

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Frank Reginal John Banks, Emeritus Professor

Frank Banks is Emeritus Professor of Teacher Education and former Director for 'International Development in Teacher Education' at The Open University UK. He was responsible for a number of global teacher professional development projects such as the nine-year £15 million (\$18.5 million) UK funded 'English in Action' project in Bangladesh to improve the English competence of 25 million people; the £6 million (\$7.4 million) Teacher Education Sub Saharan Africa (TESSA) programme that won the Queen's Award for Higher Education 2010; and the three year £10 million (\$12.3 million) UK government funded TESS-India Open Educational Resources (OER) for Teachers in India project. He led the academic team for the current Open University's OER initiative OpenLearn (www.open.ac.uk/openlearn).



Professor Banks was also director for the innovative distance and open-learning initial teacher education course at The Open University. This novel approach to initial teacher education won the Queen's Award for Higher Education in 1995 and was judged to be of 'outstanding' quality by Her Majesty's Inspectors in England and in Northern Ireland.

His research interests are the Professional Development of Teachers and the links between School Science and School Technology. He is the convenor of 'DEPTH' technology teacher international education research group which has produced a set of linked international studies of Developing Professional Thinking for Technology Teachers (DEPTH). A second edition of his jointly authored book 'Teaching STEM in the Secondary School' is in press.

Before joining the Open University, Frank worked as a school teacher of science, engineering and technology in different secondary comprehensive schools, and as an elementary primary school advisory teacher. He has authored or edited 15 books/handbooks for teachers and over 100 academic papers; and acted as a consultant in the professional development of teachers to Egyptian, South African and Argentinean government agencies, UNESCO and the World Bank.

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