It’s been a year since we became known as the ‘Education Reform and Innovation’ Team (ERI). We hope the inception of this regular newsletter will keep you informed of our various projects and the discussions we are having.

In December we said goodbye to Chloe Gayer-Anderson who had been with the team for five years and since the inception of the Kazakhstan Project in 2012. She will be sadly missed. In addition, we welcome Lynn Phillips who has previously worked at ARM and the Judge Business School Executive Education.

**SPOTLIGHT CHINA**

ERI colleagues toured a week in China in January 2018 where scoping research took place of Kindergartens with the guidance of Peking University. Highlights included meeting the delegation that visited the Faculty in November 2017, visiting Beijing, four other cities and kindergartens.

In November 2017 we received Early Years Professionals to conduct workshops as part of the scoping work. The exchange of knowledge in both scoping visits contributes towards developing an Early Years training programme through Peking University and the development of national infrastructure and standards.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

**NUGSE PARTNERSHIP**

This year the team anticipates visiting Kazakhstan for the Nazarbayev University Graduate School (NUGSE) Partners Meeting that will take place in the capital city, Astana in April and October 2018.

**SYRIA**

Team members and Faculty staff have recently submitted the first report ‘Higher Education in Syria Pre-2011’ for the Syria Project in collaboration with the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) with the second report due by March on ‘Higher Education in Syria Post-2011’.

**NIS SUPER INTERNSHIP**

ERI are expecting another cohort of 24 Nazarbayev Intellectual School (NIS) teachers to complete a two week internship at SUPER schools in November 2018.

**OMAN**

Members of the team are soon embarking on Phase Two of monitoring and evaluation of mathematics and science textbooks in Oman in collaboration with Cambridge University Press.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

ERI is likely to be welcoming an intake of scholars from Atyrau, Kazakhstan for a three month programme in October 2018.

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ERI plans to contribute towards building an educational programme with The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (MBRF) and establish structures for Dubai to help with developmental challenges in Arabic literacy through research in Jordan, Lebanon and a comparative country.

Members of the team and Faculty staff are conducting a scoping visit to Lahore in Spring 2018.

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During February and March 2018, we welcome Dr. Bo Qin and Dr. Kufeng Pan, two visiting scholars from Renmin University of China and Peking University. They are researching poverty in rural China and its impact on education.

We also welcome Hanne Jensen from the Lego Foundation who will be visiting once a week for the coming year.

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