

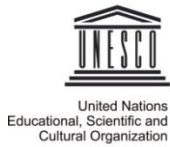
Success stories

The reasons behind the outstanding
school performance in
top-ranked countries

14 & 15 March 2018
Room XII
UNESCO – Paris

An international seminar organized by the Permanent Delegation of Argentina to UNESCO
In the framework of the Argentine Presidency of the G20

Supported by



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China



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Researching education, improving learning



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



Ministerio de Educación
Presidencia de la Nación



Sistema Federal de Medios y Contenidos Públicos
Presidencia de la Nación



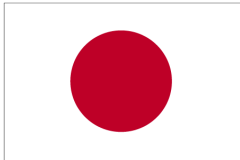


Akiko ONO

Director of the Department for International Research and Co-operation
National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER) of Japan
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan

Akiko Ono is Director of the Department for International Research and Co-operation, National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER) of Japan. She is also OECD-PISA National Project Manager of Japan and OECD-PISA Governing Board member. She completed a master degree at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University in the United States.

She joined the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of the Japanese Government in 1994. She has been engaged in the internationalization of Japan's education policies with her appointments at MEXT including Deputy Director of International Affairs Division and National University Corporation Support Division. She was also dispatched as Consultant of Directorate for Education of OECD, Education Planning Adviser (JICA Expert) to Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia. She has been Director of NIER Japan since April 2014 and is responsible in implementing PISA and other international collaborative research. She is an author of the books "OECD-TALIS 2013 National Report in Japan" (co-author, 2014, in Japanese) and "OECD-PISA 2015 National Report in Japan" (co-author, 2016, in Japanese).

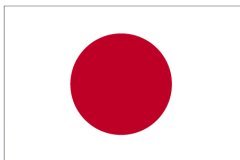


Dr. Makito YURITA

Senior Researcher
National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development (NITS)

Makito Yurita, Ph.D. is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development (NITS). Makito's research areas include (1) a theoretical inquiry on tolerance and social justice, with a focus on the political nature of knowledge and knowledge construction; (2) an application of critical pedagogy in initial teacher education; and (3) the development of a method for quantifying the qualitative values such as sentiments and perceptions in a large-scale textual dataset. Makito serves in the board of directors for the Japanese Society for the Study on Teacher Education, and an education and PR advisor for Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

He has a Ph.D. in American Studies (interdisciplinary program) from Michigan State University in political philosophy, teacher education and historiography.





Mart LAIDMETS

Deputy Secretary General

The Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia

Born 1975 in Tallinn, studied at Noarootsi Upper Secondary School and graduated as historian from the University of Tartu in 2000. After a career as political adviser of Prime Minister and Parliament fraction, Mart was Secretary General of the Estonian Rectors' Conference 2002-2009. Since 2009, Mart has been working at the Ministry of Education and Research, first as Head of Higher Education Department and from October 2013 as Deputy Secretary General.

The Deputy Secretary General is tasked with co-ordinating issues related to general education, the teaching profession, special educational needs, youth affairs and school network.



Maie KITSING

Adviser of the External Evaluation Department

The Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia

Maie Kitsing has worked at the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research since 2001 in various positions – Head of Supervision Division, Head of General Education Department, and since 2006 as an adviser of external evaluation. Her responsibilities include coordination of the PISA Study in the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, topics related with the evaluation of educational institutions, and inspection of the secondary level of The European School.

In earlier years, Maie has worked for 15 years at school (as a teacher, head teacher and as a headmaster) and seven years as a school inspector. In the last decade Maie has been engaged in scientific research, she is a PhD student at the University of Tartu and her research area is the interconnection between learning outcomes and microclimate of schools.





Dr. LEE Ngan Hoe

Associate Professor
Mathematics & Mathematics Education
National Institute of Education (NIE) – Singapore



Dr. Lee Ngan Hoe is an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He holds a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours in Pure Mathematics) from Monash University, Australia under the Colombo Plan Scholarship and the Singapore Public Service Commission's Overseas Teaching Scholarship, a Diploma in Education (Distinction) from Institute of Education, Singapore, a Master of Science in Education (Curriculum and Instruction – Mathematics Education) from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, USA under the Singapore Ministry of Education's Postgraduate Scholarship, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education from the Psychological Studies and Mathematics & Mathematics Education Academic Groups in NIE, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He taught Mathematics and Physics in a secondary school before becoming a Gifted Education Specialist at the Ministry of Education. At NIE, he teaches pre- and in-service courses as well as graduate courses in mathematics education and supervises postgraduate students pursuing Masters and PhD degrees.

His publication and research interests include the teaching and learning of mathematics at all levels – primary, secondary, and pre-university, covering areas such as mathematics curriculum development, metacognition and mathematical problem solving / modelling, productive failure and constructivism in mathematics education, technology and mathematics education, and textbooks and mathematics education.



Jaana PALOJÄRVI

Director for International Relations
Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland

Ms. Jaana Palojärvi (MSc, Economics) is currently the Director for International Relations at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, where she has worked since 1996. In her work, she is involved with developing international activities, preparing international agreements, multilateral and bilateral cooperation as well as coordination of matters concerning the European Union, UNESCO and Council of Europe. She also serves as a member in several committees and boards and has written numerous articles in several Finnish magazines and publications in the field of development policies, multi-cultural understanding and international politics.



Previously, she has worked as Secretary General of Finnish UN Association, and in the early 1990s as Consultant and Regional Manager in the private sector, focusing in education projects both in Africa and Eastern Europe and Russia.



Dr. Huihua HE

Associated Professor & Deputy Director
College of Education, Department of Early Childhood Education
Shanghai Normal University

Huihua He got her Ph.D. degree in Educational Psychology from Washington State University, US. She was working as a post-doc from 2007 to 2009. Currently she works as an associated professor and deputy director of the Department of Early Childhood Education at Shanghai Normal University. Her research is focused on preschooler's non-cognitive development, such as social-emotional learning, family early care and education, and comparative studies in preschool classroom practices and parenting from different cultural groups.



CHAE Hong Joon

FMR Director of the Educational Budget Division
Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Chae holds a M.A. in Education (Florida State University) and a B.A. in English Education (Seoul National University). He has been up to the present the Director of the Educational Budget Division of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea. He was the Director of the Academic Affairs Division at the Suncheon National University (Republic of Korea), later becoming the Director of the Policy Training Division of the National Education Training Institute of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea.





Dr. Sonia GUERRIERO

Senior Education Specialist
Section for Teacher Development – UNESCO



Dr. Guerriero joined UNESCO in 2016, where she leads research, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy projects at international level to support countries to increase the supply of qualified teachers in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4. Prior to this, she worked at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where she conceptualized and implemented the Teacher Knowledge Survey for exploring the relationship between teachers' pedagogical knowledge, initial teacher education, and teachers' motivational characteristics with the goal to better understanding the drivers of teachers' professional competence. She has over 10 years' experience supporting governments in evidence-based policy development and implementation through strategic leadership, research, and policy analysis. She holds a PhD in Experimental Psychology from McGill University specializing in learning, cognition, and developmental psychology. She has conducted research and published on a range of educational policy issues, including teacher motivation and professional competences, math anxiety, child and youth well-being, early childhood education, educational attainment, post-secondary participation and graduation, workplace skills, and labour market outcomes.



Dr. Suzanne GRANT LEWIS

Director
UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)



Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) since July 2014, Ms. Grant Lewis first joined IIEP as Deputy Director, in February 2012. Holder of a PhD from Stanford University, Ms. Grant Lewis has over twenty-five years of experience in education policy and planning in Africa, where she managed educational research programmes. She was resident advisor in Ministry of Education planning units in Namibia and Malawi and published works for a wide range of audiences on participation in school governance, democratic policy-making in education, funding trends in education internationally, among many other topics. As a Harvard University faculty member (1997-2006), she co-developed and directed the International Education Policy Programme, a skills-based Master's degree programme. She taught postgraduate courses on theories of education and development, education planning and policy-making in the developing world, and addressing gender inequalities in education.



Dr. Silvia MONTOYA

Director
UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

Dr. Silvia Montoya became the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in 2015. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she has taken a leadership role within the international education community by helping to build consensus around the standards, methodologies and indicators needed to measure progress towards Education 2030. This work entails a complete review of existing sources of information, as well as an evaluation of statistical capacity-building services needed to help Member States produce and use the resulting data. She has also launched the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning and serves as the Co-Chair of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4–Education 2030 Indicators.

Prior to joining the UIS, Silvia was the Director-General of Assessment and Evaluation of Education Quality at the Ministry of Education, Buenos Aires where she oversaw the creation of the first comprehensive education quality index produced in Argentina and coordinated Argentina’s participation in several major international assessment programmes.

Ms. Montoya was professor and researcher at the Catholic University of Argentina. She holds a Master’s and PhD in Policy Analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School, and a Master’s in Public Administration from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Ms. Montoya is the author of many publications on education, vocational training and labour market issues.



Dr. Paulína KORŠŇÁKOVÁ

Senior Research and Liaison Adviser
International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA)

Dr. Koršňáková worked as a teacher of biology and mathematics, senior lecturer and researcher implementing comparative research projects and international large-scale assessments in education in Slovakia prior getting involved with IEA and OECD studies at the international level. She is committed to facilitate capacity building and knowledge sharing to foster innovation and quality in education worldwide, particularly in relation to the compulsory education and the area of key competences.

She holds doctoral degree in Psychology and serves as a council member of EERA (European Educational Research Association).





Yuri BELFALI

Head of the Early Childhood and Schools Division
Directorate for Education and Skills
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



Ms. Belfali supports the Directorate for Education and Skills in providing strategic direction to the work on knowledge generation and its policy implication concerning skills development in early childhood education, care and school systems. She oversees large scale surveys including the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Teaching and Learning International Survey programme (TALIS) and thematic analyses including the development of learning framework ‘the future of education and skills: OECD education 2030’. These programmes are key components of the OECD’s work to help countries promote learning opportunities for all, which promotes economic growth and social progress.

Ms. Belfali spent the last 20 years in France, the US, and in several countries of South East Asia, Africa and Middle East and North Africa regions. Before joining the OECD, she worked for UNICEF as Chief of the Education Section in Morocco and the World Bank in the field of human development between 2002 and 2012. She had a leadership role in advising governments for education reforms and gender mainstreaming. Ms. Belfali, a Japanese national, holds a Master’s degree in International Educational Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford University.

Wednesday 14 March

10:30

Reception coffee

11:00

Opening ceremony

11:50

Remarks by the Minister of Education of Argentina, Alejandro Finocchiaro

12:00

Listen and repeat or learn by doing?

12:50

Scientific spirit and creativity in the classroom

- Maie Kitsing
- Paulína Koršňáková
- Akiko Ono

Lunch break

14:30

Sooner, later... too much?

15:20

Age and pace of learning

- Yuri Belfali
- Maie Kitsing

Coffee break

15:30

What makes a good teacher?

16:20

Selection, training and evaluation of teachers

- Chae Hong Joon
- Sonia Guerriero
- Huihua He

Thursday 15 March

9:30	Reception coffee	
10:00 10:50	The teaching of Mathematics in Singapore <i>Problem solving and conceptual understanding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lee Ngan Hoe
11:00 11:50	Better teachers, better education? <i>The teacher as a key factor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mart Laidmets• Jaana Palojärvi• Makito Yurita
Coffee break		
12:00 12:50	Less class and more productivity? <i>Number of subjects throughout the school year</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jaana Palojärvi• Maie Kitsing• Mart Laidmets
Lunch break		
14:30 15:20	What is the role of the family? <i>Home as a complement of school</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paulína Koršňáková• Mart Laidmets• Silvia Montoya
Coffee break		
15:30 16:20	None, little, too much... and how? <i>Evaluation of students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suzanne Grant Lewis• Paulína Koršňáková• Akiko Ono