A Research Agenda in School Leadership and Organisational Change for Singapore Clive Dimmock

This paper argues that it is timely for Asia to generate cultural- and empirical-knowledge bases in school leadership that will speak to the specific interests of Asian students, educators and practitioners. It queries the continuation of the present dominant Anglo-American perspectives, as developed Asian societies gather the resources and expertise to launch significant research programmes in school leadership and organisational change. The paper reports a planned large scale research programme for school leadership and organisational change in Singapore. Support for such a programme from all three major stakeholders – the Ministry of Education (MOE), the National Institute of Education (NIE) and school leaders and teachers –is conditional on it leading to school improvement and better student outcomes. The paper sketches the politico-cultural-economic conditions of Singapore in which such an agenda has been formed; describes the main features of the research programme, and then relates its features to a possible broader Asian and international research agenda in school leadership. The planned Singapore programme has congruence with an international research agenda advocated by scholars for future research in the field of educational leadership.