

GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES (GNLC)

Rika Yorozu
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning
r.yorozu@unesco.org
10 October 2014



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



What is a learning city? :

UNESCO's working definition

A Learning City is a city which effectively mobilises its resources in every sector to

- *promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education;*
- *re-vitalise learning in families and communities;*
- *facilitate learning for and in the workplace;*
- *extend the use of modern learning technologies;*
- *enhance quality and excellence in learning; and*
- *nurture a culture of learning throughout life.*

In so doing it will create and reinforce **individual empowerment** and **social cohesion, economic and cultural prosperity**, and **sustainable development**.

Why a global network?

World urban population



The world urban population is expected to increase by 72% by 2050

Source: World Urbanization Prospects: 2011 Revision, Produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

What are the benefits of joining the GNLC?

- Being part of a group of cities with common interests, tackling similar issues/challenges, and envisioning similar development agendas.
- Communicating with a network of experts and professionals specialised in the field of lifelong learning for sustainable development.
- Open access to global repository of know-how and best practices in developing learning cities.
- Showcasing the experiences of learning cities through the communication channel of the network.

A total of 23 collaborating partners of the G NLC

International and regional organisations and agencies



UN-HABITAT



Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI)



European Commission



Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture

Ministries of education of Member States



Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology of Japan



Ministry of National Education of Romania



Ministry of National Education of Turkey



Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea



Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam

International and non-governmental associations



Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)



International Council of Adult Education



PASCAL International Observatory



dw international

Foundations and corporations



Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Intel, Inc.



Festo Didatic



Kings Group



IBM



Microsoft

Universities



University of South Australia



Cape Higher Education Consortium South Africa (CHEC)



Beijing Normal University



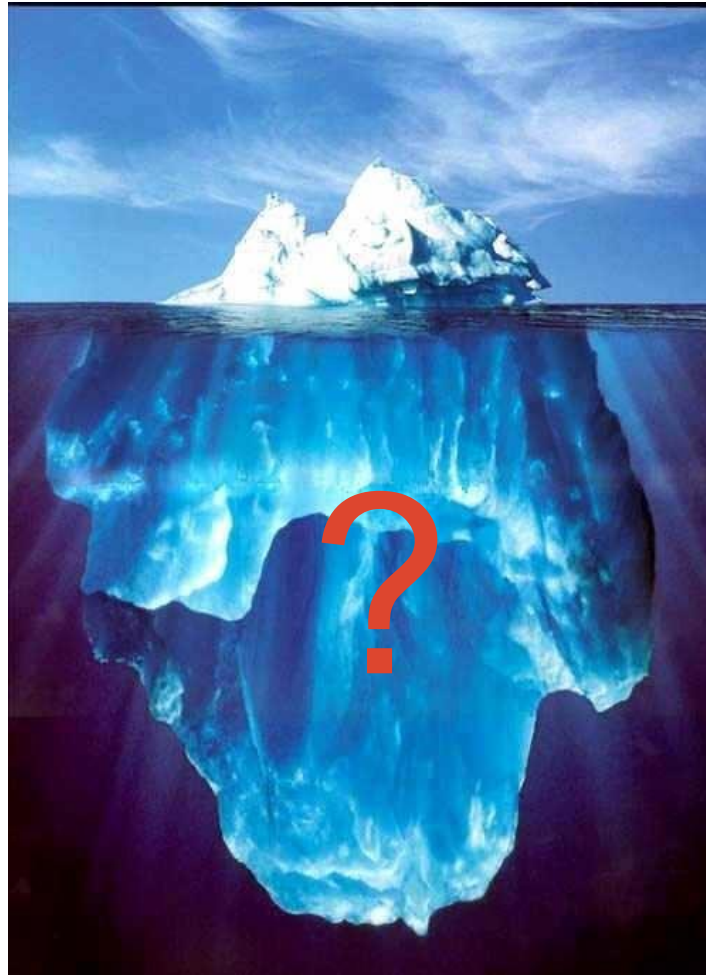
Swansea University

Achievements so far



- ***Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities from the First International Conference on Learning Cities (2013)***
- ***The Key Features of Learning Cities***
- ***Piloting the key features in 10 cities***

Learning cities in action



Why monitor the progress of building a learning city?

- There is no magic line over which a city will pass in order to become a learning city. Building a learning city is a continuous process.
- The concept of the learning city is not abstract. It takes a pragmatic approach to putting lifelong learning into action.
- If a city has the political will and commitment to build a learning city, it needs a set of indicators by which it can measure and monitor its performance and progress.

Key Features of Learning Cities: Framework

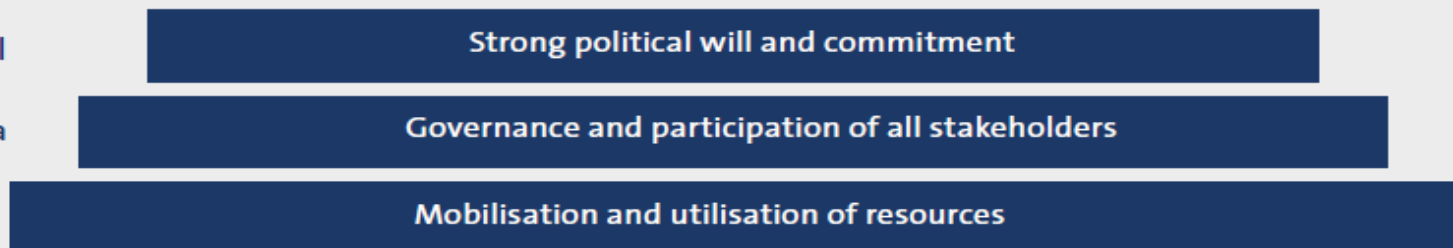
Wider benefits
of building a
learning city



Major building
blocks of a
learning city



Fundamental
conditions
for building a
learning city



A total of 10 cities completed the piloting.



**Mexico City
(Mexico)**



**Timisoara
(Romania)**



**Kaunas
(Lithuania)**



**Konya
(Turkey)**



Beijing-China

**Beijing
(China)**



**City and County of
Swansea (UK)**



Pécs. (Hungary)

The possible measurements: Wider benefits of building a learning city

Area of focus	Key features	Possible measurements	Source of data	Statistic data in 2012 or survey/review results	
1. Wider benefits of building a learning city					
1.1 Individual empowerment and social cohesion	1.1.1 Ensuring every citizen obtains basic literacy skills	Adult literacy rate: Total number of literate persons aged 15 and above, expressed as a percentage of the total population of that age group	Official data provided by city authorities	Male	%
				Female	%
				Total	%
	1.1.2 Exercising active citizenship	Participation rate in election: Participation rate of population of eligible age in the most recent major election in the city	Official data provided by city authorities	(Year:) %	
				Participation in volunteering and community activities: Percentage of citizens involved in unpaid volunteering and community activities within a group or an organisation in the 12 months preceding the survey	Survey results
1.1.3 Promoting gender equality and empowering women	Gender equality in politics: Percentage of seats held by women in city council/congress	Official data provided by city authorities	%		
			Gender equality in business management: Percentage of seats held by women in boards of top 10 enterprises	Survey results	%

More information:
GNLC website
<http://learningcities.uil.unesco.org>

Electronic Newsletter

The screenshot shows the website's header with language options (English, Español, Français), the UNESCO logo, and the title 'Global Network of Learning Cities'. A navigation menu includes 'ABOUT US', 'MEMBERS', 'PARTNERS', 'KEY FEATURES', 'RESOURCES', and 'NEWS AND EVENTS'. The main content area features a grid of images: a city skyline at night, children in a classroom, a traditional building, and a modern interior. A text box below the images states: 'To enhance dialogue between cities and regions on a global scale, the Coordination Team of the GNLC at UIL is collecting best practices to help local authorities deepen their understanding of learning cities.' On the right, there are four call-to-action buttons: 'International Conference on Learning Cities', 'Key Features of Learning Cities', 'Contact us', and 'Subscribe to GNLC newsletter'. At the bottom, there are sections for 'NEWS' (dated 01 JULY 2014) and 'EVENTS' (No events found).

The banner features the UNESCO logo and the UIL logo (United Nations Institute for Lifelong Learning). The text reads: 'Global Network of Learning Cities' and 'Newsletter April 2014'.

Dear partners,



**UNESCO GNLC
Coordination Team**

Welcome to our first issue of the Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) Newsletter. Since the first International Conference on Learning Cities in Beijing, not only has the UIL team been striving to expand a global network of learning cities, but several cities have also been taking actions towards becoming learning cities.

From now on, we will publish quarterly newsletters to share progress and developments in the GNLC and provide you with insights into the actions that cities have taken to become learning cities. In this newsletter we present an interview feature with Ms Angela Brown Burke, Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, on the importance of becoming a learning city. We will also share internal developments regarding the network, present actions taken in some cities since

What will be the next?

Second International Conference on Learning Cities in 2015!

- Aim: to create a platform for sharing the good practices and progress in the establishment of the GNLC among cities stakeholders
- Organisers: UNESCO, Ministry of Education of Mexico and Mexico City
- Participants: 500 delegates from cities around more than 100 countries





Many thanks!

Contact us

**Learningcities
@unesco.org**

Literacy and Basic Skills
Mailing List

r.yorozu@unesco.org