



SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts
on the Application of the Recommendations
concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART):
Interim report on allegations submitted by
teachers' organizations**

1. The Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART) was established by parallel decisions of the Governing Body and the Executive Board of UNESCO in 1967. Its mandate is to monitor and promote application of the international Recommendations on teachers of 1966 and 1997.¹ As part of its mandate,² the CEART examines communications in the form of allegations from international and national teachers' organizations that provisions of one or both standards are not being applied in member States. It meets every three years in either Paris or Geneva for its work, including consideration of such cases. Its procedures also allow for the preparation of interim reports on cases between the regular meetings so as to ensure a more timely response in the treatment of allegations and their resolution in support of constituents in member States.
2. The interim report³ before the Committee contains the CEART's examination of cases from Australia, Ethiopia and Japan since the last review of these allegations at the Ninth Session of the CEART, held at the ILO in Geneva, from 30 October to 3 November 2006. The Committee examined the report of the Ninth Session at the Governing Body's 298th Session (March 2007)⁴ and, on the Committee's recommendation, the Governing Body took note of the report and authorized its transmission to the 96th Session (May–June 2007) of the International Labour Conference for examination in the first place by the Committee on the Application of Standards. The Conference approved the report of the Committee, which commented on and noted the report of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts.⁵

¹ The ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, 1966 and the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel, 1997.

² GB.276/LILS/9, appendix and GB.276/10/2, para. 47.

³ CEART/INT/2008/1.

⁴ GB.298/LILS/8 and GB.298/9(Rev.).

⁵ ILO: *Provisional Record* No. 22, Part One, International Labour Conference, 96th Session, Geneva, 2007.

3. The interim report examines further information and developments in the three cases currently under consideration by the CEART. Concerning Australia, further information from the Government and the National Tertiary Education Union received after the CEART's Ninth Session has been examined, and findings and recommendations made to both the Government and the teachers' union to help bring national legislation and practice in the tertiary education sector into better conformity with the 1997 Recommendation's provisions. In the case of Ethiopia, Education International, on behalf of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, has supplied limited information at the request of the CEART since its last session, whereas the Government has not replied to the invitation. Accordingly, the CEART recommends suspending further consideration pending more information on the issues first considered by the CEART in 1994.
4. Regarding Japan, the interim report is based largely on the report of the CEART fact-finding mission to Japan in April 2008. This mission, the first of its kind in the history of the CEART, was undertaken in accordance with its mandate and procedures, and at the parallel invitation of the Government of Japan and teachers' organizations, including the All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (ZENKYO) that initially requested the CEART examination of the issues in 2002. The purpose of the mission was to gain a greater understanding of the situation and context of education in Japan as it affects the main issues – teacher assessment and disciplinary systems, merit assessment and compensation, and relevant social dialogue practices – through meetings with government education and labour authorities, as well as teachers' organizations, both at national and prefecture level, national employers' and workers' organizations, representatives of parents, and independent education and labour experts. The mission has commended the Government, teachers', employers' and workers' organizations, and other stakeholders in Japan for their excellent cooperation and willingness to engage in dialogue in the course of this precedent-setting mission, resulting in a greater understanding of the key issues as the basis for the findings and recommendations presented in the interim report.
5. The attached interim report is submitted to the Governing Body for consideration. The report will also be submitted to the Executive Board of UNESCO.
6. ***The Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:***
 - (a) ***take note of the interim report of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel relating to allegations on the non-observance of certain provisions of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, 1966, in Ethiopia and Japan, and the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel, 1997, in Australia;***
 - (b) ***authorize the Director-General to communicate the report to the Governments of Australia, Ethiopia and Japan and to the National Tertiary Education Union of Australia, the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, Education International and teachers' organizations in Japan that participated in meetings with the CEART fact-finding mission in April 2008, and to invite them to take the necessary follow-up action as recommended in the report.***

Geneva, 2 October 2008.

Point for decision: Paragraph 6.