



JAPANESE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

**INTERNATIONAL OECD/JAPAN SEMINAR
SCHOOLING FOR TOMORROW**

“Futures Thinking for Education: Policy, Leadership and the Teaching Profession”

6 - 8 November 2006

[6-7 November, Main Seminar; 8 November, Site Visits and Networking]

at the
Hiroshima Prince Hotel

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The 2006 OECD/Japan Seminar is on “Futures Thinking for Education: Policy, Leadership and the Teaching Profession”, and is to be held in Hiroshima. The Seminar is organised jointly by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (MEXT), Hiroshima University, and the OECD’s Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI).

The Seminar is at the core of the major CERI project on Schooling for Tomorrow (which was launched in Hiroshima in November 1997). This project entered its third phase in 2005, with active country participation through ‘Futures Thinking in Action’ initiatives. This is the first occasion for these initiatives to come together since June 2005 when Phase 3 began. With the focus of the Seminar on how educational decision-making can be better informed by the integration of long-term, bigger picture thinking, it is aimed at all with an interest in the future development of education, both in the country-based initiatives and others.

Conference Themes and Aims

The increasing complexity of governance makes it essential to promote long-term thinking in education and for decision-making to be informed by it. The outstanding question is how best this should be done. The Seminar will explore these questions in plenary and workshops, with the focus on different levels and key players in the decision-making process. The detailed connections will be built through three main themes: i) improving strategic policy-making; ii) building leadership capacity at school and other levels; iii) rethinking teacher professionalism and the organisation of the educational workforce.

The main objectives of the Seminar are to:

- Discuss and develop the potential of futures thinking as a key element of educational decision-making to inform policy and leadership.
- Help to identify the ways the focus on systems change, leadership and teacher professionalism can be further developed in 2007 and beyond through the Schooling for Tomorrow Project, both at OECD and in country-based activities.
- Provide opportunities for dialogue and networking across countries; we want to strengthen links between different initiatives already participating in the project and develop new connections including in the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference programme has been organised to meet these aims. The first morning will set the agenda to be developed through the detailed discussion. The workshops will deepen the conference themes, with participants able to take part in two different workshops during the Seminar. These themes and their implications for future work will be discussed at the end of the main seminar on 7 November. We encourage participants, especially but not only those engaged in Schooling for Tomorrow Phase 3, to stay for the visits and networking meetings on November 8.

Seminar Documentation

The Seminar will have available as working documents and background reference material:

- The finalised programme.
- OECD overview note on key seminar issues.
- Summary country reports from Phase 3 'Futures Thinking in Action' initiatives.
- Report from the Asia-Pacific (PCC) research study, 'Schooling for the Future'.
- The OECD/CERI Schooling for Tomorrow 'Starter Pack'.
- The 2006 OECD publication 'Think Scenarios, Re-think Education' (in English and Japanese).

Further documents, including the full country Phase 3 country reports, are available on the conference webpage www.oecd.org/edu/future/sft/japanseminar. Participants who wish to refer to the full country notes are invited to print these off in advance and bring them to the Seminar.

Participant Preparation for the Seminar

The Seminar programme seeks to develop understanding of educational governance and different roles for futures thinking to inform decision-making. Comparisons of country experiences will be through these themes rather than through lengthy descriptions of the country-based initiatives. It is not expected that participating countries prepare notes specifically for the Seminar (though each system's report for Phase 3 of Schooling for Tomorrow should be available).

Preparation for the Seminar will be through:

- Familiarisation with the documentation.
- Reflection in advance on the governance challenges in each country and the effectiveness with which long-term thinking currently informs decision-making through policy and in schools.
- Identification of specific ways in which the country-based initiatives address the Seminar themes and how these might be further developed in the future.
- Identification of specific experiences from other countries where closer contacts and exchange would be of interest.
- (For countries engaged in Schooling for Tomorrow Phase 3 through specific initiatives which have not yet submitted their status reports, these will be needed for the Seminar).

Conference Programme

Monday 6 November, Morning
IN PLENARY

Chair: Prof. Akira Ninomiya

10.00 – 11.30

1. WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OPENING

- **Akira Ninomiya** (Vice-President, Hiroshima University)
- **Barbara Ischinger** (Director, The Directorate for Education, OECD)
- **Kazuo Watanabe** (Director, International Affairs Division, MEXT)

2. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Schooling in Japan: Looking towards the Future

- **Teiichi Sato** (former Ambassador to UNESCO and former Vice-Minister, MEXT)

In the context of the changing situation of governance and leadership, this address will present main themes in schooling and reforms in Japan and look towards future prospects and priorities.

The Challenge of Complex Governance

- **Margrethe Vestager** (Member of Danish Parliament, former Minister of Education)

This keynote will focus on the complex environment in which educational decision-making now operates and is likely to operate in the future. What challenges does this give rise to, how equipped are education systems to meet these challenges, and what is the capacity for long-term thinking?

11.30 – 12.00

Coffee/tea

12.00 – 13.00

3. ANALYTICAL THEMES AND ISSUES

Perspectives on the Future by Educational Leaders in the Asia-Pacific Region

- **John Cogan** (Professor, University of Minnesota)

Drawing on a recent Pacific Circle Consortium (PCC) research study using the “Schooling for Tomorrow” scenarios with educational leaders, this will provide analytical insight into how they see the future. Are there particular insights relating to the Asian Pacific context? What conclusions may be drawn about the use of futures thinking in the education policy process?

For reference: Report from the Asia-Pacific (PCC) research study, ‘Schooling for the Future’.

Futures Thinking for Policy, Leadership and the Rethinking Professionalism

- **Henno Theisens** (Schooling for Tomorrow, CERIOECD)

The OECD Secretariat overview presenting the broad seminar themes: complex governance, new challenges for leadership, and reorganising the educational process around an understanding of professionalism oriented to the future. Why the need for long-term thinking and capacity in decision-making at all levels? How might these issues be developed in the workshops and discussions of the Seminar?

For reference: OECD overview note and the 2006 publication ‘Think Scenarios, Re-think Education’.

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch break*

Monday 6 November, Afternoon

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

14.30 – 18.00
[With refreshment
break]

4. FUTURES THINKING AND DECISION-MAKING AT SYSTEM AND SCHOOL LEVELS

The workshops will focus on central issues within the broad theme of governance and futures thinking.

In each workshop, a common structure of questions will guide the discussion:

- Features of the current governance and reform situation in the different participating systems which call for radical innovation and long-term thinking.
- The capacity of systems and different key players to respond, and the potential of futures thinking to contribute to solutions. How can this be done?
- Key issues for the future – strengthening long-term thinking as an integral element of decision-making.

All participants, whether or not their own system is participating in Schooling for Tomorrow Phase 3, are thus able to take an active part in the discussions. In addition, those from Futures Thinking in Action initiatives will be able to report on how their particular initiatives are addressing the themes of each workshop and explore how the connections to decision-making can be improved in the future.

Workshops 1-3 will be in English, Workshop 4 in English and Japanese.

For reference: OECD overview note and country reports from Phase 3 'Futures Thinking in Action' initiatives.

Workshop 1: Orienting Systems Change

This workshop will focus on why and how futures thinking can become a more robust part of the policy process. It will explore the trends towards more complex and decentralised governance arrangements, and the challenges they raise for system-level policy-making. It will identify ways in which futures thinking can contribute to informing and orienting system change.

Workshop 2: Broadening the Capacity for Leadership

Given the demanding expectations placed on education, the complexities of the decision-making process, and organisational reforms, a high premium is placed on the nature of leadership in education. What capacities of leadership are needed and how well prepared are leaders to operate in these complex environments? How can these capacities be extended by futures thinking?

Workshop 3: Rethinking Professionalism and the Educational Workforce

With schooling calling for more complex organisational arrangements and demanding, diverse forms of professionalism, futures thinking can both to facilitate the reform and innovation process and be integral to that professionalism. What is the current situation and what are the prospects for change?

Workshop 4: The Potential and Application of Futures Thinking for Japan

This workshop will address the potential application of futures thinking in the context of Japan. It will address the reform agenda in the immediate and longer-term and how well prepared the system is to respond to this agenda.

18.30 – 20.00 *Conference Reception*

Tuesday 7 November, Morning
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

9.00 – 12.30
[With refreshment
break]

4. (cont.) FUTURES THINKING AND DECISION-MAKING AT SYSTEM AND SCHOOL LEVELS

The first three workshops from Day 1 will be re-run with different participants. This will deepen the discussion on each theme. It will permit Seminar participants to take part in a different workshop on the second day.

Workshop 1: Orienting systems change

Workshop 2: Broadening the capacity for leadership

Workshop 3: Rethinking professionalism and the educational workforce

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch break*

Tuesday 7 November, Afternoon
IN PLENARY

Chair: Tony Mackay

14.00 – 17.00 **5. CONCLUSIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

This concluding session to the core part of the Seminar programme will bring together the discussion and orient future work in OECD and countries. Specifically, it will:

- Discuss the outcomes and issues of the different workshops in clarifying the role for futures thinking in informing policy, building leadership, and reshaping professionalism.
- Identify the means and materials needed to promote this role and how these can be improved, including through the OECD project.
- Inform the further development of Schooling for Tomorrow through the issues and priorities discussed at this Seminar.

For reference: The OECD/CERI Schooling for Tomorrow 'Starter Pack'.

Wednesday 8 November, Morning
DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, HIROSHIMA AREA

9.00 – 13.00 **SCHOOL VISITS**

The visits will provide the occasion to experience the Japanese school system and to situate the policy challenges confronted by this system. They will give insights into innovation in the Japanese context and the opportunity to meet with school leaders, teachers and students.

Wednesday 8 November, Afternoon
CONFERENCE SITE

13.00 onwards **OPEN-ENDED WORKING LUNCH – NETWORKING AND MEETINGS**

It has become clear how valuable cross-national co-operation and learning is in this field, and this is reflected in the networking that is already going on across some of the country-based Futures Thinking in Action initiatives.

We encourage participants to maintain their active involvement in the Seminar throughout this optional third day. It will be the occasion to:

- Further informal discussions with other international decision-makers and educators;
- Explore potential networking contacts across countries;
- Where these networks already exist, to discuss how best different cross-national collaboration can be promoted in 2007 and beyond.