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## **WHAT KIND OF SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE?**

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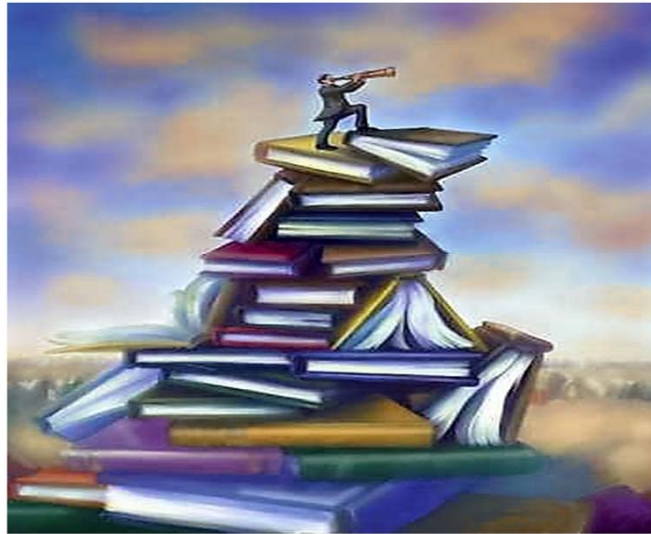
Trade in education is debated between market liberalizers and protectionists and is played out within countries and their different stakeholders, for example between government ministries (e.g. ministry of trade versus ministry of education) and between government and the private sector (privately owned schools versus publically run schools ).

A balance needs to be struck between consumer protection and the rights of governments to pursue high quality education without falling into the trap of closing market access to foreign education service providers. In other words, policy makers and educational sector experts need to find the right balance between of laissez -faire hyperopia 2 or prohibition policy myopia 3.

The original text of this introductory remark can be seen at:

<http://www.diplomacydialogue.org/publications/educational-diplomacy/137-riding-the-tiger-of-growing-trade-in-higher-education-services-smart-regulation-needed-instead-of-laissez-faire-hyperopia-or-prohibition-policy-myopia.html>

# Myopia



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Myopia, commonly known as being nearsighted, is a defect of vision caused by an imperfection in the eye causing difficulty focusing on distant objects. People with myopia suffer from blurry far vision. It is also sometimes referred to as nearsightedness, since in otherwise normally-sighted persons it makes it more difficult to focus on distant objects than on close objects (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myopia>)

In designing the future of education and its delivery system, there are two manifested shortcomings: Myopia (here and now) and Hyperopia (there and then)

Here and now: focusing on getting the job done right and losing sight of the future and evolving needs of the global village and local societies; on developing the needed competencies and meeting the current labor market demands and losing sight of the emerging technological breakthroughs and new work.

Education and development of future generations of students is a slow process. Knowledge explosion and technological advancement are faced with an ever shorter cycle, even in the most traditional sector, such as agriculture. To cope with the calamities brought by on-going climate change, farming and land management have become a knowledge intensive and technological dependent sector. Traditional farming techniques and knowledge are no longer sufficient in dealing with the conditions faced by the farming communities.

Schooling needs to go beyond the known horizon and bring advanced knowhow to prepare the students in dealing with new challenges. Focused on the known only and not preparing the students with the capability needed in the future to solve new challenges means educational policy makers suffer from myopia.

# Hyperopia



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Hyperopia, commonly known as being farsighted, is a defect of vision caused by an imperfection in the eye causing difficulty focusing on near objects. People suffering from hyperopia can have blurry near vision. It is also sometimes referred to as farsightedness, since in otherwise normally-sighted persons it makes it more difficult for them to focus on near objects rather than on far objects, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperopia>, Hyperopia is used to describe the farsightedness, a desire to seek beyond far horizon.

When teaching students to imagine the future; overlooking the practical and the here and now problems of learning and education can also be inhibiting learning. Lacking the ability to conduct empirical analysis can lead to a lack of groundedness in the present resulting in students failing to develop the fundamental skills and aptitudes to improve their learning. With the same token, educational policy makers who focus exclusively on quantitatively oriented econometric theorizing will miss out on checking the validity of their educational theories against empirical realities of contemporary education impeding on effective and efficient educational policy making and putting at risk actual learning abilities of today's students.

Education needs to do both, responding to the present needs and addressing the challenges of the future.