



## PROJECT UPDATE, September 2009

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#### NEWS FROM MELBOURNE

##### Preparation of the project's White Papers

The first three draft White Papers are in and have been circulated to participants in their working groups for comment. They are the ones from the working group on 21st Century Skills, the working group on Methodological Issues and the working group on Classroom Environments and Formative Evaluation.

The draft White Papers will be revised to take account of the advice received from the many colleagues who have chosen to engage with us on this work. The revised papers will be the focus of a meeting of the working group leaders at a meeting in San Francisco on 17-18 October 2009. The White Papers will both review the current position and propose research and development work for 2010 through which advances might be made in the assessment of the 21st Century Skills in technology-rich environments.

The immediate outcomes of the weekend meeting will be reported to a meeting of the project's Executive Board on Monday 19 October. Further work will then be undertaken on the White Papers and on the work program proposed for 2010. These will be presented to a videoconference meeting of the Executive Board on 17 November 2009.

Barry McGaw  
*Executive Director*

#### WHO'S WHO? - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Overall policy for the project is set by the Executive Board in which the perspectives of the founder companies and the University of Melbourne are supplemented by an important perspective from the Founder member countries. The members of the Executive Board are:

**Michael Stevenson**, *Vice-President Global Education, Cisco*. Michael is responsible for developing education strategy and leading the implementation in countries where Cisco is working on a non-commercial basis to facilitate education reform. He led the development of a white paper, *Equipping Every Learner for the 21st Century*. His earlier roles included chief information officer and director of technology at the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) in England, founding leader of the Factual and Learning Directorate in the British Broadcasting Commission (BBC) where he had earlier spearheaded the development of an innovative education strategy that created an online curriculum for children at school and at home.

**Shelly Esque**, *Vice-President Legal & Corporate Affairs, Intel*. Shelly leads Intel's corporate responsibility strategy, driving strategic programs that unlock the potential that science and technology has to improve people's lives. In more than 35 countries, her team works to forge strategic alliances with industry, the public sector, and civil society to create positive, sustainable change. Shelly is also President of the Intel Foundation, the primary philanthropic arm of Intel Corporation. Before joining Intel, Shelly served as public affairs director for the Clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Dr Michael Golden**, *Vice-President Education Products Group, Microsoft*. Michael's role is to carry out Microsoft's vision of enabling access to quality education experiences for all through technology. He is also responsible for leading Microsoft's education strategy execution. He works collaboratively across three of the company's core groups: Platform Products and Services, Entertainment and Devices, and the Microsoft Business Division. Michael had earlier been Deputy Secretary in the Pennsylvania Department of Education where he formulated and implemented statewide education technology policies and initiatives, and senior vice president of marketing and strategic planning at Pearson School, part of Pearson Education Inc.

**Dr Carol Nicoll**, *Australia*. Carol is Group Manager of the National Education System Group and Coordinator of Building the Education Revolution program in the Australian government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Originally a teacher and university academic, she was later head of the team that developed the higher education reform package, *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future*, manager of the Funding Branch in Higher Education Group, Minister-Counsellor for Education, Science and Training (the Department's senior representative in Europe), and Group Manager of the Industry Skills Development Group.

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**Dr Sakari Karjalainen, Finland.** Sakari is Director of the Science Policy Division of the Ministry of Education in Finland. Prior to that he was Secretary General of Research Council for Health at the Academy of Finland, which is the main funding organisation for academic research in Finland. His earlier appointments were at Tampere University, the National Research and Development Centre for Social Welfare and Health and the Finnish Cancer Registry. His main research interests have been research ethics, equity in health and cancer epidemiology. In addition to an MD, he holds a PhD in epidemiology.

**Dr João Trocado da Mata, Portugal.** João is Coordinator of the Technological Plan for Education, and Director-General of the Office of Statistics and Planning Education in Portugal. He is a sociologist who is a researcher and teacher in the Center for Research and Studies in Sociology in the Institute of Labor Science and Business (ISCTE). His prior appointments include Director of the Office of Information and Evaluation of Education, Director of the Center for Information Society and Knowledge) and national coordinator of a European project, e-Government and e-Business Adoption in the European Regions. He has been involved in international working groups with OECD, EUROSTAT and the European Commission.

**Dr Horn Mun Cheah, Singapore.** Horn Mun is Director, Educational Technology Division at the Ministry of Education, with a key focus on implementing the 3rd ICT in Education Masterplan. He was originally a physicist whose research areas included the microwave properties of High Tc Superconductors and the Josephson Junction Array System. He subsequently joined the National Institute of Education (NIE) at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) where he participated in various national syllabus reviews at primary and secondary levels. He later became Dean for Foundation Programs, overseeing all initial teacher education programs at NIE. During his tenure, he led a comprehensive review of these programs, developing a framework that guided their continual improvement as well as strengthening the development of student teachers' soft skills.

**Niel McLean, United Kingdom.** Niel is Executive Director of Institutional and Workforce Development in Becta. Earlier, within Becta, he was Director for Schools where he led on its curriculum, Local Education Authority support and inclusion work. He also established Becta's Evidence and Practice directorate as a focus for educational research on ICT and good practice. He was originally a teacher and later involved in LEA advisory work and consultancy work for a number of curriculum and assessment projects. At the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority he was involved with the 'Dearing review' of the National curriculum in England for which he led on assessment work in IT and D&T, being responsible for all areas of examinations and qualifications in those areas.

**Dr Barry McGaw, Executive Director of the project.** Barry is a half-time Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne where he is Executive Director of the *Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills* project. In the other half of his life, the dominant role is currently as Chair of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. He had earlier been Director for Education at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris and Executive Director of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in Melbourne.

## INVOLVEMENT OF COUNTRIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In 2009, as the White Paper development has been the major focus of the work, the project sought to engage up to six countries as Founder members. Five have so far been recruited as indicated above. Founder countries are represented on the Executive Board. In 2010 and 2011, there will be opportunities for other countries to join the project and to participate in particular research and development activities.

There will also be opportunities for other companies and not-for-profit research and development organizations to join Cisco, Intel and Microsoft in the project. They will be invited to nominate and sponsor specific activities that are consistent with the overall directions of the project and connected to its other work.



## PROJECT REPRESENTATION

### National Education Technology Policy

Robert Kozma gave a presentation on our project to the Technical Working Group advising on the national education technology policy in the US.

### IAEA 2009: International Association for Educational Assessment 35th annual conference

Barry McGaw drew on the project's current plans and his work in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority for a keynote address. The draft White Papers were not available in time for there to be a substantive contribution from the project in the address.

