

WSID Project: e-Newsletter 2: 28 February, 2014

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Project Progress

February has seen the project move into the rapid Prototyping Phase which is where the schools start using the frameworks, processes and ICT's with their students. This process was started with Innovation Exchange 2 and has been followed up with school visits by the Imagine Education consultants and research assistants. The focus of these visits are supporting the development of the schools ICT Strategic Plan, beginning the Action Research programme and starting the lesson planning process. Despite a number of disruptions the WSID schools are all now well embarked on all of these activities.

Innovation Exchange Two

A very successful Innovation Exchange 2 was held from 3-6 February at the ILIA Centre at the University of Brunei Darussalam.

All school innovation teams were introduced to the School Innovation Guide. The workshop provided an introduction to Whole School ICT Strategic Planning, the designing of learning activities based on the frameworks and templates and an introduction to educational Action Research. The additional opportunities to explore the use of Open Education curriculum resources by teachers, the use of ICT Tools and the showcasing of technologies and tools from Microsoft were all well received.

A pleasing outcome of the workshop evaluation was the increasing levels of confidence in the participants understanding and use of the resources and materials and 88.5% of the Innovation Teams said the workshop met their expectations

A record of this event along with interviews and commentary from participants can be found at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQDp8XDeysE>



School Visits

In the two to three weeks since being introduced to School Innovation Guide School all twenty schools have received several visits from the Imagine Education consultants and Research Assistants. The focus of the meetings with the school Innovation Team's is to review progress and provide advice/support in the 3 main elements of the change programme. The Innovation Teams also provide feedback on the usefulness or not of the WSID frameworks and resources provided in the School Innovation Guide.

All schools have made progress and already we have seen a few completed school ICT Strategic Plans with 3-4 goals for 2014, several well designed Action Research plans and a number of Lesson Plans based on Knowledge Construction which have not only been planned but tried out with the pupils.

Briefing Key Stakeholders

A briefing workshop was also held for a number of the key WSID stakeholders at the MiSC Learning Lab on the morning of the 20th of February. Attendees included the e-Hijrah OPM, the Ministry e-Hijrah Integration Team, the principals of the Model Schools and WSID Working Party members.

The aims of the intensive briefing and set of workshop activities were to:

- Understand the Whole School Approach to ICT Development
- Introduce and unpack the Whole School ICT Development Framework
- Update on the WSID Project

It was a busy and productive morning and all participants left much better informed about these key elements of the WSID project and progress so far.



International Experts Webinars

As part of the next phase of the Whole School ICT Development Project, we will be running a series of webinars for the teachers in the WSID prototype schools, to allow them to explore and understand in more depth the focus areas that are integral to the WSID project. These are:

1. School Leaders ICT Capability
2. Teacher ICT Competency
3. Student Digital Age Literacy
4. 21st Century Learning and Teaching

Each live streamed webinar will feature an international expert who will provide insights and examples of impact across the focus areas. The webinars will be broadcast live and also recorded and hosted for on demand viewing on the WSID portal. (www.wsid.net).

The purpose of the webinars is to:

1. To give practical examples of excellent practice in the four focus areas.
2. Provide practical advice on how to replicate and/or create excellent practice in Brunei schools.
3. Provide the opportunity for schools to ask questions on the focus area (these can be dealt with directly and/or followed up on the project forum).

Webinar One: School Leaders ICT Capability

The Webinar with Jim Wynn was held on 27th of February 3.00pm local time and as a first time Webinar for Brunei schools had a good initial audience. Jim is well known to the WSID community as he was one of the key note speakers at the first Innovation Exchange and he was able to bring his knowledge of what is happening in Brunei to the webinar.

Jim identified the critical role of education in youth employment and its' influence on productivity and economic growth. The challenge as leaders was how to grow the culture of ICT in their schools through sharing knowledge and growing the range

of 'modalities' that teachers require. The role of knowledge construction by students in leading into ways of thinking was highlighted. Jim then highlighted the importance of teachers using knowledge construction to ensure knowledge is applied by students into specific contexts to ensure understanding.

In the complex challenges of school culture change Jim noted the real importance of understanding teachers and where they sit both in terms of their attitudes to innovation and their stage of professional growth from novice to expert. Really knowing your teachers capabilities, level of expertise and teaching modalities and matching these modalities to ICT was seen by Jim as critical to change.

A powerful example of the use of big and small data was shown in an item analysis of student performance over a range of topics. All teachers on average had sets of students who were performing well but closer analysis showed that in some topics some teachers were more successful than others. The message was clear teachers sharing with other teachers what they are good at is a powerful way of getting change.

Many thanks Jim for a stimulating webinar. For those who missed the 'live performance' Jim's slides and resources are available on the WSID portal at <http://www.wsid.info/mod/page/view.php?id=94>

Panel 2

Norms of Improving Schools

1. **Shared goals**—"we know where we're going"
2. **Responsibility for success**—"we must succeed"
3. **Collegiality**—"we're working on this together"
4. **Continuous improvement**—"we can get better"
5. **Lifelong learning**—"learning is for everyone"
6. **Risk taking**—"we learn by trying something new"
7. **Support**—"there's always someone there to help"
8. **Mutual respect**—"everyone has something to offer"
9. **Openness**—"we can discuss our differences"
10. **Celebration and humour**—"we feel good about ourselves"

Stoll and Fink (1996)²⁵