

Introduction to the Symposium

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities:

Hong Kong as a learning city

12 November 2016

Key areas of action for building Learning cities

1. Develop a plan for becoming a learning city;
2. Create a coordinated structure involving all stakeholders;
3. Initiate and maintain the process with celebratory events;
4. Make sure that learning is accessible to all citizens;
5. Establish a monitoring and evaluation process; and
6. Ensure sustainable funding

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002349/234987e.pdf>

Planning stage

- Involve city leaders and representatives in identifying the main issues that need to be addressed based on the city's unique challenges and priorities.
- Take stock of what has already been achieved by gathering information on relevant activities implemented by different sectors and stakeholders.
- Develop an understanding of what building a learning city involves by organizing capacity-building workshops for various sectors and stakeholders.
- Devise a concrete action plan and give it a catchy title. This plan should define the medium- and long-term objectives and means of evaluation, using the Key Features of Learning Cities as a basis.
- Develop a city charter outlining the actions that need to be taken to improve learning in the city. These actions should be aligned with the central government's strategies for building a learning society.

Our Symposium aims to:

- Examine the concept of learning cities and the UNESCO framework
- Identify practices existing in Hong Kong that fit into the concept of a learning city
- Confirm an essential role of stakeholders in supporting a learning city
- Identify challenges and trends in establishing learning cities, and to come up with critical factors contributing to achieving the goal of becoming a learning city
- Discuss the possibility for Hong Kong to join a global network of learning cities and agree upon next steps.

Outcomes

- Initiate an establishment of a learning city development committee
- Set up a project to review of what has already been achieved
- Establish a procedure of applying for a membership (and convince the governor to attend The 5th World Forum on Lifelong Learning together with 5 other mayors to announce Hong Kong's participation in the network)