TOP 50 INFLUENCERS IN EDUCATION -Asia Pacific-
Driving Change in Asia Pacific’s Education Landscape

The demand for education in the Asia Pacific region is expected to face exponential growth in the next decade. With increasing Internet penetration, new technologies that reduce the need for physical classrooms and a growing middle class, the world’s largest pool of K-12 and college enrollments is only set to continue growing.

At the same time, having new technologies to enhance learning is not enough. Innovative teaching methods and creative strategies are required to engage a generation of learners who are living in a digital era. Not forgetting, the region’s diverse socioeconomic issues which will continue to affect the quality and level of access to education for youths.

Amidst these various challenges we’ve identified a group of 50 influencers who we think are making a mark in the region’s education landscape. They are individuals who are inspiring change, driving education reform and injecting innovation into today’s learning and teaching methods.

From experienced educators to technology experts, from entrepreneurs to social activists, these individuals have one thing in common – they’re improving education for future generations of students.

Enjoy the read!
Vincent Quah is currently the Business Development Lead, responsible for the Education, Research and Not For Profit sectors, covering the Asia Pacific region for Amazon Web Services. He has been involved in the education and research field for the past 20+ years and has held many different roles – educator, curriculum and instructional designer, e-learning consultant– driving regional and global education projects, programs and business. He has had extensive experience working in the Asia Pacific region, in particular, working on large-scale regional/state/national projects. He is passionate about the use and impact of technology on education and research. His primary focus now is to work with customers to support and assist them in achieving their goals and in solving problems.
Andrew Ng is Associate Professor of Computer Science at Stanford; Chief Scientist of Baidu; and Chairman and Co-founder of Coursera. In 2011 he led the development of Stanford University’s main MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) platform and also taught an online Machine Learning class to over 100,000 students, leading to the founding of Coursera. Ng’s goal is to give everyone in the world access to a great education, for free. Today, Coursera partners with some of the top universities in the world to offer high quality online courses, and is the largest MOOC platform in the world.

Ng is also a leading voice in “deep learning,” a branch of artificial intelligence in which scientists try to get computers to “learn” for themselves by processing massive amounts of data. He was part of a team at Google that in 2012 famously taught a network of computers to recognize cats after being shown millions of photos. In 2014, Baidu’s research team announced a breakthrough in coming up with a new method of more accurately recognizing speech, claiming to top Google and Apple’s speech systems. Ng thinks speech recognition will become even more critical as less literate people use the Internet and prefer to speak instead of write queries, and says that speech is an enabling technology for the Internet of Things.
Philip is passionate about how education and technology converge, and how innovative technologies have supported institutions worldwide to build a better education globally. This is a core theme in Philip's career and he has presented and written about this subject across Asia over the last 12 years. Philip is the Regional Vice President of Blackboard Asia and was previously Regional Manager for SkillSoft Asia. Philip works with regional thought leaders and is often in discussion on how education companies like Blackboard can help develop and implement learning strategies to achieve outcomes such as improved student outcomes, increased student engagement, faculty efficiencies and successful mobile learning.

Combined with his love of travel he gets the opportunity to discuss this convergence in some superb locations in Asia too.
A decade into his career at Samsung, Kim came up with the idea for Bluepin, but decided a large corporation was not the right environment to make it. He ventured out on his own to found the company in 2009.

An interactive kid’s book can cost up to US$30,000 to develop, according to Kim. "We have developed a tool that is able to dramatically reduce the cost of development and the time to market our interactive content that can be consumed across mobile platforms," he explains. “To our knowledge there are no other players in this space whose technology has this capability."

MORE ABOUT BLUEPIN
BLUEPIN is a mobile app book solution specializing company with core technology in application development for smartphones and smartpads.

Bluepin’s flagship app KidsWorld acts as a portal for children’s educational content, including ebooks and puzzles. It has over 12,000 unique content items from more than 100 providers that split money from purchases using a profit sharing model. Some of that content is developed internally, but the majority comes from third parties in Korea, Japan, and China.
Young-hwa Kim
CEO
Chungdahm Learning

Young-hwa Kim founded Chungdahm Learning in 1998 with the mission to fulfill the needs of 21st century learners. Chungdahm develops digital learning solutions, including its CREO smart classroom solution and its digital curriculum solution for schools globally. Chungdahm currently operates over three hundred learning centers throughout Korea, specializing in mathematics and English language acquisition. Chungdahm is a leader in the Korean after school education industry, currently running CREO smart classrooms at more than 70 of its schools with over 15,000 students. Chungdahm also has education programs running in China, Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, U.S.A., and Canada.

In 2014, Chungdahm announced plans to partner with leading adaptive learning company Knewton. Chungdahm Learning is the first major learning company planning to work with Knewton in Asia, and will use Knewton’s infrastructure to create digital lessons that continuously adjust to each student’s unique needs.
Dr. Chun is a veteran IT professional with three decades of innovation experience. Currently, he serves as the CIO for City University of Hong Kong, a forward-thinking and technology-progressive university that ranks among the world’s top 5 young universities according to QS Rankings. As CIO, Dr. Chun provides IT leadership in transforming the University to achieve its unique “Discover & Innovate @ CityU” vision; creating a technology-rich environment to nurture 21st century innovative thinkers and leaders. Dr. Chun received a 2013 Premier 100 IT Leader award from Computerworld US; 2012 HK CIO Award from Computerworld HK and CIO Connect; and a 2010 Top 5 CIO award from CEO & CIO China and IDG Group.
Derek Wenmoth

Director of eLearning
CORE Education Ltd, New Zealand

Derek is currently the Director of eLearning CORE Education Ltd, a not-for-profit educational research and development organization based in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has a broad background in education, with experience at the primary and secondary school level, and as principal lecturer at the Christchurch College of Education where he established the Primary Open Learning Option (POLO), a distance education programme which offers the Bachelor of Teaching qualification for students anywhere in NZ wishing to train as primary teachers.

Derek’s experience in flexible and distance learning includes his role as manager of the eSection at The Correspondence School in Wellington where he led the development of eLearning initiatives as a transition from traditional print-based delivery. He has also had a role in the Ministry of Education as a senior adviser in eLearning, helping formulate a national eLearning framework, and is currently spends some of his time on contract to the Ministry working on the implementation plan for this framework.
Chen Kee Tan
Principal
Crescent Girls’ School, Singapore

A passionate educator, Mrs Tan began her career as a Biology teacher in Temasek Junior College. After nine years in teaching, she assumed the position of Assistant Director in the Ministry of Education, Singapore. In her capacity as Assistant Director, she was directly involved in conceptualizing and implementing Singapore’s FutureSchools@Singapore programme. After obtaining her Master of Arts (Education) from Stanford University, she took up the role of Vice-Principal in Gongshang Primary School before assuming her current role as Principal of Crescent Girls’ School – one of only 8 schools in the FutureSchools@Singapore programme. Crescent Girls’ School is a Gold Excellence Award winner of the UNESCO-Intel Teach Regional Awards. It currently plays a leading role in the use of technology for school-wide transformation of teaching and learning in the 21st century.
Dr. Jose Lloyd David Espiritu  
**Associate Professor**  
**De La Salle University, Philippines**

Dr. Espiritu, better known as Doc Lloyd, is an associate professor and the former Dean of the College of Computer Studies at De La Salle University (DLSU-Manila). His research is focused on instructional design, content development and eLearning, mLearning, eAssessment. He founded the Instructional Systems Technology program at De La Salle University in 1997 and since then, has been leading various large-scale e-learning and content development projects in the country.

He has lead projects in Instructional Design, e-Learning, mobile-Learning, e-Assessment with different organizations such as Vibal Publishing House, DTI, the Commission on ICT, the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (ALS), and TESDA. His most recent project with TESDA premiers the first MOOC (massive open online course) for TVET in the Philippines. This MOOC was launched in 2012 to increase access to TVET courses and continuous to help Filipinos get certified for employment.

Dr. Espiritu is also an author and editor of 7 textbooks on ICT literacy and Web Design with Vibal Publishing House. He has taken strong interest in the upskilling of teachers by writing a handbooks on ICT literacy and informal education and developing the national ICT competency standards for teachers.
Jon Phillips

Managing Director, Worldwide Education
Dell

Jon Phillips is the Director for Dell Global Education Practice. In this role, he leads the global strategy for Dell’s education services and solutions.

With 20 years combined experience in the Education space, Mr. Phillips is highly experienced in leading teams providing large-scale operational and systems integration services to the Education (Hied & K-12) Marketplace. He has directed teams in the execution of large business improvement projects, long-range technology plans, packaged technology selections and implementations. Mr. Phillips is also experienced in building consulting services businesses, turnaround management, merger and acquisition preparation consulting, with a successful track record of assisting organizations with the alignment of business strategy and operational execution.

Mr. Phillips, previous work included, Executive Editor/Brand Manager, with MacMillan Publishing USA - part of Pearson Education. Additionally, during his career in the Technology, Media and Publishing sectors, Jon has served in various brand management, corporate marketing and operations management roles. Mr. Phillips received a Bachelor of Science – Communications and Marketing from Ball State University.
Edmond Yap  
**Founder**  
**Edunation**

Edmond is the founder of Edunation, a volunteer driven non-profit educational initiative to ensure that every Malaysian student has all the educational resources he needs to succeed academically in school. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering from University of Adelaide. For 5 years, he pursued a career in engineering before leaving it to pursue his passion in educating people through corporate training, and eventually starting up EduNation to provide free education for all Malaysian children regardless of their economic background or where they come from.

Inspired by the Khan Academy, Edmond realised that Malaysia needed something similar – a totally free online ecosystem of educational materials that will help kids. Since its beginning in 2012, Edunation now has more than 1,700 videos, with the ultimate objective of putting the entire Malaysian school syllabus online.

Asked what he thinks students in Malaysia really need, Yap replied: “What students think they need are SPM tips and what to study and what formula to memorise. But what our students really need is to truly understand the fundamentals of what they’re learning. Because of our lack of fundamental understanding of what we’re learning, we will struggle later on in life.”
Professor Manabu Sato
Gakushuin University

Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
Director, Humanities and Social Sciences Division of Japan Council of Sciences

Professor Manabu Sato is a Professor of Gakushuin University and Professor Emeritus of The University of Tokyo, Director of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division of Japan Council of Sciences. He served as dean of the Graduate School of Education of The University of Tokyo from 2004 to 2006. He was also a visiting professor to the Harvard University and New York University, and an invited professor of El Colegio de Mexico and Berlin Free University. He was the past president of the Japanese Educational Research Association. Professor Sato has worked extensively and intensively with many schools and school leaders. He specializes in school reform and school curriculum, and has visited more than 1,500 schools in Japan and 300 schools abroad and promotes school reform from within the schools in cooperation with teachers. He has published more than 20 books, about 100 editorial books and nearly 200 academic papers. Many of his books and papers have been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean and Indonesian. Professor Sato’s multiple contributions have been recognized in the world. For instance, he was elected to be a member of National Academy of Education in the United States, and in 2009, he was appointed the Inaugural Fellow of American Educational Research Association. In addition, he was a winner of the Excellent Award of Asian Publishing Award 2012.
Dan E. Young
*Founding Head of Education*
GEMS World Academy (Singapore)

Dan joined GEMS Education in 2004 in Dubai to assist in the guidance and development of a global network of GEMS World Academies. Prior to this appointment in Singapore, he was Head of Education/CEO at GWA-Dubai as well as the brand advisor for the GEMS premium academies. He holds a Master’s of Science in Education from Northern Arizona, USA, and continues to be internationally recognized as a formidable educator and school leader. He has nine years of experience leading both international IBO and American curriculum GEMS schools in Dubai. Dan has worked in both the American International School-Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia, and the Shanghai American School-Pudong, China, where he served as Principal. His educational leadership career also includes twenty eight years in the Mesa Public Schools, Arizona, where he facilitated full staffing and opening of four new schools.

Dan has been awarded a Mesa Schools Administrator of the Year as well as the Arizona Department of Education Outstanding Educational Supervisor award. Among other notable achievements, he has been the Principal recipient of two U.S. Department of Education Excellence in Education, A+ Blue Ribbon School awards, as well as the Outstanding Principal of Leadership Award awarded by the U.S. National Association for Elementary Schools.
Harry Kwa

Head of Education, Asia Pacific

Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd

Harry Kwa heads Google’s Education efforts in Asia Pacific. He works closely with Governments and education institutions on the use of technology for teaching and learning. He believes that ICT and the internet can be a multiplier for capacity building, opening the doors to educational and economic opportunities for all, and in particular, underserved communities. Harry has extensive experience in education technology and the use of ICT in schools, having previously managed the education businesses of both Apple and Microsoft for more than 10-years in the region.
Professor Eric Tsui
Associate Director, Knowledge Management
And Innovation Research Center
Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Eric has designed and delivered KM, AI, BPR, Portal, BPM, and MIS courses at the University of Sydney, University of Technology, Sydney, University of New South Wales, RMIT University, University of Kentucky, Stellenbosch University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and City University of Hong Kong. He is the program leader of Asia’s only master degree in Knowledge Management which is delivered in a blended learning environment. He was a recipient of the High Impact Award 2008, winner of the Teaching and Learning Innovation Award 2010 and Merit Award in Teaching in 2013, all at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

In 2014, he was a recipient of the Knowledge Management Leadership Award by Global KM Congress. Appointed as the Professor of Knowledge Management at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University under the President’s Distinguished Professionals Scheme in September 2002, he joined the university as a full time staff in March 2005. In the past 9 years, he has designed and delivered numerous public and custom-designed knowledge management and technologies workshops.

He has also consulted for many government departments and private organizations in Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei. Eric is Vice President of the Hong Kong Knowledge Management Society, an honorary advisor on KM to the Hong Kong Police College, and a member on IT Technical Advisory Sub-Committee in the Hong Kong Hospital Authority. Professor Tsui is also the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on ELearning, Chairman of the HKPolyUX MOOC Steering Group and Facilitator of the Community of Practice on use of Learning Management System to enhance Teaching and Learning at his university.
Professor Tae-Eog Lee

Director, Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
KAIST, Republic of Korea

Professor Tae-Eog Lee is currently Director of Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (formerly Dean of Education 3.0 Initiative) at KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), South Korea. He is leading KAIST’s strategic educational reformation program called Education 3.0 Initiative, which challenges the traditional education system of the country.

Education 3.0 bears many of the hallmarks of flipped classrooms and is a form of blended learning. Lectures move online—which handles students’ need for personalization—and, as one of Lee’s presentations states, “What in a class? Anything but lecturing!” Class time moves away from PowerPoint, blackboards, and whiteboards and is instead devoted to interactive and applied learning—questions and answers, review and summary, quizzes, interactive problem solving, discussion, project-based learning, and labs.

The goal is to overcome students’ habits for rote-based learning, which were honed through mass education, and improve their creativity, synthesizing skills, communication, teamwork, and leadership while still having them master the necessary knowledge.
Salman Khan is the founder and faculty of the Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org)--a not-for-profit organization with the mission of providing a free world-class education to anyone, anywhere. It now consists of self-paced software and, with over 1 million unique students per month, the most-used educational video repository on the Internet (over 30 million lessons delivered to-date). All 2000+ video tutorials, covering everything from basic addition to advanced calculus, physics, chemistry and biology, have been made by Salman. Prior to the Khan Academy, Salman was a senior analyst at a hedge fund and had also worked in technology and venture capital. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, an M.Eng and B.S. in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT, and a B.S. in mathematics from MIT.

Find out how Khan Academy inspired Edmond Yap, number 11 on our list to create his version of Khan Academy in Malaysia
Lina Ashar did her primary schooling in England before moving to Australia, where she acquired her Bachelor’s degree in Education from Melbourne’s Victoria College. In 1991, Lina came to India on a year-long sabbatical, and landed up taking a school job in suburban Mumbai, an experience which changed her life. Back then, the education system in India was still grappling with a strait jacketed approach to education, leaving no scope for an overall development of the child, which was a complete contrast to what she had studied. Lina chose to stay back in India to change the antiquated approach to education which existed then.

Her conviction to offer an education which set the child as its centre led her to start her first preschool in Bandra (Mumbai) in the year 1993 with 25 students. The journey from one Kangaroo Kids Preschool to 100+ schools (Kangaroo Kids Preschool and Billabong High International School) across 30 different cities in India as well as in Dubai, Maldives and Qatar, has been a phenomenal one. Lina’s unique approach, injection of potent solutions and radical processes to ensure that the quality of education improved was instantaneously well received and noted.

Lina has been extremely passionate about creating a purpose of learning and allowing children to be thinkers, innovators, problem solvers and to orchestrate experiences that will result in their overall development. With an intention to spark human greatness in every student, Lina was the first in the Indian education industry to introduce a learner centric methodology and introduce innovative ways of learning via integrated and theme based learning.
Over the past few years, Shabnam Aggarwal has honed in on a specific niche market that she has a deep passion and obsession for: enhancing education for poor children over mobile phones. She started a couple of different companies to this end, in India and the US, and has worked with various professors, researchers, businesses, organizations, and changemakers to try to discover what has worked and what has failed in bringing high-quality education to the masses of children who have little access today.

Shabnam believes that technology is not the be-all, end-all solution but an incredible tool we can capitalize upon to truly begin to level the playing field. She believes all children can learn, it is simply a matter of the opportunities they have to learn and how their learning connects with their lives and experiences.

Currently, Shabnam is Founder and CEO of KleverKid, a platform that aims to become the Yelp for Learning, making it simple for parents find the best afterschool extracurricular coach, teacher, tutor, workshop or program for their children.
Phalla has been a teacher, school director and country-wide coordinator for the Education for Blind program in Cambodia for over 20 years. She began working with blind children in 1986 as a UN school director in a Thai refugee camp. When she returned to Cambodia in 1991, she started working for the NGO Krousar Thmey and in 1993 became the first Braille teacher in the history of the country. She has contributed to the opening of the first schools for blind people in Cambodia and to the creation of the Khmer version of Braille. At the time most Cambodians believed that blind people were incapable of learning, had misbehaved in a past life and thus deserved isolation.

In her teaching, Phalla has pioneered approaches to learning in modalities that are more natural for the blind. These emphasize the senses of touch and hearing rather than sight, and music is a central part of her curriculum. She aims to build learning through understanding, memory and confidence. She also gives priority to English lessons and computer skills (using screen reader software) to help prepare her pupils for life in a global world. Students in Krousar Thmey schools start learning English in the first year of primary school, while Cambodian students in public schools start in the first year of secondary school. Blind and low-vision students develop a strong sense of hearing and therefore tend to be especially talented at music and foreign languages.

The program has now expanded to 69 teachers and 250 children in 4 Krousar Thmey schools and 29 integrated classes in public schools across the country. Phalla proudly quotes that in 2014, 100% of her visually impaired secondary school students passed the national examination of baccalaureate.

Learn more about Phalla's story here: https://youtu.be/Sy15ugTf8eM
Simon Breakspear is recognised internationally as a leading thinker on the future of learning and educational innovation. As the founder of LearnLabs, a global learning strategy and design agency, he helps school, system and policy leaders design and deliver high-impact strategies to enable deeper learning at scale. He has worked with and spoken to leaders across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, Europe, Canada, Israel, Hong Kong and India. Simon works at the intersection of learning innovation and system reform. He has contributed to the OECD PISA and Innovative Learning Environments projects and launched the global Agile Schools movement.

He incubates networks of the next generation of educational leaders through curating emerging leaders summits and advises educational technology start-ups committed to improving the quality and equity of learning. Simon holds Bachelors degrees in Psychology and Teaching. He did his graduate studies in education as a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Oxford, and as a Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge.
Malala Yousafzai
Activist, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient
Founder, Malala Fund

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. As a child, she became an advocate for girls’ education, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived, and has continued to speak out on the importance of education.

Her assassination attempt received worldwide condemnation and protests across Pakistan. Over 2 million people signed the Right to Education campaign. The petition helped lead to the ratification of Pakistan’s first right to education bill.

Malala became a global advocate for the millions of girls being denied a formal education because of social, economic, legal and political factors. She started the Malala Fund to bring awareness to the social and economic impact of girls’ education and to empower girls to raise their voices, to unlock their potential, and to demand change.

In 2014, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and won, becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.
As Vice-President of Education for Microsoft Corp.'s Worldwide Public Sector organization, Anthony Salcito works with education institutions and partners globally to embrace technology to optimize learning environments and student achievement. In this role, Salcito oversees the worldwide execution of Microsoft's vision for education and its partnership and technology outreach efforts via the Worldwide Partners in Learning, Partners for Technology Access, and Public and Private Alliances programs.

Previously, as General Manager of Education in the United States, Salcito had responsibility for supporting K-12 and higher education institutions across the U.S. and leading Microsoft’s efforts to support and increase the role technology plays to enhance learning. He developed education partnerships and innovative programs to better support education customers nationally.

He helped launch the U.S. Partners in Learning program in 2003, which was recognized in 2009 with the Public-Private Partnership Award from the U.S. National Governors Association. He was the catalyst for Microsoft’s involvement in the creation of the School of the Future — Microsoft’s participation with School District of Philadelphia to build an innovative high school in the city of Philadelphia - which has served as a blueprint for Microsoft's worldwide Innovative Schools program.
Kenn Ross is currently Managing Director, Asia for the Minerva Project, a reinvented university experience for the world’s brightest, most motivated students. In this role, Kenn oversees all of Minerva’s activities in the region.

About Minerva
Minerva provides a reinvented university experience for the brightest, most motivated students in the world. Combining a redefined student body, a reinvented curriculum, rigorous academic standards, cutting-edge technology, and an immersive global experience, Minerva is committed to providing an exceptional and accessible liberal arts and sciences education for future leaders and innovators across all disciplines.
Dr. Vuong Thanh Huong is a Senior Researcher, Director of Center for Education Information at Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences (VNIES). With more than 25 years of experience in education, Dr. Huong has participated in various educational researches regarding to educational planning and management, education management information systems, application of ICT in education and comparative studies on education development between Vietnam and foreign countries. Dr. Huong has served as a high profile consultant for a number of WB, ADB and other prominent international funded projects in Vietnam. Furthermore, Dr. Huong has been well exposed to international practice and has developed efficient and fruitful relationships with the international donors and national educational management units at different levels.
Justin Bokor is a Director at Monash University and the creator of MWorld, a new digital education platform for children. Launched in September 2014, MWorld harnesses the power of tablet devices to unleash curiosity and bring learning and literacy into the digital age.

Justin is a regular presenter on education reform and the impact on education institutions. Prior to joining Monash University, Justin consulted to a range of government education departments, schools, universities and vocational education institutions. Justin has extensive international experience, having lived and worked in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. During his time in Singapore, Justin was a regular commentator on CNBC and the BBC on a range of issues in the Asia-Pacific region.
Michael Fullan, OC, is the former Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Recognized as a worldwide authority on educational reform, he advises policymakers and local leaders around the world in helping to achieve the moral purpose of all children learning. Michael Fullan received the Order of Canada in December 2012. He holds honorary doctorates from several universities in North America and abroad.

Fullan is a prolific, award-winning author whose books have been published in many languages. His book *Leading in a Culture of Change* was awarded the 2002 Book of the Year Award by Learning Forward (formerly the National Staff Development Council), *Breakthrough* (with Peter Hill and Carmel Crévola) won the 2006 Book of the Year Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), and *Turnaround Leadership in Higher Education* (with Geoff Scott) won the Bellwether Book Award in 2009. *Change Wars* (with Andy Hargreaves) was awarded the 2009 Book of the Year Award by Learning Forward and *Professional Capital* (with Andy Hargreaves) won the AACTE 2013 Book of the Year.
Prof. Ping-Cheng (Benson) Yeh is a leading innovator in teaching with numerous pioneering achievements:

- The first to win the Overall Award and E-Learning Award in Wharton-QS 2014 Stars Awards: Reimagine Education, the "Oscars" of innovations in higher education.
- The first to design a MOOC-based multi-student social game.
- The first to design a serious online game for any general courses.
- Set a record of 2,236 teachers attending his speech of flipped teaching.
- The first to make MOOC in Chinese with 50,000+ students.
- The first to design experiential learning schemes with college students graded by 12-year old kids on presentation skills.

Since 2010, Prof. Yeh has been a strong advocate of his teaching philosophy: "by the students, for the students, of the students". It states that students can be motivated to learn if the teachers can share more responsibility with the students, for instance, let students design their own homework problems. Prof. Yeh’s speeches have motivated many teachers in different countries to start thinking differently in teaching.
Mr. Tay Kheng Tiong has over 32 years of experience in the IT industry covering various sectors like Finance, Telcos, Manufacturing, Market Research and Education. As Chief Information Officer of Nanyang Technological University since 2010, Kheng Tiong is responsible for the IT environment and IT-enabled learning environment of the university.

Prior to his current position, Kheng Tiong served as Director of Hewlett-Packard managing the transition and transformation of the SOE implementation (Standard Operating Environment), a $1.3 billion Singapore Government project funded by IDA (the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore). His other previous roles include Director School of IT at Republic Polytechnic, Vice President of Gartner AP (a market research company), Director (and co-owner) of an e-learning company as well as Chief Information Officer for 2 multi-national corporations in Singapore.

Under Kheng Tiong’s leadership, NTU became the first higher education institution in Australasia to achieve the ISO 20000 certification, demonstrating excellence and best practice in IT service management.
Dr Sugata Mitra

Professor of Educational Technology
Newcastle University

Sugata Mitra is Professor of Educational Technology at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University, UK. He was given the $1m TED Prize in 2013 in recognition of his work and to help build a School in the Cloud, a creative online space where children across the world can gather to answer 'big questions', share knowledge and benefit from help and guidance from online educators.

Much of his current research builds on the Hole in the Wall (HIW) experiment, which Sugata instigated in 1999 while chief scientist at NIIT. Children were given free access to a computer embedded within a wall between his office and an Indian slum in Delhi. This experiment has also left a mark on popular culture, Vikas Swarup read about Sugata's experiment and was inspired to write his debut novel that went on to become the Oscar winning movie - *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Since the 1970s, Sugata's work has resulted in training and development of perhaps a million young Indians, among them some of the poorest children in the world. The resultant changes in the lives of people and the economy of the country can only be guessed at.
Dr. Larry Johnson

*Chief Executive Officer*

*New Media Consortium*

Dr. Johnson is an acknowledged expert on emerging technology and its impacts on society and education, and has written five books, seven chapters, and published more than 50 papers and research reports on the topic. He speaks regularly on the topics of creativity, innovation, and technology trends, and has delivered more than 125 keynote addresses to a long list of distinguished groups and organizations all over the world. He is the founder of the Horizon Project, which produces the acclaimed series of Horizon Reports that are used by well over a million educators in more than 150 countries.

Johnson currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the New Media Consortium, an international not-for-profit consortium dedicated to the exploration and use of new media and new technologies, and Director of the Edward and Betty Marcus Institute for Digital Education in the Arts (MIDEA).

The NMC’s annual Horizon Report, now published in six languages, has become one of the leading tools used by senior executives in universities and museums to set priorities for technology planning. NMC summits and large-scale projects have helped set the agenda for topics such as visual literacy, learning objects, educational gaming, immersive learning, the future of scholarship, and social networking.
Steve Collis is Director of Innovation at Sydney Centre for Innovation in Learning (SCIL), an innovation unit embedded in Northern Beaches Christian School in Sydney (NBCS). With the SCIL team, Steve has travelled the world seeking out examples of exemplary learning innovation. The best ideas are tested, embedded, and scaled at NBCS and then offered to educators worldwide through immersion experiences and design programs.

About SCIL
Sydney Centre for Innovation in Learning actively promotes excellence in education by providing new learning opportunities for students and future-focused Professional Development for teachers.

About NBCS
NBCS was founded in 1981, and welcomed Stephen Harris as principal in 1999. In just a decade, NBCS grew from 250 to 1250 students, established a revolutionary innovation movement, won 5 major awards, and became an international destination for thousands of educators seeking a new paradigm. At the heart of the change: a profound learning culture facilitated by technology, space and pedagogy that empowers and engages students.
Randy Halasan

Head Teacher
Pegalongan Elementary School, Philippines

Randy is the winner of the 2014 Ramon Magsaysay Award for nurturing his Matigsalug students and their community to transform their lives through quality education and sustainable livelihoods, doing so in ways that respect their uniqueness and preserve their integrity as indigenous peoples in a modernizing Philippines. Through Randy's efforts, the school was transformed from a two-teacher, two-room schoolhouse with no electricity and basic amenities, to a permanent school with nine rooms, eight teachers, and 210 students.

Read more about Randy’s story [here](#)
Diosdado Banatao
Chair and Founder
Philippine Development Foundation (PhilDev)

Dubbed the “Father of Semiconductors,” Banatao invented two of the foundation technologies in every PC today: the PC chip set, and the graphics acceleration architecture. He has founded three technology startups: Mostron; the S3 which became the third most profitable company in the world in 1993; and Chips & Technologies, which he sold to Intel for about $430 million in 1996. Today, he is the managing partner of Tallwood Venture Capital, a company engaged in semiconductor technology solutions for computing, communication, and consumer platforms.

In 2010, Banatao and his wife Maria created PhilDev with the vision for helping Philippines in terms of science and technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship to promote economic growth.

To achieve this mission, PhilDev is working to strengthen education and training programs for youth in science and engineering and to produce a higher ratio of qualified experts and practitioners; to provide relevant research; to promote a global network of relationships to create and sustain S&T innovation and entrepreneurship in the country; and to help link knowledge generation and enterprise development.
Dr. Madhav Chavan
CEO and President
Pratham Education Foundation

Dr. Madhav Chavan is Co-Founder and CE-President of Pratham, an organization that reaches three million primary school age children in India every year. In 1989, while teaching at the University of Mumbai, he started mass-scale work for adult literacy in the slums of Mumbai as a part of the National Literacy Mission. In 1994, as a result of a UNICEF initiative, Pratham was set up to address problems of universal primary education in Mumbai. Since then, Dr. Chavan has led the development of the organization and its programs. Pratham has introduced several mass-scale innovations such as the Annual Status of Education Report in the area of assessment and the Read India movement which delivers education to the underprivileged.

Pratham has been recognized by the Kravis Prize and the Skoll Award for its innovativeness and leadership as an organization of social entrepreneurs in the area of education.

Dr. Chavan is a creative individual who has anchored television shows and written songs about human rights and women’s rights. He enjoys working out creative ways to educate or train children and youth. He finds time to work on the challenges of teaching despite his duties as the CEO of a large organization.
John Wood is the founder of Room to Read. He started Room to Read after a fast-paced and distinguished career with Microsoft from 1991 to 1999. He was in charge of marketing and business development teams throughout Asia, including serving as director of business development for the Greater China region and as director of marketing for the Asia-Pacific region. John continues to bring Room to Read a vision for a scalable solution to developing global educational problems with an intense focus on results and an ability to attract a world-class group of employees, volunteers, and funders.

ABOUT ROOM TO READ
Room to Read had its humble origins in Nepal in 2000, where it began bringing donated books to rural communities. Today, it is a global organization dedicated to promoting and enabling education through programs focused on literacy and gender equality in education. This is done by establishing school libraries, building schools, publishing local-language children’s books, training teachers on literacy education and supporting girls to complete secondary school with the life skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond.
Room to Read currently works in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia – with plans to expand so as to bring educational opportunities and resources to children throughout the developing world. Room to Read’s programs have benefitted more than 8.8 million children so far aims to reach 10 million children by 2015.
King Hui Law
Managing Director
Sasabadi

Law King Hui, is the Managing Director and one of the co-founders of Sasbadi. He has been instrumental in the development, growth and success of the Sasabadi Group.

Besides being responsible for the development of the Group’s strategies and policies, he has also played an active role in product development and innovation. His contributions have led to the transformation of Sasabadi Group from a pure educational print publisher to a Group with diverse learning and teaching platforms including online learning materials and teaching products, applied learning products namely robotics and LEGO Education, all of which complement Sasabadi’s print publishing business.

Established in 1985, Sasbadi is a publisher and also the exclusive partner of LEGO Education for the territory of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. Sasbadi is committed to promote experiential and innovative learning through programs that engage children in hands-on learning activities. Sasbadi is the organizer and National Partner for the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Malaysia and the World Robot Olympiad (WRO)
Schoology is a freemium online learning platform used by 60,000 K-12 schools and universities around the world. It offers tools for planning lessons, grading homework, communicating with parents and peer-to-peer collaboration. Schoology closed a $15 million round of funding in June, bringing total capital raised to $25 million since 2009.

In 2014, Schoology took home three awards at the 2014 CODiE Awards (known as the “Oscars” for education technology), including Top Overall Education Solution, Best of PK-12 and Best Learning Management System.

Schoology has also been seeing a growing interest from Asia’s schools, with the most significant being Cempaka Schools in Malaysia, which invested $1 million in 2012 to become a stakeholder in the company and act as a primary liaison with the educational communities in Malaysia and Singapore.
Matthew Richards  
*Director of eLearning and Educational Technology*  
St. Columbia Anglican School, Australia

Matt is leading the maker movement in Australian schools. He has developed the first permanent K-12 Makerspace. He is also facilitating student experiments on the International Space Station. Matt employs emerging technologies such as the Oculus Rift and OpenROV to transform learning. He leads Mineclass (an international minecraft learning project). Matt is an advocate of global learning communities and evolving educational paradigms. He is a keynote speaker at international technology & education events.

Matt is a Google Certified Teacher, Google Educator Group Leader & Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert.
Dr Daniel Tan
Group Chief Learning Officer
Taylor’s Education Group, Malaysia

Dr Daniel Tan is currently the Group Chief Learning Officer at the Taylor’s Education Group, Malaysia. His technical interests cover educational technology and infrastructure design, learning science, Internet and ICT security, cloud technologies, human factors design and usability. Dr Tan has over 26 years of experience in teaching, eLearning architecture, design and policy making. He also has a strong understanding and substantial hands-on experience at the integration and synergy of education technology and content for effective outcomes.

Previously, as Director of CELT (Centre for Excellence in Learning & Teaching) at the Nanyang Technological University, he led a team to develop and implement an eLearning campus eco-system. This environment, comprising a holistic approach towards learning and teaching supported by system design, learning platform, and server architecture has resulted to a change in learning culture on the campus (over 2000 course sites, with typically 22 million page views per academic week, and 600 million page views per year), together with edUtorium – the faculty development program with over 4000 training seats per year, and participative pedagogical design). Project UniWood, their campus-wide lecture recording initiative is considered one of the most advanced in the world, with a yield of over 1.6 million viewings per year, with a corresponding aggregated viewing time of over 80 years.

Through this innovative eLearning initiative, the University has won recognition by being a winner of the Intelligent20 Award 2003, CIO Asia100 Award 2004, EMC Best Practice Award 2004, National Health Group Distinguished Contributor Award 2005, ZDNet Asia Smart50 Award 2006, SiTF eLearning Organization of the Year 2006, the prestigious ascilite Award 2008 and the Leadership Award for ‘Best in Project Work Management’ in the IMS Global Learning Impact Awards 2009. It also won the POPAI Award 2011 for Digital Signage Systems. Dr Tan was recognized for the 2012 Global e-Learning Award for Excellence in eLearning at the 2012 LearnTech Conference in recognition of his leadership and contribution to the field of Education.
A/Prof Dr Jirapon Sunkpho
Associate Dean, College of Innovation
Thammasat University

Dr. Jirapon is currently an associate dean of planning and research at College of innovation, Thammasat University. He has an admirable amount of experience in the IT education sector for over six years as an IT Director and Graduate IT Program Director in two of Thailand’s prestigious universities. Beside his academic roles, Dr. Jirapon also serves as an ICT advisor for many of Thailand’s government agencies including Ministry of ICT, Ministry of Tourisms and Sports, Ministry of Finance, etc. In June 2013, he was involved in the delivery of Thailand’s 3rd ICT Master Plan and oversaw operations as the Project Manager.
Mr. Jiang Xueqin is deputy principal of Tsinghua University High School. From 2008 until 2010 he was a curriculum director at Shenzhen Middle School. From 2010 until 2012 he was deputy principal of Peking University High School, and director of its international division. Jiang's book “Creative China” was released in spring 2014 in Chinese bookstores, and is about his experience developing curricula to teach Chinese students creativity and critical thinking skills. Mr. Jiang is also an internationally recognized expert on Chinese education. His writings have appeared in the Wall Street Journal and the Chronicle of Higher Education. He has been interviewed by media such as the New York Times, NBC Nightly News, BBC, and CNN.
Professor Tian Belawati
Rector
Universitas Terbuka

Professor Tian Belawati has made lifetime professional contributions to open and distance learning (ODL). She has had extensive experiences in research, teaching, and administration of a large scale open university system, which serves over 600,000 students residing in Indonesia and overseas. Her work experience includes various positions within an ODL institution that serves diverse groups of students with differing needs and circumstances.

Professor Belawati is currently Rector of UT. In her first two years as Rector, she has taken decisive actions to mobilize effort in partnerships with stakeholders to improve the quality of ODL, develop greater public confidence in ODL, and establish collaborative effort with international as well as regional ODL institutions and associations. She is extensively involved in various joint initiatives with other ODL players and organizations in her capacity as both ODL researcher and top administrator. Her professional achievements have led her appointments as Secretary General (2007-2009) and then President (2009-2010) of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU), as well as a member of the Election Committee (2007-2009) and Executive Committee (2009-now) of the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE).
Dr. Mohamed Amin Embi is a professor of technology-enhanced language learning at the Faculty of Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Presently, he is the Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies, UKM. He is a leading consultant and master trainer on e-Learning, e-Content and OER in Asia. His recent publication entitled ‘Web 2.0 Tools in Education Series’ has recorded more than 1 million ‘reads’ in Scrbd.com. A Web 2.0 mobile application that he has developed known as J iT2U (Just-in-time Training 2U) has also attracted educators from more than 110 countries worldwide.

Currently, he is the President, Mobile Learning Association of Malaysia. He is recipient of several prestigious awards including the ISESCO Prize for Science & Technology 2010 (Technology), the National Academic Award 2006 (Teaching Innovation), the Malay Outstanding Award 2008 (Education), the Malaysia Achievement Award 2012 (Outstanding Achievements in Education Category), the Higher Education e-Learning Award 2014 (e-Learning Mover/Personality; Best e-Learning Facilitator; Best Mobile Content).
Prof. Dr Abd Karim Alias is a Professor of Food Technology at the School of Industrial Technology, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and current Director of the Centre for Development of Academic Excellence. In 2002, he received the inaugural USM Excellent Educator Award and in 2010 he received the Anugerah Tokoh (Distinguished Person) in Anugerah Sanggar Sanjung. He also was the recipient of the prestigious Anugerah Akademik Negara (National Academic Award) in 2008 for teaching.

In his current role as the Director of the Centre for Development of Academic Excellence, he is responsible to design and run a professional development programme in technology-enhanced learning and student-centred learning for the academic staff. He is also involved as a trainer in the technology-mediated learning workshop and has conducted numerous workshops especially on using technology in teaching and learning. He is now leading a project to develop Open Educational Resources (OER) for the university and so far has succeeded to produce more than 20 Open CourseWares (OCW). He has also developed and maintained a few teaching portals, websites, and blogs related to teaching/learning and research.
Professor John Hattie
Director, Melbourne Educational Research Institute
University of Melbourne, Australia

Professor John Hattie is a researcher in education. His research interests include performance indicators, models of measurement and evaluation of teaching and learning. John Hattie became known to a wider public with his two books Visible Learning and Visible Learning for teachers. Visible Learning is a synthesis of more than 800 meta-studies covering more than 80 million students. According to John Hattie Visible Learning is the result of 15 years of research about what works best for learning in schools. TES once called him “possibly the world’s most influential education academic”.

John Hattie has been Director of the Melbourne Educational Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, Australia, since March 2011. Before, he was Project Director of asTTle and Professor of Education at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Check out John’s TED talk - Why are so many of our teachers and schools so successful to learn about how Visible Learning comes together to improve schools.
Professor Abelardo Pardo

Associate Head of Teaching and Learning
Senior Lecturer, School of Electrical & Information Engineering
University of Sydney

Dr. Abelardo Pardo is Associate Head of Teaching and Learning and Senior Lecturer at the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, The University of Sydney. He has a PhD in Computer Science by the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is the director of the Learning and Affect Technologies Engineering laboratory specialized in the design of adaptive and personalized software systems for learning. His areas of research are learning analytics, software tools for collaboration and personalized learning processes, and software systems to improve teaching practice and student outcomes. He has participated in national and international projects funded by the Office for Teaching and Learning (Australia), National Science Foundation (USA), and the European Union. He serves as member of the editorial boards of the IEEE Transactions on Learning Technology and the Journal of Social Media and Interactive Learning Environments, and as associate editor of the Journal of Learning Analytics.
Dr Simon Buckingham Shum  
*Director, Centre for Connected Intelligence*  
University of Technology Sydney

Simon Buckingham Shum is Professor of Learning Informatics at the University of Technology Sydney, where he is Director of the [Connected Intelligence Centre](http://www.cic.uts.edu.au) (CIC). He blogs at [Simon.BuckinghamShum.net](http://Simon.BuckinghamShum.net), [LearningEmergence.net](http://LearningEmergence.net) and [Medium](http://Medium). Simon is a Vice-President of the [Society for Learning Analytics Research](http://www.slr-analytics.org) and has been active in contributing to this new field. His research interests are in the worldviews that analytics embody, and hence the role that analytics play in perpetuating or challenging educational regimes. He is investigating if analytics can make visible to learners and educators processes that help build higher order cognition, and the dispositions needed to cope with complexity and uncertainty — the only things we can be sure the future holds. Influencing this is his work on Collective Intelligence platforms for contested ideas, building on his earlier work in [Knowledge Cartography](http://www.knowcartography.org) and [Visualizing Argumentation](http://www.argumentation.org).
Sir Ken Robinson, PhD is an internationally recognized leader in the development of creativity, innovation and human resources in education and in business. He is also one of the world’s leading speakers on these topics, with a profound impact on audiences everywhere. The videos of his famous 2006 and 2010 talks to the prestigious TED Conference have been viewed more than 25 million times and seen by an estimated 250 million people in over 150 countries. His 2006 talk is the most viewed in TED’s history. In 2011 he was listed as “one of the world’s elite thinkers on creativity and innovation” by Fast Company magazine, and was ranked among the Thinkers50 list of the world’s top business thought leaders.

Sir Ken works with governments and educations systems in Europe, Asia and the USA, with international agencies, Fortune 500 companies and some of the world’s leading cultural organizations. In 1998, he led a national commission on creativity, education and the economy for the UK Government. All Our Futures: Creativity, Culture and Education (The Robinson Report) was published to wide acclaim in 1999. He was the central figure in developing a strategy for creative and economic development as part of the Peace Process in Northern Ireland, working with the ministers for training, education enterprise and culture. The resulting blueprint for change, Unlocking Creativity, was adopted by politicians of all parties and by business, education and cultural leaders across the Province. He was one of four international advisors to the Singapore Government for its strategy to become the creative hub of South East Asia.
In 2009, Shanghai’s schools topped the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) global rankings for scholastic achievement, to the surprise of many considering it was the first time Shanghai had participated. In 2012, it happened again and now Shanghai is considered a model for closing the academic achievement gap between the haves and have-nots. And — in addition to the students themselves — credit goes to Zhang Minxuan.

Zhang, who retired in 2014 has held many key appointments including a presidency at Shanghai Normal University and National Project Manager of PISA for Shanghai. He championed bold education reforms that catapulted Shanghai to the top of global student performance rankings. As an educator, scholar, and policy maker, he has dedicated the past three decades to bringing quality education to 23 million Shanghai children of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Zhang’s contribution to numerous UNESCO, UNICEF, and World Bank initiatives have also benefited students and education systems in both developing and developed regions of Asia and the world.
Want to hear more on Digital Education?

Several of these influencers will be joining us at the Digital Education Show Asia 2015, happening from 15 to 16 June at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Co-organised and strongly supported by the Multimedia Development Corporation Malaysia and the Ministry of Education Malaysia, the Digital Education Show Asia 2015 looks to explore how technology is shaping Asia Pacific's education landscape.

You’ll have a chance to meet with over 2,000+ fellow educators, exchange ideas and hear from thought-provoking speakers on how you can inspire and create change in your own schools!

For more information, download the latest event brochure now!
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