

Seminars in Emerging Science

Presentation Description

GEO - Global Educational Outreach via the Internet - the Second Revolution in Education

All advanced technologies are double-edged swords, with great promise for good but also great power for harm and it is not at all clear that all the leaders of our highly developed society have the necessary wisdom to ensure safe and humanitarian application of the 21st Century's increasingly powerful technologies. Thus Science awareness and understanding are particularly necessary at every level in order to realize both the humanitarian possibilities and impose the limitations that can safely constrain the dangers of technological advances. Ignorance of the sciences and technologies that underpin our everyday lives is leading to serious misunderstanding and is a recipe for disaster. *Although wise action cannot be guaranteed by knowledge, common sense suggests that wisdom is not a likely consequence of ignorance.*

On the global education front there is no longer any point throwing up our hands in despair, bemoaning the fact that we have not enough teachers for this or that subject – the sciences and mathematics in particular. Communications technology is now available that allows us to work with the cohort of teachers presently in place and enable them to improve dramatically: a) The quality of their teaching material and b) Their expertise in the presentation of this material. New Internet hardware and software can now make material, created specifically for teachers and packaged for immediate use in the classroom, available on a global scale. Students can of course also gain greatly but initially our perceptive teachers must be the primary target of this initiative as they are the medium through which children will continue to be educated and in particular encouraged to develop their individual creative talents. It is now possible, essentially “overnight” to provide teachers wherever they are in the world with the best teaching material created by the world's best teachers. Heretofore educational systems and the educational process have invariably stifled the creativity and sapped the energy of our teachers. This must change if education is to improve.

In these difficult times it is increasingly important that teachers encourage children to persevere in areas in which they show promise and in areas on which the future well-being of the human race depends. Now, more than ever, the development of critical thinking is needed if we are to avoid both the destruction of our planet and any further deterioration in the harmony in our interpersonal relationships. Never before has the need for the development of Global Citizenship been more vital! Education is our last hope and the Internet may be the only viable medium we have to transmit the message! Such a program is now vital in order to develop the Global Citizenship necessary to foster the collaboration and harmony among nations needed to create a sustainable global socio-economic future.