



THE NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS PROJECT

BACKGROUND



In recent years, rapid technological and economic developments have brought about significant changes in societies and their associated labour markets, leading to the emergence of knowledge societies and economies. As part of the changes we are experiencing, companies are increasingly seeking employees who have the ability to utilize information and communication technologies (ICT) effectively in their everyday work and who have the skills to maximize the potential of ICT to enhance productivity in the workplace.

Schools are under pressure to prepare students for these changes in society and the workplace. However, preparing students for such a world requires teachers to acquire new skills themselves. Teachers need to take on new roles and develop new abilities in order to provide students with the guidance required in learning the skills required for the 21st century world.

Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) are, in turn, under pressure to adequately train and prepare teachers. TEIs must therefore consider the effectiveness of their pre-service teacher education programmes, as these play a crucial role in preparing teachers for schools. These programmes must provide trainee teachers with skills in the operation of ICT; in how to integrate ICT in teaching; and in how to utilize ICT in materials preparation. Teachers must also be prepared for their changed role, shifting away from being knowledge-providers to being learning-facilitators.

Currently, the pre-service teacher education programmes in TEIs are not designed to achieve the desired outcomes. Recognizing the need for change in teacher education programmes, the ICT in Education Unit of UNESCO initiated the “Next Generation of Teachers” (Next Gen) project.

GOALS



The Next Gen project aims to enable the next generation of post-primary teachers in the Asia-Pacific region to exploit the benefits of ICT to enhance teaching and learning. Through this project, trainee-teachers in TEIs across the region will learn a variety of instructional approaches utilizing ICT and will gain the flexibility required to bring the benefits of ICT into classrooms and improve the quality and reach of education.

This three-year project will focus on building the capacity of TEIs to prepare pre-service secondary teachers for ICT-enhanced classrooms. In this way, the next generation of teachers will be able to provide the learning environments that students require to able to gain the competencies demanded in knowledge societies and their associated labour markets.

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Consultative meeting and launch of the Next Generation of Teachers project.
- Situation and needs analysis of TEIs in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Evaluation of resources and methods that may be suitable and useful to support a learner-centered ICT-integrated curriculum in TEIs.
- Construction of a core, standards-based ICT-integrated curriculum and the necessary resources for TEIs in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Assistance in the design, development and implementation of ICT-integration projects in selected TEIs.
- Production of a report on the lesson learned and best practices of implementing the ICT integrated curriculum.
- Dissemination of the project approaches, materials and publications.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



Ten countries from the Asia-Pacific region are participating in the Next Gen project. Each country has nominated three TEIs to participate, with the result that 30 TEIs and hundreds of trainee-teachers in the Asia-Pacific region will benefit from the project. The trainee-teachers being targeted are post-primary teachers.

PARTNERS

The key partners in the UNESCO Next Generation of Teachers project are Microsoft (initiating partner) and Cisco Systems. Additional partners are sought so as to increase the scope and effectiveness of the project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Next Gen project, please refer to the UNESCO “ICT in Education” website: http://www.unescobkk.org/education/ict/next_gen.

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