

IN PROFILE: DR. W. DUFFIE VANBALKON

Dr. Duffie VanBalkom

Wellcome to our new Associate VP (International)!

Duffie VanBalkom is a man who loves his work—and his enthusiasm shows in his many accomplishments. His areas of expertise are education management (including institutional development and international project management) and inter-cultural human resources development. His broad experiences in academia and business consulting will give him a head start in his new position as the U of C's Associate Vice-president (International) and Executive Director of the International Centre.

An accomplished scholar, Dr. Van Balkom has a Ph.D. in Comparative Education from McGill University, a B.A. (Sociology) from Concordia University, and an Associate Degree (Applied Technology) from Philips JNO in The Netherlands. He has also earned a Certificate in Management Development from Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Since 1991, Dr. VanBalkom has been a professor of education at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec. He has also worked as lecturer at Concordia University, McGill, and the College of Education in Minna, Nigeria. In addition to teaching responsibilities, Dr. VanBalkom has always been involved on local and international committees and boards related to education, including the Senate of Bishop's University, the Technology and Social Health Foundation (Mumbai, India), the Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Education (Quebec), and the Quebec Science-Education Alliance. He is also a founding member and executive director of the Quebec Learning Consortium.

During a recent sabbatical, Dr. VanBalkom divided his time between the Harvard University Graduate School of Education where he was a visiting scholar, as well as fulfilling the responsibilities of the Golden Jubilee Chair in Social Sciences at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India, and acting as the Provincial Coordinator of the CIDA-supported South Africa Education Management Program at McGill University—a role in which he continues today. The program involves 3,000 schools and 1 million pupils.

Since 1985, Dr. VanBalkom has regularly provided consultations all over the world, mainly in the areas of cross-cultural adaptation and communications, with a focus on maximizing overseas effectiveness for Canadian professionals and technical experts. He has worked independently, as well as through CIDA. His clients have included several Canadian universities, and such organizations as Acres International, the Aga Khan Foundation, Coopers and Lybrand, Lavalin Engineering, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (New York), and many others.

It is plain that Dr. VanBalkom has a great deal to offer in his new role, and the University of Calgary, the International Centre, and the community at large look forward to a long association with him.