Better ITEM: Better schools: An international agenda

Panel members (provisional)

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Abstract: Information Technology in Educational Management (ITEM) has been evolving internationally over the last 25 years. Since its inception in 1994 IFIP-TC3-Working Group 3.7 has through its bi-annual ITEM conferences, seven books, and peer cooperation, together with numerous other papers by members of the group, positioned itself closely with the development of ITEM during this period of change. This panel looks closely at the way that ITEM has evolved together with the lessons learned and considers good practice for the development of existing and new systems. It considers that ITEM and Management Information Systems (MISs) in schools are essential in the modern environment and that their development is ongoing and accelerating. But it also accepts that the future is complex and uncertain and that international collaboration is essential to ensure that the systems of the future are useful, fit for purpose and achieve the ultimate aims of creating better learning and teaching and ultimately better schools.

The panel will present case study evidence from around the world, citing examples that highlight the themes mentioned above. It will also seek further evidence, particularly evidence grounded in a recognized research methodology, that assists in building descriptive and predictive models of these phenomena. The panel’s collaborative working group (Baker et al., 2009) gives a foundation to the panel’s terms of reference. However in addition the areas of informed decision making through school performance feedback systems and links to the learning and teaching process are also included as important issues for current and future models of ITEM.

Reference