

Annual Review 2017

Dear PRME Colleagues!

The last year was a successful and eventful one, not only for the UK & Ireland (UKI) PRME Regional Chapter, with its 70 members, but for the PRME community as a whole, whose number is climbing steadily towards the 700 mark, active in 83 countries worldwide.

Celebrating 10 Years of PRME: In July 2017, PRME colleagues from around the world came together in New York to reflect on the first decade of our work, and to imagine what we can do, individually and collectively, in the period to 2030. At the meeting, business and management-related higher education institutions made a formal declaration to become sources of thought leadership, knowledge, and innovation to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The move was announced as part of the Outcomes Declaration of the 2017 Global Forum for Responsible Management Education—10 Years of PRME, a document adopted by acclamation from nearly 300 deans, faculty, and thought leaders in attendance during the event. It was later handed to United Nations officials during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The UKI PRME Regional Chapter was well represented at the Global Forum, with over 20 delegates, including Deans and one University Principal who participated in a high-level meeting with members of the PRME Steering Committee. One of now 15 Regional Chapters around the world, we can be proud of the UKI Chapter, which is regarded as one of the most developed, with over 60% of all business schools committed to the Principles, and with it, to integrating ethics, responsibility, sustainability and the UN sustainable development goals, as far as practicable, in to our curricula, research, partnership working, and organizational practices. The PRME Secretariat in New York is keen to use the knowledge and experience of the UKI Chapter and its members, to support development of other Chapters around the world, and knowledge exchange amongst Chapters – so much so that at the Global Forum in July, the Secretariat announced the appointment of Professor Carole Parkes, former Chair, as a Special Advisor to the UN for PRME Chapters. Carole has now stepped down as Chair of the UKI Regional Chapter but will remain on the Steering Committee.

The UKI PRME Regional Chapter continues to support members in all parts of the UK and Ireland through the provision of resources, networking opportunities, and peer support necessary to implement the 6 Principles for responsible management education (PRME). We do this through our supportive community of practice, which is dedicated to design, implement and share PRME research, external engagement and pedagogic initiatives for the benefit of faculty members, students and institutional managers.

The highlight of the Chapter's year is the annual conference, hosted by Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University, on June 26-27th 2017. To mark PRME's 10th Anniversary year, the theme of our 4th conference was: "*Envisioning the Future of Responsible Management Education in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals*".

The conference attracted some 70 delegates, amongst whom were participants from South Africa, Malaysia, and Canada, and 18 students from UK business schools - the highest number of students to date at our annual conference. Presentations and workshops from the academic community were complemented by inspirational presentations from Northumbria University Enactus students, a panel discussion with corporate members of Business in the Community, and a Keynote case study from a Senior Innovation Partner of 'Interface', which is a shining example of corporate commitment to integrate sustainability in to strategy and operations. In addition to sharing their work and ideas in workshop sessions and paper presentations, delegates had opportunities to network with advocates of responsible citizenship, management and leadership from universities and institutions across the UK and Ireland and beyond. **The Chapter's 5th Annual Conference will be held on June 25-27th 2018**, hosted by Queen Mary, University of London with a UN-inspired theme of inclusivity and "Leaving No-one Behind". For more details, please visit the [Conference website](#).

National and global PRME networks offer Chapter members numerous opportunities for collaboration, both locally and internationally, on pedagogy, student engagement, research and external engagement. Members of the Steering Committee are happy to support colleagues in developing their work in any of these areas. Chapter members are encouraged to consider adoption of one or more of the following global initiatives:

Pedagogy: [The Sustainability Literacy Test](#) (Sulitest), endorsed by the UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) offers academics a simple way to encourage students to acquire a minimum level of knowledge related to economic, social and environmental sustainability, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a UK regional module. In 2017, the Sulitest introduced the 'Suli-Quiz' – a short and engaging way to engage participants with the questions, a new online module co-designed with Henri Mintzberg, based on his 2015 book entitled "Rebalancing Society". Some 80,000 students worldwide have taken the test to date. For further details contact the [Chapter Chair](#).

Student Engagement: In order to celebrate student engagement with the PRME agenda, 2017 saw us launch the 1st UKI [PRME Writing Competition](#), open to under and postgraduate students, as well as those leaving school. In its inaugural year, we had a healthy number of entries, and some work of the highest quality. Details of 2017 winners and their work can be found [here](#) – in addition to the honour of winning an accolade for their work, students receive a cash prize and an invitation to attend the Chapter's annual conference. The deadline for faculty and students to submit work for the 2018 competition is [February 28th 2018](#).

Research: [PRME Working Groups](#) offer researchers opportunities to develop collaborative work on inter-disciplinary topics such as [gender equality](#), [poverty – a challenge for management education](#), [climate change and environment](#), and [business and human rights](#). In 2017, Carole Parkes edited a 10th Anniversary PRME Special Issue of the International Journal of Management Education (IJME) that was launched at the Global Forum with several contributions from UKI Chapter members. The special issue is a reflection on past 10 years and looks forward to the era of SDGs and includes 26 articles and 2 book reviews from almost 60 authors across the global PRME community.

This issue has been extremely well received and has led to the IJME including Responsible Management Education in its scope and PRME and the SDGs in its classifications. This offers members a rich source of ideas for deeper engagement with the Principles, and further opportunities for publication. To support research in responsible management education, the Chapter is planning to provide small seed funding grants for PRME related collaborative research projects and for the development of a PhD group. Details on both initiatives to follow.

External Engagement: In 2017, the UKI Chapter worked in partnership with the [Global Compact UK Network](#) to deliver a series of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshops in the form of a '[SDG Roadshow](#)'. The aim of the Roadshow was to raise awareness of the SDGs and motivate business, academic, government, and third sector communities around the UK to contribute to achieving them. This was achieved, as the Roadshow attracted over 350 participants. Following success of the first 11 events in May-June 2017, further events are planned for 2018. Chapter members should contact the [Chapter Chair](#) if they would like to get support to host an event.

Collaborations & Partnerships: The UKI Chapter is keen to collaborate with other organisations in this space and the following are examples of such collaborations. In 2017, the **UKI PRME Chapter** and **UK Global Compact Network (UKGCN)** strengthened their ties through representation on their respective Steering and Advisory Groups. This makes sense, given that PRME is a UN Global Compact initiative. It is hoped that this arrangement may serve to strengthen UKGCN corporate connections with Chapter members. There are currently 70 members in the PRME UKI Chapter, seven of which are members of the Global Compact UK Network. In addition to this, a number of UK and Ireland Universities are UN Global Compact signatories on a global level (there is no fee to join as a non-business participant), that are not members of GCN-UK. If you would like to learn more about the potential benefits of membership of the UKGCN, please contact the [Executive Director](#).

EAUC (Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges): The UKI Chapter works with the EAUC in being a member of the Green Gown Awards Steering Committee and participating in the judging panels as well as working together on the Sustainability Literacy Test regional group. In 2017, the UKI PRME Chapter also connected with the EAUC led [Sustainability Exchange](#) – a valuable resource-sharing platform for PRME signatories.

BAM (British Academy of Management) In September 2017, Carole Parkes and Alex Hope ran a PRME workshop at the Warwick BAM conference in collaboration with the BAM Sustainable and Responsible Business Special Interest Group (SRB SIG). This was well received and there are plans to hold a joint event on 'Educating for Responsible Business and Management in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals' on 4th May 2018 – further details to follow.

NUS (National Union of Students) The Chapter also works collaboratively with the NUS on the Sustainability Literacy Test and NUS initiatives such as "Responsible Futures" and 'Green Impact'.

CABS (Chartered Association of Business Schools). Steering committee members of the PRME UKI Chapter regularly speak at CABS events and are represented on the Teaching and Learning Committee.

UKI Local Events: The Chapter is very happy to support and promote PRME-focussed events and activities around the UK and Ireland, so please do get in touch if you have any plans to organise something in your school or locality, or would like to '*go national*' with something you are already doing. This is what Oxford Brookes University did with the PRME Writing Competition, which was initially seen as a local initiative, but the UKI Chapter co-sponsored and supported to take it national. The same is the case for the SDG Roadshow, the concept for which was developed by Glasgow School for Business and Society, GCU, before being rolled out with the support of the Chapter to eleven cities throughout the UK. Another example is a UKI PRME Chapter [Faculty Development Workshop](#) on post-growth economics, developed by members of the steering committee, which was held in Oxford on January 26th 2018 in collaboration with the Green House Think Tank and the Schumacher Institute.

To facilitate and support small PRME events in different areas of the UK and Ireland, the Steering Committee is developing a **UK-wide regional system of support**, whereby Chapter members in different areas of the UK and Ireland are encouraged to discuss any proposals they may have to organise a PRME event in their Institution, with a local representative of the Steering Committee. As we develop this support system further, we envisage provision of an increasing number of regional networking and faculty development events, supported by the Chapter. For contact details of your PRME Chapter Support Person please contact [Tessa Valentine](#) in the Chapter Secretariat.

Member promotion: Speaking to members it is clear that there is a lot of great PRME-agenda work going on in member Schools, but not everyone knows about it. In order to enhance mutual awareness of what is happening in all Chapter institutions, we will be featuring a profile of Chapter member Institutions on our [website](#). We are hoping that these profiles will foster even greater learning amongst Chapter members, promote the great PRME-related teaching, research and external engagement that is going in your School, and open up networking and opportunities for collaboration.

All in all, 2017 was a eventful year for the Chapter, and we look forward to working with Chapter members throughout the UK and Ireland to make 2018 even better!

If you have any questions about any of the above, have a proposal for an event, or if you would like a member of the Steering Committee to come and speak to you about your engagement in the Chapter, please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#). We very much look forward to your continued engagement with, and support for, the UK and Ireland PRME Regional Chapter!

On behalf of the UK & Ireland PRME Chapter Steering Committee:

Alec Wersun, Glasgow Caledonian University (Chair)

Alex Hope, University of Northumbria (Vice-Chair)

Jonathan Louw, Oxford Brookes University (Acting Secretary)

Christine Gilligan, Sheffield Hallam University (Acting Treasurer)