

WSID Project: e-Newsletter 3: 31 March, 2014

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Project Progress

This last month was very busy as schools began to get involved in the realities of their ICT Strategic Plans, Action Research and the major piece of work of ALL teachers planning lessons and lesson sequences using the WSID Frameworks and integrating ICT.

All WSID schools have also completed four days of PEAKS training that used the development of their ICT Strategic Plans as the focus of the PEAKS training activities. As a result of all this work all schools now have completed their ICT Strategic Plans which includes a Vision, Strategic Goals and set of Actions to achieve these goals.

All WSID schools have also completed their Action Research Proposals and these research projects are now underway. All schools have completed their first cycle of Rapid Prototyping Lesson Planning and are at various stages of delivering these lessons to the students, reflecting on how well they went and how they could be better next time.

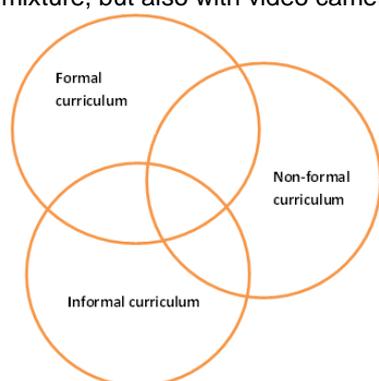
Dr Baldev Singh has also had the opportunity of briefing the OPM leadership team and the Permanent Secretaries of Higher Education and Core Education on the progress of the WSID project.

International Experts Webinar Two: 21st Century Teaching and Learning

This webinar, on the 26th of March was led by **Professor Don Passey**, Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning, Lancaster University UK. His research has focused on learning, and how digital technologies enhance learning opportunities. He has wide experience in developing and using evaluation and research methods to study technological innovation, exploring uses and impacts of leading edge technologies in teaching and learning settings for more than 20 years.



One of the key ideas introduced by Don was how Learners can now use digital technologies in three different settings: Formal (often a desk-top or laptop or interactive whiteboard), informal (often a mobile or handheld) and Non-formal (often a mixture, but also with video cameras and editors). This leads to the fact that teachers have access to use a wider range of curriculum opportunities with their students with the challenges of being able to link them up effectively.



Don then illustrated these ideas with a number of pedagogical examples of how teachers have used these new opportunities in Real World Problem Solving and Innovation such as schools developing and broadcasting their own News Reports and after school clubs where students developed skills in video game construction based on Little Big Planet 2.

In the pedagogies associated with Knowledge Construction Don provide a number of plain language descriptions of very effective approaches for teachers and students to use including “review and reflect”, “think forward”, “listen to my explanations”, “snap and show”, “this is what I have done and how I’ve done it” and “tell me how I can improve this”.

All in all it was a very practical presentation that was very effectively targeted to the key approaches being currently trialed in Brunei through the WSID project. The slides of the Webinar and sets of documents and research reports can be accessed through the WSID Portal (www.wsid.info) under the Webinar Tab.

e-Hijrah WSID Project School Leaders Update and Mid-term Review

Two sets of workshops were held on Saturday the 29th of March at the Learning Lab, MiSC in Citis Square. The workshops lasted 3 hours with WSID secondary schools in the morning and the primary schools in the afternoon. The participants included the school principal and up to 2 other personnel from the school Innovation team.



The purpose of the workshop was for schools to share ideas and review progress of the e-Hijrah WSID project. It was also a chance to clarify expectations and to look at the remaining activities that are to be completed by the end of the project. The workshops reminded the schools of the key process of the WSID project which include:

1. Develop an ICT Strategic Plan based on their unique vision of a culture of ICT.
2. Every teacher is to design, review, deliver and evaluate **TWO** WSID lesson/sequence plans that use at least one of the pedagogical approaches detailed in the Integrated Framework supported by the use of ICT.
3. Carry out a small scale associated Action Research project.

The Innovation Team were provided with Whole School Strategic Planning processes to use in leading a Strategic Review of their Strategic Plan. These included ensuring the review was evidence based, linking to other initiatives, identified the areas where there is a need to increase staff understanding and how to extend participation.

The workshop modelled how evidence for this could be derived from an analysis of teacher's lesson planning and reflection on their practice, the design rubrics and how this data can be used to review the Action Plans associated with the Rapid Prototyping process. This data will be used by the Integration Team to see how the intended actions may need to change in the second Rapid Prototyping Cycle of Lesson Planning and Implementation. As well some material was provided on how to support teachers in the peer review process through examples of scripted role plays.

Next Steps

April is again another extremely busy month for schools as their period of intensive direct involvement in the project finishes at the end of the month.

The main focus of activity will be on supporting Rapid Prototyping Cycle 2 with all teachers designing and delivering the second set of lesson sequences based on the WSID Frameworks. From this process schools will also identify a number of exemplary lesson sequences that will be further developed by the WSID team as Case Studies or exemplars of effective practice within the Brunei curriculum.

The second major piece of work will be the schools completing their Action Research project. The WSID team will be joined from the 6th to the 12th of April by our research expert Dr Tim Rudd who will be visiting as many schools as possible. With the assistance of the imagine education Research Assistants Dr Rudd will be helping the school's Lead Researcher and teachers complete their research projects.

By the end of April the main phase of rapid prototyping in schools will be completed and the WSID project personnel will begin the process of synthesising and analysis all the data and preparing for the final set of WSID deliverables for the end of July 2014.