

May 26th, 2009

Participation Report on the 21st Century Skills Conference

I participated in the First Project Conference on the 21st Century Skills educational assessment and guidance held in San Diego, U.S.A, from April the 17th to the 19th, 2009.

This is a three-year project, to be completed in 2011, that is being led by Professor Barry McGaw of the University of Melbourne in a joint contract with Cisco, Intel and Microsoft. Its mission is for concerned researchers and research institutes to work in collaboration, regardless of their federal, public or private backgrounds, in order to research the guidance and assessment of 21st century skills. This conference was held in accordance with the press release statement issued on January 13th, 2009.

The First Conference saw 74 participants, including Andreas Schleicher of the OECD, as well as people from the U.S.A., Germany, Australia, England and so forth. There were also 3 participants from Japan, including a representative of the University of Tokyo and two CRET researchers.

The Conference was split into 5 working groups : 1) Learning Environment & Formative Assessment, 2) Methodology, 3) Technology, 4) Measurable 21st Century Skills, and 5) Policy Issues.

At the Measurable 21st Century Skills working group that CRET researchers participated in, ten types of competencies were chosen. In order to choose them, we referred to existing materials such as [the Framework for 21st Century Learning](#)ⁱ developed by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, as well as [Key Competences for Lifelong Learning](#)ⁱⁱ developed by the EU, and finally [A Big Picture of the Curriculum](#)ⁱⁱⁱ which gives an overall description of the British curriculum. Our plan is to define these various types of competencies and to ascertain the kinds of knowledge, skills, attitudes and circumstances necessary for bringing about the said competencies. Please refer to this link – <http://www.atc21s.org/> – for further details regarding this project.

(HOSHI Chie, CRET Researcher)

ⁱ Framework for 21st Century Learning

http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=120

ⁱⁱ Key competences for lifelong learning

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/lifelong_learning/c11090_en.htm

ⁱⁱⁱ A big picture of the curriculum

http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_5856.aspx