



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE FOUNDATION

“Everyone is a Stakeholder in Education!”

Dialogue session 5 (Conference Room 4)

Solidarity and Equity. “Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most”.* (MDG 8)

One of the central challenges of this new century, as defined by the Millennium Summit, is to ensure that globalization can be made fully inclusive and equitable. In this context, the Millennium Declaration called for “broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon **our common humanity** in all its diversity. This requires a common set of values and principles inclusive of shared responsibility fundamental to international relations in the twenty-first century.

It is no accident that this clarion call is going forth at a very challenging time for people everywhere and therefore calls for new, bold, visionary approaches. As we now live in an increasingly global and interdependent world collective sustainability depends on effective cooperation. Cooperation depends upon communication now dependent upon technology. It is both the challenge and the opportunity. We have an urgent mandate to forge a comprehensive strategy, create a coalition of all stakeholders, who are determined to launch a new paradigm of international cooperation, one that recognizes the imperatives of diversity in the ‘oneness’ of us all among the cultures in all realms of human endeavor. And beyond the spiritual imperative, reframe ‘costs & burdens’ into social enterprise investment and recognize the ROI (return on investment) inherent in the promise of an international partnership bringing equity of access to ICT’s (Information/Communication Technologies) across the globe, foundational to developing new markets in transitional and emerging economies. We must target our message to highlight the mutual benefits for all stakeholders in this new economy to mobilize resources collaboratively, assisting developing jurisdictions in building capacity and sustainability while using the technology to deliver the message.

It may behoove us to look at restructuring our traditional modus operandi, to one more in alignment with strategic business plans and collaborating more effectively with the private sector both under their corporate social responsibility banners and their sales/marketing divisions. Fifty one of the top 100 economies in the world are corporations. They have the ‘bandwidth’ for global initiatives. A successful public-private civil society partnership model strongly supported by the multi-lateral funding institutions has the potential of addressing the majority of our societal challenges. . We have moved beyond the feel good of philanthropy or charity into the realms of investment as a mandate for survival in this information age. Paraphrasing John Morgridge, Chairman of the Board of Cisco Systems: “Doing good is good for business” ought to become our mantra. Partnerships with NGO’s that have demonstrated the long term committed integrity and leadership in the issues of equality extend the programmatic fabric and global impact of a public-private sector partnerships (PPP).A prime example is our recent collaboration with the United Way of Jamaica and sending the message that the global community is but one family with common values, promoting the concept of equity and fairness through an ICT Education Initiative PPP. We are actively demonstrating this through our ‘united’ endeavor as we pursue the shared vision of the PPP for the improvement in the wellbeing of Jamaicans through ICT enabled skills development, enhancing the readiness of one country’s population for the global marketplace. Together we are developing a local PPP model which will have the potential to expand regionally and internationally vis-a-vis a new global partnership crossing all geographic borders and sector of society, committed to joining the nations of the world in the digital age.

The International Education Collaborative Foundation (www.iecf.us) a US based 501(C) (3) was established in 1998 to bridge the digital divide by upgrading the workforce in transitional economies through partnerships that implement comprehensive 21st century education and skill development. IECF assists country-based leaders in forging strategic, high-impact Public Private Partnerships that build country capacity and sustainability to support integration of (ICT) in public educational systems for universal access & life long learning. Brokering and maintaining intentional partnerships among business, government, and civil society is a relatively new notion for many jurisdictions. This *partnership development and management process* determines a partnership’s ultimate success, and is IECF’s unique strength to ensure that students graduate from secondary and post-secondary public schools technologically fluent, highly skilled, and ready to become productive citizens in a globally competitive knowledge based society. The Equitable distribution of requisite resources for a more equal playing field mandates collaborative interventions. The inherent gift of Technology is the capability to connect heretofore disparate sectors in common vision and goals therefore activating the Laws of Attraction to manifest a true win-win-win for Humanity.