

CPD activity

Mutual learning for sustainability: The Gambia and the UK

“Our clever minds are thinking the same”

The following comes from a discussion paper on mutual learning which arises from a Tide~ project involving joint work between teachers in the UK and The Gambia from 2000 to 2002. We offer it as a framework to help think about mutual learning issues. The paper has been used as a stimulus for study visit groups, and is based on three key questions:

- *What are we giving?*
- *What are we getting?*
- *How can we work in an equal and open way?*

Mutual learning involves a balance of skills and dispositions.

This framework offers some hallmarks of such a balance. We suggest that you use it in preparation for a study visit, or in developing a partnership, to help stimulate discussion about some of the issues. Working in pairs or small groups, participants think about how they see the balance.

- ▶ Where is the right balance?
- ▶ Where are you on each line?
- ▶ Where issue is most important for you?
- ▶ What are the implications for your visit or partnership?

Trustfulness	←————→	Trustworthiness
Formality	←————→	Informality
Assertive diplomacy	←————→	Responsiveness and adaptability
Professionalism	←————→	Humour / “being yourself”
Open-ness	←————→	Clarity of focus
Cultural sensitivity and respectfulness	←————→	Sense of own strengths
Open-ness to possibilities	←————→	Realistic expectations