



Skills for Learning Professionals

8 December 2009

UK RISKS LOSING ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE

- **Lifelong Learning UK Annual Conference, London, Tuesday 8 December**

UK attitudes to learning throughout life are outdated. We no longer live in a job-for-life culture, but in the UK we have yet to embrace the opportunities created by lifelong learning, which means our labour market is less highly-skilled and flexible than it should be. If the UK is to recover successfully from recession and regain its international competitiveness, we must address the skills and training of our workforce – and that includes those who deliver the skills and training.

Education charity Lifelong Learning UK today holds its annual conference in London, where keynote speakers Will Hutton, Executive Vice Chair of The Work Foundation, Stephen Uden, Head of Skills and Economic Affairs at Microsoft and Lifelong Learning UK chair Sir David Melville, will speak about how the UK can tackle unemployment, boost productivity and engage communities through the creation of a lifelong learning culture.

This conference is the only event which brings together leaders, decision makers and practitioners from across the UK to debate why the lifelong learning workforce has such a significant role to play in preventing a whole generation being left behind in the skills race. The Lifelong Learning annual conference 2009 is *the* place to set the skills agenda for the future.

The conference chair is Lesley Riddoch, journalist and broadcaster, and Chief Executive of Feisty Productions, and speakers include:

- Will Hutton, Executive Vice Chair, The Work Foundation
- Sir David Melville, Chair, Lifelong Learning UK
- Stephen Uden, Head of Skills and Economic Affairs, Microsoft Ltd.
- Fiona Blacke, Chief Executive, National Youth Agency
- Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive, The British Library

– ENDS –



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Notes to editors:

About Lifelong Learning UK

- Lifelong Learning UK is one of 25 Sector Skills Councils that make up the Skills for Business Network and is a member of the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils
- Lifelong Learning UK aims to encourage teachers, trainers, librarians and other staff in post-compulsory education to gain new skills and qualifications so that they offer a better service to young people, adult learners, employers and the wider community
- Lifelong Learning UK also promotes lifelong learning as a career so that employers in the sector have less difficulty recruiting and retaining staff
- In addition to developing sector-wide occupational standards and qualifications frameworks, Lifelong Learning UK also produces labour market intelligence so that lifelong learning employers can identify skills gaps and shortages among their own workforce.
- For more information, visit <http://www.lluk.org/>