



HOW DO WE **MOBILISE** **KNOWLEDGE** IN EDUCATION?

How do we ensure that **education research and knowledge** make it to practice so that they can **raise the educational level in the classroom?**

* That was a key question when researchers, politicians and practitioners met at the annual conference of the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes (IALEI) to discuss 'Knowledge Mobilisation in Education Research'. The conference was held at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto in June 2011.

Research teams from the ten IALEI partner universities have contributed to the study by analysing the state of affairs in their particular country. The chair of the IALEI research team, Professor Ben Levin, has been in charge of the comparative synthesis report. Based on the IALEI study, the research team will write a book on knowledge mobilisation, intended for publication in late 2012 by The Policy Press.

IALEI has produced a set of recommendations based on the study's findings – please see page 7.

In this issue of the *Education Alliance Magazine* we would like to share why we believe knowledge mobilisation can improve education around the world – and why universities play a key role in this process. You will meet researchers from various parts of the world: Canada, the USA, Brazil, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Denmark, China, Singapore, South Korea and Australia. You will also meet professionals with expert knowledge. ■

Read more about the study at:

www.intlalliance.org



IALEI

Recommendations

The term 'knowledge mobilisation' is just one of a number of terms we use to describe the processes through which research influences policy and practice. Universities play a vital role in the process of knowledge production and use in education in the global knowledge society.

Universities are key institutions which governments around the world can tap for knowledge and evidence to support policy initiatives, as they are typically the largest producers of research in education. They are actively involved in many ways in connecting research to the wider education community.

Knowledge mobilisation is therefore very much needed as a strategic effort, but the process of research knowledge mobilisation is complex. It involves many aspects of the ways universities operate, the structure of governments, school systems, and the various mediating factors and organisations that act in and between researchers and schools.

The International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes (IALEI) makes the following **three** recommendations based on the IALEI study 2011 on knowledge mobilisation:

01

Strive towards greater use of validated research findings in building policy and practice.

IALEI stresses the importance of universities taking a public and proactive stance on the importance and value of research in education and on the role of education in the global knowledge society. To benefit from research and education requires stronger efforts from governments, the research and education sector and the broader community. And it involves not only advocacy for research funding, but also the greater use of validated research findings in education policy and educational practices. To achieve this impact, there is a need of a closer working partnership between the universities and policy makers in educational agencies.

02

Build effective partnerships through open dialogue.

IALEI recommends that universities, individually and collectively, should build ongoing partnerships with international organisations, government bodies and ministries of education, teacher organisations, school districts, education leaders and others in order to increase the connections to meaningful research and its thoughtful application to policy and practice. Through these relationships, research mobilisation will become a more common and expected part of the work of researchers and of universities, as organisations will be better received by the broader education community. Open dialogue with many partners around differing forms of knowledge should be developed to ensure that the work of universities is widely and deeply understood so that it can be used as effectively as possible.

03

Make knowledge mobilisation a strategic target for university leaders.

IALEI recommends that universities' efforts for sharing knowledge become a strategic effort, rather than individual steps. This will require leadership that can transform universities with regard to incentive systems, organisation of research teams and research outreach, greater use of research syntheses, effective use of websites to mobilise research knowledge, and support and infrastructure for research mobilisation. It will also require universities to re-examine the ways in which their graduate and professional development programmes, as well as initial teacher education, build lasting connections between research, policy and practice, so that graduates understand how to create the necessary structures and practices to this end, and that graduates act effectively as bridges between research and practice. ■