SL1 2DQ
England

France

Anne Servant
Ministère de l'Éducation
Nationale 142, rue du Bac
75007 Paris, France

Josette Le Coq*
Centre International d'Études
Pédagogiques (CIEP)
1 Avenue Léon Journault
93211 Sèvres, France

Germany

Rainer Lehmann
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institut fuer Allgemeine
Erziehungswissenschaft
Geschwister-Scholl-Str. 6
10099 Berlin, Germany

Juergen Baumert
Max-Planck Institute for Human
Development and Education
Lentzeallee 94
14191 Berlin, Germany

Manfred Lehrke
Universität Kiel
IPN Olshausen Str. 62
24098 Kiel, Germany

Greece

Georgia Kontongiannopoulou-Polydorides
Joseph Solomon
University of Athens
Department of Education
Ippokratous Str. 35
106 80 Athens, Greece

Hong Kong

Frederick Leung
Nancy Law
The University of Hong Kong
Department of Curriculum Studies
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Hungary

Péter Vari
National Institute of Public Education
Centre for Evaluation Studies
Dorottya U. 8, P.O. Box 120
1051 Budapest, Hungary

Iceland

Einar Gudmundsson
Institute for Educational Research
Department of Educational Testing
and Measurement
Surdgata 39
101 Reykjavik, Iceland

Indonesia

Jahja Umar
Ministry of Education and Culture
Examination Development Center
Jalan Gunung Sahari - 4
Jakarta 10000, Indonesia

Ireland

Deirdre Stuart
Michael Martin*
Educational Research Centre
St. Patrick's College
Drumcondra
Dublin 9, Ireland

Iran, Islamic Republic

Ali Reza Kiamanesh
Ministry of Education
Center for Educational Research
Iranshahr Shomali Avenue
Teheran 15875, Iran

Israel

Pinchas Tamir
The Hebrew University
Israel Science Teaching Center
Jerusalem 91904, Israel

Italy

Anna Maria Caputo
Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione
Centro Europeo dell'Educazione
Villa Falconieri
00044 Frascati, Italy

Japan

Masao Miyake
Eizo Nagasaki
National Institute for Educational Research
6-5-22 Shimomeguro
Meguro-Ku, Tokyo 153, Japan

Korea

Jingyu Kim
Hyung Im*
National Board of Educational Evaluation
Evaluation Research Division
Chungdam-2 Dong 15-1, Kangnam-Ku
Seoul 135-102, Korea

Kuwait

Mansour Hussein
Ministry of Education
P. O. Box 7
Safat 13001, Kuwait

Latvia

Andrejs Geske
University of Latvia
Faculty of Education & Psychology
Jurmālas Gatve 74/76, Rm. 204a
Riga, LV-1083, Latvia

Lithuania

Algirdas Zabulionis
University of Vilnius
Faculty of Mathematics
Naugarduko 24
2006 Vilnius, Lithuania

Mexico

Fernando Córdova Calderón
Director de Evaluación de Políticas y
Sistemas Educativos
Netzahualcoyotl #127 2do Piso
Colonia Centro
Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico

Netherlands

Wilmad Kuiper
 Anja Knuver
 Klaas Bos
 University of Twente
 Faculty of Educational Science
 and Technology
 Department of Curriculum
 P.O. Box 217
 7500 AE Enschede, Netherlands

New Zealand

Hans Wagemaker
 Steve May
 Ministry of Education
 Research Section
 45-47 Pipitea Street
 Wellington, New Zealand

Norway

Svein Lie
 University of Oslo
 SLS Postboks 1099
 Blindern 0316
 Oslo 3, Norway

 Gard Brekke
 Alf Andersensv 13
 3670 Notodden, Norway

Philippines

Milagros Ibe
 University of the Philippines
 Institute for Science and Mathematics
 Education Development
 Diliman, Quezon City
 Philippines

Ester Ogena
 Science Education Institute
 Department of Science and Technology
 Bicutan, Taguig
 Metro Manila 1604, Philippines

Portugal

Gertrudes Amaro
 Ministerio da Educacao
 Instituto de Inovação Educacional
 Rua Artilharia Um 105
 1070 Lisboa, Portugal

Romania

Gabriela Noveanu
 Institute for Educational Sciences
 Evaluation and Forecasting Division
 Str. Stirbei Voda 37
 70732-Bucharest, Romania

Russian Federation

Galina Kovalyova
 The Russian Academy of Education
 Institute of General Secondary School
 Ul. Pogodinskaya 8
 Moscow 119905, Russian Federation

Scotland

Brian Semple
 Scottish Office, Education &
 Industry Department
 Victoria Quay
 Edinburgh, E86 6QQ
 Scotland

Singapore

Chan Siew Eng
 Research and Evaluation Branch
 Block A Belvedere Building
 Ministry of Education
 Kay Siang Road
 Singapore 248922

Slovak Republic

Maria Berova
 Vladimir Burjan*
 SPU-National Institute for Education
 Pluhova 8
 P.O. Box 26
 830 00 Bratislava
 Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Marjan Setinc
 Pedagoski Institut Pri Univerzi v Ljubljana
 Gerbiceva 62, P.O. Box 76
 61111 Ljubljana, Slovenia

South Africa

Derek Gray
 Human Sciences Research Council
 134 Pretorius Street
 Private Bag X41
 Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Spain

José Antonio Lopez Varona
 Instituto Nacional de Calidad y Evaluación
 C/San Fernando del Jarama No. 14
 28071 Madrid, Spain

Sweden

Ingemar Wedman
 Anna Hofslagare
 Kjell Gisselberg*
 Umeå University
 Department of Educational Measurement
 S-901 87 Umeå, Sweden

Switzerland

Erich Ramseier
 Amt Für Bildungsforschung der
 Erziehungsdirektion des Kantons Bern
 Sulgeneck Straße 70
 Ch-3005 Bern, Switzerland

Thailand

Suwaporn Semheng
 Institute for the Promotion of Teaching
 Science and Technology
 924 Sukhumvit Road
 Bangkok 10110, Thailand

United States

William Schmidt
 Michigan State University
 Department of Educational Psychology
 463 Erikson Hall
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1034
 United States

TIMSS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The International Study Center was supported in its work by several advisory committees. The International Steering Committee provided guidance to the International Study Director on policy issues and general direction of the study. The TIMSS Technical Advisory Committee provided guidance on issues related to design, sampling, instrument construction, analysis, and reporting, ensuring that the TIMSS methodologies and procedures were technically sound. The Subject Matter Advisory Committee ensured that current thinking in mathematics and science education were addressed by TIMSS, and was instrumental in the development of the TIMSS tests. The Free-Response Item Coding Committee developed the coding rubrics for the free-response items. The Performance Assessment Committee worked with the Performance Assessment Coordinator to develop the TIMSS performance assessment. The Quality Assurance Committee helped to develop the quality assurance program.

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Tjeerd Plomp (Chair), The Netherlands
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 Daniel Levine, United States
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 William Schmidt, United States

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Trevor Williams, United States

SAMPLING REFEREE

Keith Rust, United States

SUBJECT AREA COORDINATORS

Robert Garden, New Zealand (Mathematics)
Graham Orpwood, Canada (Science)

SPECIAL MATHEMATICS CONSULTANT

Chancey Jones

SUBJECT MATTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Robert Garden, New Zealand
Geoffrey Howson, England
Curtis McKnight, United States
Graham Orpwood, Canada
Senta Raizen, United States
David Robitaille, Canada
Pinchas Tamir, Israel
Alan Taylor, Canada
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Theo Wubbels, The Netherlands

FREE-RESPONSE ITEM CODING COMMITTEE

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 Kjell Gisselberg, Sweden
 Galina Kovalyova, Russian Federation
 Nancy Law, Hong Kong
 Josette Le Coq, France
 Jan Lokan, Australia
 Curtis McKnight, United States
 Graham Orpwood, Canada
 Senta Raizen, United States
 Alan Taylor, Canada
 Peter Weng, Denmark
 Algirdas Zabulionis, Lithuania

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 Svein Lie, Norway
 Jan Lokan, Australia
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