The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) is pleased to announce Mr Dirk Hastedt is the new Executive Director of IEA, effective 1 April 2014. Mr Hastedt was previously Co-Director of the IEA Data Processing and Research Center (DPC) based in Hamburg, Germany, since 2001, spearheading the center’s international field of work.

“For over 20 years, I’ve been involved in the field of large-scale educational assessment,” Mr Hastedt shares. “I’ve witnessed remarkable growth in the activities of the IEA DPC since the days of the IEA Reading Literacy Study. I am honored and thrilled at the prospect of leading the IEA—an organization which, through its international comparative studies, has influenced the provision of education in so many countries around the world.”

Mr Hastedt succeeds Dr Hans Wagemaker, who served for 17 years as IEA Executive Director. Last year Dr Wagemaker was awarded Honorary Membership by the IEA General Assembly in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the association. “Hans’ legacy of leadership, particularly his commitment and initiatives in the area of training and capacity building, deserves gratitude from our entire IEA community,” Mr Hastedt states.

Looking forward, Mr Hastedt says that the association is well positioned to meet future challenges. “The IEA draws on the strength of a global network of researchers, policy analysts, and technical experts in the field of large-scale educational research. This network of expertise ensures that IEA studies always follow high standards of quality and innovation, and allows us to continue to improve the ways in which assessment outcomes impact education policy development and reform.”

Mr Hastedt also praised the dedication and engagement of IEA’s leadership team, which includes Ms Anne-Berit Kavli, IEA Chair since 2013 and Head of the Department for Research and International Affairs at the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. “IEA studies are unique in representing the policy, research, and educational interests of a very diverse group of countries,” says Ms Kavli. “Dirk’s close involvement with a number of international assessments over the years will provide a valuable perspective in his new role.”

Mr Heiko Sibberns, previously Co-Director of the IEA DPC, assumes sole Directorship of the center as of 1 April 2014. “This is an exciting period to lead the IEA DPC,” says Mr Sibberns. “I look forward to working with Dirk and colleagues to build on our initiatives that support IEA projects and countries. Computer-based assessment is one example of the ways in which we are continuing to enrich our
assessment program to provide the most relevant and accurate information on what and how students learn.”

At the beginning of 2014, Dr Paulína Koršňáková took up the position of Director of the IEA Secretariat in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, following the retirement of Dr Barbara Malak-Minkiewicz. Dr Koršňáková’s previous positions include Senior Professional Researcher at the IEA Secretariat and national research coordinator for IEA studies in the Slovak Republic. Dr Malak-Minkiewicz received Honorary Membership in 2013 for her work in supporting the association’s membership and studies. “Among Barbara’s many accomplishments, the systematized translation verification procedures now employed in all IEA studies are due in large part to her efforts,” explains Dr Koršňáková. “And we are fortunate to have her continue working with IEA as a member of the advisory committee of our International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS).”

Mr Roel Burgers joined the IEA Secretariat in October 2013, replacing Mr Jur Hartenberg as IEA Financial Manager at the beginning of this year. Mr Hartenberg was formally recognized by the General Assembly for his dedication and longstanding service to the association with an award of Honorary Membership. Speaking of his new position, Mr Burgers says, “It’s a great opportunity and challenge to continue Jur’s work in what is a truly international environment, and to advance our collective mission as a non-profit organization.”

About IEA

The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) is an independent, international cooperative of national research institutions and governmental research agencies. Since its inception in 1958, IEA has conducted more than 30 large-scale comparative studies in countries around the world. By reporting on educational policies, practices, and learning outcomes on a wide range of topics and subject matters, IEA studies have provided an important resource for monitoring educational quality and progress within individual countries and across a broad international context. For more information, see www.iea.nl and www.iea-dpc.de.