



ISTIC Forum on “Embracing the Future: Improving Quality of Science Instruction in Schools”

Tuesday, 5 April 2016, UNESCO, Paris

Forum Declaration

Preamble

On 5th April 2016, around 150 delegates including 35 representatives of the Permanent Delegations of UNESCO, senior officials of the French Ministry of Education, staff of UNESCO Education and Natural Sciences Sector and ISTIC Governing Board members attended the Forum on “Embracing the Future: Improving Quality of Science Instruction in Schools” at the UNESCO Office Paris, France. The Forum jointly organised by the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO in collaboration with the office of the Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to UNESCO was co-officiated by the Minister of Education, Malaysia, the Hon. Dato’ Seri Mahdzir Khalid, and the Director-General of UNESCO, H.E. Irina Bokova.

The Forum received the enthusiastic support of *La main à la pâte* Fondation of France which arranged for a demonstration by 25 French students on the practice of evidence based education, more commonly known as inquired based science education (IBSE).

Besides the promotion of evidence based education the scientific way as the best way to stimulate and inquisitive and creative instincts of the young to be rational and discerning citizens in facing the global challenges, the Forum in its panel discussion also addressed SDG Goal 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” going beyond school education to technical, vocational and university education and lifelong learning.

Summary of Recommendations

At the end of the Forum, the delegates recommended that:

1. Evidence based education that scientific way must be treated as a priority area in UNESCO and its associated offices.
2. UNESCO and *La main à la pâte* Fondation, the two Paris based institutions, should cooperate proactively to promote evidence based education as the basis to achieve the Education SDG No.4 by 2030.
3. Permanent Delegations of Member States in UNESCO should help to assure that the above objectives are realised.