

## **Education Fast Forward**

What do you do when you've got a community of some of the best education thinkers in the world working as a global team, using the best collaborative online technologies in the world?

Point them at the obstacles to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning to create ways to remove them. And that's exactly what Education Fast Forward (EFF), the think tank created by Promethean with support from network expert Cisco, is doing. After three highly successful online debates shared with the rest of the education community, EFF is moving into its second year determined to live up to its aspirational name.

It will be identifying and pushing the fast-forward buttons for quick wins, producing papers on issues that need deeper thought and developing global online sessions to fully exploit the potential of Cisco's amazing TelePresence technology, which it uses to share powerful visual and video examples of best and next practice.

Lord David Puttnam kicked off the agenda for quick wins at EFF3 with his suggestions that all materials produced by the BBC, and paid for by licence payers, should be made freely available to all UK schools.

"Copyright is a nightmare," he said. "It's sitting there as a roadblock, but it's removable. The government knows it, everyone knows it but we're doing nothing about it. We need to scream blue murder about getting access to publicly funded material and ensure that it is freely available in every school in whatever way they want to use it."

So stay tuned to Education Fast Forward as it moves from just discussion to action. As Hong Kong educator Sister Margaret Wong put it at the EFF2 event, "It's easier to talk than to walk."

"EFF has started to learn about how global unified communications as an experience (rather than a technology) can stimulate thinking, learning and action," says Promethean director of education Jim Wynn. "The journey has begun."

*Merlin John writes on learning with technology for a number of publications and runs his own website at <http://agent4change.net>.*

*See also:*

*["Heavyweight thinkers behind Education Fast Forward"](#)*

*["Schooling past sell-by says Education Fast Forward"](#)*

*["Education Fast Forward – the out-takes"](#)*