

World Economic Forum Global Education Initiative

Program Overview

The Global Education Initiative (GEI) was established at the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in 2003. GEI leverages public-private partnerships and collaborative technologies to support the implementation of relevant, sustainable, and scalable models of education delivery. It has been recognized as one of world's largest successful working models of public-private collaboration in the area of education advancement.

GEI now aims to broadly socialize concepts with increased emphasis on the quality and relevance of education. GEI also launched a new workstream in 2008 to promote entrepreneurship education as a key enabler of sustained social development and economic recovery.

Why Cisco?

GEI emphasizes Cisco's commitment to public-private partnerships for education transformation. Through this initiative, Cisco helps demonstrate the role the private sector can play in bringing about a much-needed paradigm shift in education. For the private sector, an effective education system is a critical factor in economic growth and development, building a skilled labor force, increasing the purchasing power of citizens, and improving productivity.

Updates and Impact

- **Global Agenda Council on Education:** Corporate Affairs SVP Tae Yoo, is co-chair of the GAC which has chartered a Commission for Education Transformation to develop the platform for the G20 meetings in November 2010. The platform is partly based on Cisco® Global Education's *Learning Society* whitepaper.
- **Entrepreneurship Education:** New workstream launched in 2008 to increase global awareness and action around working models of entrepreneurship education and activities. Cisco is the co-chair for the Middle East Roundtable on Entrepreneurship Education in Marrakech, 2010, the first of its kind in the region.
- **World Bank Education Partnership:** Cisco and GEI partners are contributing to the World Bank's 10-year review of their education sector strategy. Cisco is also co-sponsor of the Teacher Technology Education Online Curriculum Project, which will be launched this year in South Africa.
- **Partnerships for Education (PfE):** Launched in 2007 to promote multistakeholder partnerships in education (MSPEs). With help from Cisco and Intel, UNESCO launched a PfE portal (www.pfore.org) at the 2010 WEF meeting. The portal is based on the Cisco Global Education GETIdeas.org platform. A comprehensive school transformation resource guide will be added in 2010.
- **Global Education Alliance:** Launched in 2007 to support the Education for All Fast Track Initiative. In 2008, a pilot program was launched in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda to develop a national ICT in education strategy, increase the number and capacity of teachers, and establish governance structures.
- **Jordan Education Initiative (JEI):** Launched in 2003 with the support of more than 45 organizations. Project ownership was transferred to the Jordan Ministry of Education in 2006. JEI has reached more than 50,000 students and 2300 teachers. The work in Jordan has continued as the *Madrasati* (My School) program with Cisco sponsorship to reach an additional 500 schools.
- **Egyptian Education Initiative (EEI):** Launched in 2006 to help schools and students prepare for success in the digital era. Ownership was transferred to the Government of Egypt in 2009. EEI2 is being piloted to support entrepreneurship in partnership with the Cisco Networking Academy® program. EEI has reached more than 200,000 individuals at 2000+ schools, 1000+ technology clubs, and 17 public universities.
- **Palestine Education Initiative (PEI):** Launch delayed due to geopolitical challenges; resumed work in 2008 with new leadership structure, strategy, and partner engagements. PEI is establishing a network of partners to create a customized approach for schools and universities to improve learning environments, raise ICT literacy, increase teacher and leader competencies, and link education to job creation and entrepreneurship.

For More Information

To learn more about the WEF Global Education Initiative, please visit www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gei.

To learn more about Cisco Global Education, please visit www.transformgloaleducation.org.