Dear Colleagues

The Graduate Institute of Futures Studies (GIFS) will hold the international conference at the Tamkang University, Taiwan, on May 29-30, 2008. The theme, “Futures of Education: Futures Studies in Education,” will offer the fresh idea and innovative approaches to challenges of futures in education we all face in the twenty-first century.

Education, traditionally seen as the unchanging social institution in a dramatically changing world, is undergoing a transformation itself. These changes are multiple and are being caused by globalization, innovations, and new technology etc. What this means for education is that (1) There is a desire to adapt educational discourses and policies toward new emergent futures, (2) New dimensions of education are gaining currency including education for sustainability, education for global peace, neo-humanist education, and (3) Education focuses on solving the problems being created by the transformations the world is undergoing, for example, the digital divide, the problems new migrants face as the world labor force continues to globalize.

This conference will focus both on the futures of education and futures studies in education. The conference will consist of keynotes, plenary discussions and workshops. Workshops will be interactive, helping participants integrate futures methods into their teaching and learning. We also invite many excellent futurists and educators from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and Taiwan.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

*Chien-Fu Chen, Ph. D.*

Chair, Graduate Institute of Futures Studies
Tamkang University, Taiwan
CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

✧ What are the alternative futures of education?
✧ What are the best ways to teach future studies in education, particularly in junior or high school?
✧ What are best practices in innovation in education?
✧ How can schools become more futures oriented in their pedagogy? Structure? Leadership?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND ADDRESS

Community-building, education and the future:
Are there key challenges and possibilities for creative curriculum design and teaching?

Dr. Francis Hutchinson, Professor, Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Australia

FUTURES STUDIES WORKSHOPS AND HOSTS

✧ Tools and Methods for Teaching Futures Studies
  Dr. Sohail Inayatullah, Professor, Graduate Institute of Futures Studies, Tamkang University

✧ Teaching Futures – the view from a teacher
  Dr. Marcus Bussey, Professor, Regional Sustainability Group, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland Australia

✧ Alternative Futures of Education
  Dr. Wendy Schultz, Professor, Infinite Futures: Foresight Research and Training, Oxford, England, United Kingdom

✧ Learning journeys, learning sites: learning for peaceful and sustainable futures?
  Dr. Francis Hutchinson, Professor, Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Australia
MAIN THEMES

A. Education for Sustainable Futures –
What role can education play in helping the planet, nations and organizations make the transition to a more multicultural and sustainable world. How should curriculum be redesigned to create more multicultural societies? How should curriculum be changed to deal with climate change and global warming?

B. Multicultural Education and Overcoming the Digital Divide –
Global inequity shows no signs of abating, indeed, the rise of wealth amongst the rich continues (there are now 107 billionaires in China alone). This divide is expressed in access to housing, water, energy, and the new information communication technologies. How can education – discourses, policies – ensure that equity is enhanced?

C. Language and Higher Education in the Age of Innovation and Globalization
The changing role of language in relation to disciplinary and social divisions in the age of global restructuring of educational markets invites us to ask: How is language related to innovation and the production of new social hierarchies? How do the new modes of production proper to the k-economy incorporate linguistic communication and how do these changes in turn affect both society and the university? We will want to ask these questions in relation to the organization of both the disciplines of humanistic knowledge as well as the social divisions of gender, class, ethnicity and nation.

FISHBOWL THEME: EDUCATIONAL FUTURES

✧ What are the alternative futures of education?
✧ What are the best ways to teach future studies in education, particularly in junior or high school?
✧ How can schools become more futures orientated in their pedagogy? Structure? Leadership?
WHAT AND WHERE

The Graduate Institute of Futures Studies will hold the two days international conference at the Chueh-Sheng International Conference Hall, Tamsui Campus, Tamkang University, Taiwan, on May 29-39, 2008. The first day consists of keynotes and workshops on the futures of education and teaching futures in education. The second day consists of Fishbowl of Educational Futures and paper presentation sessions. Papers will be refereed.

Housing and Registration Fee

**Housing:** Conference presenters will be hosted at Faculty Housing, Tamkang University. Hotel Regelee is recommended for participants ([http://www.regalees-hotel.com.tw/english/index.php](http://www.regalees-hotel.com.tw/english/index.php))

For assistance, please contact
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**Registration Fee:**
Conference registration fee can be waived upon application to Dr. Chien-Fu Chen. [chien-fu@mail.tku.edu.tw](mailto:chien-fu@mail.tku.edu.tw)

[Conference BLOG: http://www.wretch.cc/bog/tkugifs](http://www.wretch.cc/bog/tkugifs)

[Tamkang University Website: http://www.tku.edu.tw](http://www.tku.edu.tw)