



PROJECT UPDATE, August 2009

in this update

News from Melbourne

Working Group Update

'White Paper' Meeting

Project Representation

NEWS FROM MELBOURNE

What are 21st century skills? Are they different from skills that were relevant in the 20th, 19th or even earlier centuries? This project does not seek to enforce such an arbitrary and unhelpful distinction. Communication skills and the capacity to work effectively with others are relevant in the current century but were obviously important earlier as well. ICT competence or digital literacy is an important newer skill but one that emerged before the beginning of the 21st century.

In this project, current relevance not novelty is the key criterion for attention being given to a skill. The 21st century context, particularly the technology rich environments in which most people in developed economies live, work and play, shape the way in which skills are analysed.

The initial focus is on operational definition of the skills, then on their measurement in an electronic environment. The new approaches to measurement that will emerge will be relevant for large scale and local application but careful attention will be given to classroom environments to ensure that local realities and possibilities have a strong influence on the whole approach.

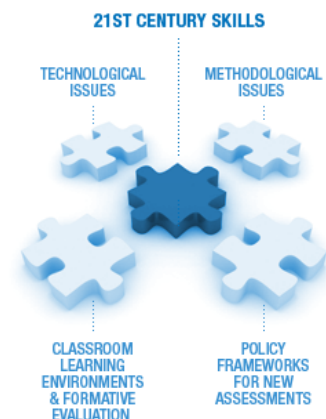
The ultimate goal of the project is to transform educational practice by first transforming educational assessment. The underlying logic is that the development of particular skills will be taken more seriously as an educational goal if the skills can be well defined and effectively measured.

Barry McGaw
Executive Director

WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Each Working Group has a leader and a small core team engaged by the project and a considerable number of other researchers whose expertise and experience fit the working group's current program.

The project office at the University of Melbourne is receiving a steady flow of completed 'Get Involved' forms (available at www.atc21s.org) from a wide range of individuals and organisations. In an effort to maximise working group effectiveness and progress, working group membership is limited. To offer a level of involvement for those who are not members of working groups, a new category of involvement has recently been added that can be requested via the response "Register me for Project Updates" on the 'Get Involved' form.



'WHITE PAPER' MEETING FOR WORKING GROUP LEADERS

The Working Group leaders will meet in San Francisco on 17-18 October 2009 to review and discuss advanced drafts of the White Papers and to consider the details of the proposed research and development agenda for 2010 and 2011.

This meeting will be followed by a meeting on Monday 19 October of the project Executive Board. This will be the second meeting of the Executive Board. The Board includes a Vice-President from each of the companies sponsoring the project – Cisco, Intel and Microsoft – a delegate from each of the Founder Countries, Australia, Finland, Portugal, Singapore and the UK, and the Executive Director.



PROJECT REPRESENTATION

Since our First Annual Spring Conference in San Diego in April this year, the Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills project has been represented at numerous international conferences and meetings. These include:

European Commission's Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) International Research Workshop, April 09

Assessing the effects of ICT in education – indicators, criteria and benchmarks for international comparisons.

European Commission Joint Research Center, Ispra, Italy.

Project representation

Bob Kozma, Kozmalone Consulting, *The need to assess 21st century skills: The rationale for the Cisco-Intel-Microsoft 21st Century Skills Assessment Project.*

EduSummit, International Summit on ICT in Education, June 09

Den Haag, Netherlands. [<http://edusummit.nl/>]

Project representation

Bob Kozma, Kozmalone Consulting.

An invited conference on ICT and education policy, sponsored by Kennisnet (The Netherlands), BECTA (UK), and ISTE (US).

Lisbon Forum on Innovative Approaches to ICT in Education, June 09

Lisbon, Portugal. [<http://www.escola.gov.pt/forum/index-en.asp>]

Project representation

1. Barry McGaw, University of Melbourne: Training and digital skills
2. Martina Roth, Intel: Opening session; Training and digital skills

CCSSO National Conference on Student Assessment, June 09

Los Angeles, California, USA.

[http://www.ccsso.org/projects/national_conference_on_student_assessment/]

Project representation

Presentations on project

1. Barry McGaw, University of Melbourne
2. Bill Fowler, Cisco

Global Education Competitiveness Summit; Becoming a Leading State, June 09

Washington, DC, USA.

Project representation

Working Discussion: Michael Golden (with others), Corporate Vice-President for Education, Microsoft, *Why International Benchmarking and Assessment Transformation: The Vision.*

Expert Meeting on ICT in Education Indicators, July 09

Busan, Korea.

Project representation:

Barry McGaw, University of Melbourne (by audio link): *Assessment & Teaching of 21st Century Skills Project.*