

MESSAGE FROM THE ICP PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF PRINCIPALS CONVENTION – “MANY MINDS, ONE HEARTBEAT – SINGAPORE”

What could more adequately sum up our collective moral and ethical purpose as educators than this Convention tagline?

We come together at a time of profound change globally. We as leaders of school communities and systems need to be acutely aware that certainty is no longer an expectation - indeed change and uncertainty is constant. Our students are exposed to global pressures like never before. They are part of a global employment pool. The global financial crisis has taught us that we are all exposed to “fissures” on a world scale.

We are now completely cognizant of the “butterfly flapping its wings in an African village”. A globalized world raises many challenges for us as educators – Some would argue that “It is time to recognize that the true tutors of our children are not school teachers or university professors but filmmakers, advertising executives and pop culture purveyors. Disney does more than Duke, Spielberg outweighs Stanford, MTV trumps MIT”. (Benjamin R. Barber quoted by Giroux 2000.)

I believe all of us recognise that we still play a centrally vital role in the development of our young. It is just that how learning is accessed and delivered has, for many, fundamentally and forever changed. That means our teachers need to change, our parents need to change and that you need to bravely help and guide that change.

The Convention program will provide superb stimulus with speakers of the calibre of Sir Dexter Hutt, Prof Andy Hargreaves, Prof David Perkins, Mr. Michael Furdyk, Prof Kishore Mahbubani, Dr Gene Carter and Prof Yong Zhao. Your peers will provide carefully selected workshops that will ensure opportunities for dialogue with all present.

You will have opportunities to experience the joy of an ICP Convention – the capacity to meet, share and be inspired by colleagues from all corners of the globe.

We are one profession – with many minds and one heartbeat – enjoy the delights of Singapore - you are welcomed into a safe, trusted and enlightened professional space.

Andrew Blair
ICP President 2009/2010

