The debate on how we take education and technology through the 3rd millennium

- What if attempts to improve education are doomed to failure because all education systems are “legacy systems” and the best they can do is replicate themselves rather than reform?
- How can we turn schools from “teaching factories” into “learning environments”?
- Do we already have the solutions but are simply unable to recognise them?

These were some of the intriguing thoughts emerging from the inaugural debate of Education Fast Forward. The live debate took place in November 2010 across 12 different global locations – London, Paris, Budapest, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Virginia, Toronto, Glasgow, Sao Paulo, Libya, Seoul and Bedfont Lakes via TelePresence. It provided a unique way to discuss fundamental issues and aims to continue to synthesize ideas that will make a real difference in education.

Supported by Promethean and Cisco, Education Fast Forward brings together 18 leading international education thinkers who are all passionate about making a difference and have a desire to see change happen.

The need for Education Fast Forward is driven by the desire of us all to provide an education system for everyone that’s fit for purpose. To provide an education system that caters for the individual and at the same time supports critical skills such as problem solving and collaboration, a must have in a society where jobs are changing and we are educating today’s children for jobs we can’t even imagine.

“We have a school and teaching model that was designed for an era in which access to information was limited. You had to have access to teachers and textbooks that could provide you with the information you needed to develop new knowledge and skills. But now access to information is ubiquitous. We no longer need teachers who are specialists in delivering content, we need teachers who know how to facilitate the use of information to solve problems and create innovative responses to new learning challenges. We have to stop training teachers to use new tools for old work. We need to develop teachers who know how to use digital media to fundamentally change their role by building collaborative learning relationships with young people.”

Tom Carroll, leader of the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future (NCTAF) and member of Education Fast Forward.

What matters most today is less teaching and more learning…

“Affluence can hinder creativity… We have to give ourselves more time and space to be creative.”

Sister Margaret Wong, Principal, St Paul’s Convent School, Hong Kong and member of Education Fast Forward.

Learn more about the Foundation Fellows, work of Education Fast Forward and join the debate.

To read a report of the first debate from Merlin John and see the highlights from the event visit:


To be a part of the next debate or contribute discussion ideas email: education.strategy@prometheanworld.com