



January 2009

## Newsletter Number 2

Happy New Year to everyone.

The excitement is building for IAEA 2009 in Brisbane Australia. We hope that you are now making plans to attend the conference and encouraging others to do so as well. Keep in touch with the latest on the conference through the conference website [www.iaea2009.com](http://www.iaea2009.com)

### Conference theme

The theme for IAEA 2009 in Brisbane Australia is Assessment for a Creative World. We have chosen this theme because of the extent to which it is now evident that creative endeavour pervades all aspects of life and work in the 21st century. Repetitive work is being taken over by machines. Workers are expected to devise solutions to problems that are non-standard and non-replicated, synthesising information from a range of contexts and designing solutions to fit. Imagination, invention and adaptation are needed and valued. There are implications for how we conduct assessment. The conference will consider how assessment can facilitate, monitor and report student development of creative thinking and problem-solving skills, across the curriculum. We look forward to hearing how assessment is being reconsidered and reshaped around the world to cope with these new demands and possibilities.

### Strands and topics

For IAEA 2009 we have provided more structure for the list of topics than in the past, by listing topics under four strands. The four strands are: expectations and standards; reconciling the needs of individual, state and world; challenges for school and assessment; and uses and effects of assessment. The full list of topics is available on the conference website.

### Proposals reminder

The due date for proposals is **27 March** so we hope that you are already giving this some thought. Proposals for presentations should be submitted on-line through the conference website. Alternatives are available if this proves impossible. Remember that as well as regular papers (involving 20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussion), we are offering the option for presenters to organise a group of papers to form a symposium of 90 minutes and submit this as a single joint proposal. There is also a further option of running a workshop that involves more deliberate teaching and interactive participation than is typical in paper sessions. Please give all these possibilities your consideration.

### Keynote speakers

We are pleased to have two eminent assessment experts and scholars as keynote speakers for the conference. Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE is currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire and is well known for her extensive research and writing on educational assessment, covering both policy and practice; she can be expected to bring a fresh perspective to the conference theme and challenge us to imagine a different future. Professor Barry McGaw AO is Chair of the interim Australian National Curriculum Board and was previously Director for Education in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) based in Paris; he has a distinguished record of research in educational assessment and is currently directing an international project on new directions for assessment of skills for the 21st century funded by Cisco, Intel and Microsoft with teams at the University of Melbourne in Australia, Berkeley and Washington universities and WestEd in the US and the University of Szeged in Hungary.

### Conference registration

Conference registration is now open and details are available on the conference website (<http://www.iaea2009.com>). We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Yours sincerely,

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Co-chairs IAEA 2009 Organising Committee

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