

8. International Symposium on Education Reform 2006—The Changing Teaching Profession in the Knowledge Society

Leader: KOMATSU Ikuo, Director, Department for Educational Policy and Evaluation Research

(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

Since fiscal 2001, NIER has worked with MEXT to organize international symposia on education reform. Experts working at the front lines of education reform outside Japan are welcomed to these events, where participants learn from the experiences of various different countries and apply them to the practice of education reform at home.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- In fiscal 2006, the symposium was held at the U Thant International Conference Hall on December 16, 2006, under the theme of “The Changing Teaching Profession in the Knowledge Society.”

- The program for this symposium was as follows.

Keynote Lecture

“A Profile of the Teacher Required in a Knowledge-Based Society: An initiative to secure teachers and enhance their qualifications”

- GODA Takafumi (Deputy Director-General responsible for the Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, MEXT)

Presentations

“Welcome to Leading, Teaching, Sustainability and Change”

- Andy HARGREAVES (United States of America: Boston College)

“Educational Reform for a Knowledge Society? Accountability, choice and educational change in England since 1976”

- Gary MCCULLOCH (United Kingdom: Institute of Education, University of London)

“Trends in Educational Reform in Korea and Teaching Policies: In search of a Teacher Profile for the 21st Century”

- CHUNG Kwang-Hee (Korea: Korean Educational Development Institute)

“Building a Learning Nation: Finland’s Response to the Knowledge Society Challenge”

- Pasi SAHLBERG (Finland: World Bank, formerly Finnish Ministry of

Education)

General Discussion

Panelists: Andy HARGREAVES
Gary MCCULLOCH
CHUNG Kwang-Hee
Pasi SAHLBERG

Coordinators: HAYO Masaaki (Professor, Tokyo Gakugei University)
KOMATSU Ikuo (Director, Department for Educational
Policy and Evaluation, NIER)

- The aim of the symposium was to discuss educational policy for a changing teaching profession in the five countries involved and how sustainable educational environments for both teachers and children can be developed. The teaching profession in Japan has been undergoing various changes and challenges. Some new initiatives, such as graduate schools for teachers, frameworks for evaluating teachers and renewing teachings qualifications and so on, are profoundly reshaping the roles of teachers. These matters, however, are already common in other advanced countries, and education reforms are occurring as a result thereof. In this symposium, different views and ideas were exchanged in order to improve educational standards and inspire teachers in the knowledge society.

- Firstly, Mr. Goda from MEXT delivered a keynote lecture on the details of and background to policies on the teaching profession currently being developed in Japan. This was followed by presentations by researchers from the United States, United Kingdom, Korea and Finland on their countries' approaches and the ideas that underpin them.

During the general discussion session, coordinator Hayo reviewed the material delivered by each of the speakers from the following seven perspectives: (a) mission of the teaching profession, (b) roles of schools, (c) sustainable development of society, (d) teacher evaluation, (e) perception differences among stakeholders, (f) roles of teachers, and (g) reliability and expertise in the teaching profession. Questions were taken from the floor, and discussion ensued on the two issues of the mission of the teaching profession and teacher evaluation.