

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUTURE EDUCATION “LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES”

Effective Learning in an Age of Increasing Speed, Complexity and Uncertainty

November 12-14, 2018 – RIO DE JANEIRO – BRAZIL

8:30- 9:30 Panel 03: Reconciling vision of the Future - This panel will seek to reconcile the views of business, society, government, students and universities in order to evolve a shared vision of the changes needed in the educational system and the critical issues that need to be explored.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished guests,

It is my utmost pleasure to speak before you today on the future of education in the age of increasing speed, complexity, uncertainty and I would even say the dawn of the era of artificial intelligence!

Our panel looks at the viewpoints of the diverse area of stakeholders in regards to education - the business, society, government, students and universities.

At first, let us take look at global trends:

According to the **World Bank education statistics**, as a percentage of GDP, countries spend an average of **4.77 percent** on **primary education**.

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) spends an average of 5.70 percent – the highest of all the other regions’ spending, which is below 5 %;

While countries may spend the same percentage of GDP on education, **learning outcomes vary across countries, with some countries having lower learning outcomes** in comparison to other countries with similar expenditure shares.

Therefore, one of the major challenges to tackle is to increase the effectiveness of every dollar spent on education and increase the learning outcomes for the developing states.

Another important trend we see today is the fact that it is definitely rewarding to invest in education in terms of socio-economic affects.

While the above said is true, that developing countries have lesser learning outcomes, it is also true that **the private average global rate of return to one extra year of schooling is about 9 percent** a year and very stable over decades.

Also, **Social returns to schooling remain high, above 10 percent** at the secondary and higher education levels.

Women continue to experience higher average rates of return to schooling – meaning **that girls' education should remain a priority.**

Returns are higher even in low-income countries as well.¹

Again, if we consider the newest study “**A Global Data Set on Education Quality**”² reveals important trends:

- Learning outcomes in developing countries are often at the bottom of the global scale;
- The top performers often perform worse than the bottom performers in developed countries;
- 50 percent of students reach the global minimum threshold of proficiency in developing countries relative to 86 percent in developed countries.
- Again, this newest global study confirms a positive and significant association between educational achievement and economic growth.

Therefore, it is totally clear that there is no alternative to education if we are to have peace and stability in our regions and the world in general.

¹ Study by Returns to Investment in Education: A Decennial Review of the Global Literature By: George Psacharopoulos and Harry Anthony Patrinos.

² Global Data Set on Education Quality (1965–2015) by Nadir Altinok Noam Angrist Harry Anthony Patrinos, Education Global Practice Group, January 2018

So what are other major and newest trends?

We may say that the education has turned into a lucrative business for private sector providers.

In number of instances public education has modeled its mission and institutional structures to resemble businesses.

The key question to consider is whether public sector and private sector compete with each other and how the change in one sector impacts the other.

There is also a trend and tendency in modern education in which modern technologies reduce pedagogical interactions and part of the process, for example in a peer review process or in plagiarism detection etc. So certain parts of education are increasingly reduced to data-based transactions of information.

If we ask ourselves whether this is good, my answer is it is excellent, revolutionary and effective.

The possibility to gather and analyze data with the help of technology becomes increasingly satisfactory and rewarding. It should be imperative to include technology in modern learning.

But we must also remain cognizant of possible drawbacks as to where and how this could be problematic?

To my understanding, it is also true that technological involvement is by default reducible to limited possibilities. Therefore, I think it is important that human involvement in pedagogical work, involvement of those who are skilled in both old and new avenues, must firmly remain part of educational technologies.

We can look at big trends in education today and in the nearest future:

- 1. Due to technological advancement,** Students will have more opportunities to learn at different times in different places. For example with the help of eLearning tools, flipped classrooms where theoretical parts will be learned outside of the classroom and the practical part

taught interactively, in class; Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and blended learning opportunities and others.

2. **Again, due to technologies, teaching can be personalized and students with different abilities taught with harder issues while the ones with difficulties** will have the opportunity to work on achieving the target level.
3. **It is almost inevitable that the human involvement in math based operations will diminish.** Computers will take care of statistical analysis, and describe and analyse data and predict future trends. Hence, interpretation of data should become a much more important part of the curricula of the future.
4. Students will become more and more involved in shaping the curricula but at the same time, with increasing independent studying, **Mentoring will become more important to** student success, where teachers mainly guide students through the plenty of information around the topic.

Even though the changes will be revolutionary in retrospect, the teacher and educational institutions will remain to be vital to good academic performance.

And again, while some parts of the world are facing these revolutionary changes, others struggle for equal access, equal treatment and minimum standards of education. These challenges are well identified by the United Nations MDG's.

Can we take up the task of properly synthesizing the positive developments I described above and not overlook the challenges that still remain?

We certainly must, as there is no substitute for a hard work.

We must take up small bits and try to work towards achieving inclusive and effective education worldwide?

Again, the more critical question is, how?

We must, the various stakeholders - business, society, government, students and universities, **make our impact wherever we can and whenever we can.**

In that respect it is my utmost honor and a privilege to represent an organization – a unique network of higher education institutions – IAUP, which stands for improving education standards in the world since 1965.

Improving quality of education and ensuring access to necessary knowledge is – I must remind you - the 4th UN Sustainable Development Goal, one that I believe holds a master key to many of our problems!

Hence, I want to focus on how the institution I represent has been making its own mark and mobilizing a multi-stakeholder partnership in education.

IAUP, to date, evolved and operates around a mission which is to cooperate with one another, across borders and to magnify, multiply, and intensify the impact of science-based knowledge for the challenges of the day, like the ones identified by the SDG's.

In the past decades, the IAUP has **developed relationship with the United Nations**, making IAUP the lead organization in **the development the UN Academic Impact initiative**.

UNAI is an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the realization of United Nations MDGs.

IAUP has also developed a unique **professional development and mentoring program for newly appointed presidents, rectors, and vice chancellors**.

IAUP has been committed to the protection of scholars threatened by war, terrorism, and political repression, urging IAUP members to support the **Institute of International Education-Scholar Rescue Fund** (Dr. Henry Jarecki, Dr. Henry Kaufman, and Mr. Thomas Russo founded the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund - IIE-SRF).

Moreover, after taking over my term in office, as the president of the IAUP we focused on the renewed agenda - **“Innovation in Education for a Brighter Future”**. To this end, under my presidency, IAUP will focus:

- On innovative **higher education capacity building efforts in Africa**, as well as in conflict and post-conflict zones;

- Will look for new ways to **advance peace and conflict resolution through higher education** (the seventh principle of the UN Academic Impact);
- Will dedicate itself to promoting new approaches to inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance through higher education (the tenth principle of the UN Academic Impact);
- Work to support the internationalization of higher education, by making IAUP a platform for the development of innovative partnership models;
- Strive to make the global voice of higher education heard throughout the world, by continuing media partnerships such as that with University World News, by participating more actively global forums such as the United Nations, and by establishing an **IAUP World Education Center** to serve as a hub for the development and dissemination innovative, capacity-building ideas for higher education.
- And, this presidency will attract young university leaders full of energy, ideas, and motivation for change, and give them opportunities to be mentored by veteran leaders who know the ropes and want to give back to the next generation.

In the end I would like to conclude by saying that the IAUP’s work is just but one example how leaders can mobilize activities towards a common goal.

These are acts that need to be emulated and repeated in various avenues towards a better vision for the future.

Thank you very much.