

Tapio VARIS

UNESCO Chair in global e-learning with applications to multiple domains

University of Tampere, Finland

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University of Tampere, Kalevantie 4, FI-33014 University of Tampere, Finland,

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The Chair produced the monograph “Media Literacy and New Humanism” printed in the IITE (Tapio Varis is a Board Member) series “Theoretical Aspects of ICT in Education”. The authors - José Manuel Pérez Tornero and Tapio Varis - consider the opportunities that media literacy opens in the world of global education and communication in the context of new humanism. Being applied to education, the concept of new humanism, a new UNESCO credo, suggests the creation of a more inclusive society in which all humans have a chance to access knowledge and quality education and every word being heard in the universal dialogue. In the authors’ opinion, the new humanism in the global society must prioritize a new sense of respect for multiplicity and cultural diversity and must support media development with the goal of consolidating the new culture of peace. The book is aimed at educators, researchers, policy-makers, the media and civil society.
<http://iite.unesco.org/publications/3214678/>

This work has been continued in the practical level in the Handbook *Pedagogies of Media and Information Literacies* (<http://iite.unesco.org/publications/3214705/>), which is intended to become a useful tool that would equip teacher training institutions and facilitate teaching media and information literacy in teacher training.

The Chair also produced a Policy Brief *ICTs in TVET*
[\(http://iite.unesco.org/publications/3214697/\)](http://iite.unesco.org/publications/3214697/)

Major research projects by different international organizations concentrate on the “21st century competencies” in our knowledge economy driven by technology. The efforts aim at finding indicators, criteria, and benchmarks for international comparisons in order to assess the effects of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in education. Recent documents emphasize innovation strategies for education and training. Attention is given to skills and needs used by modern firms, working population, and also in the arts and science education. In Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) there is a tendency to emphasize the “learning by doing” approach.

Tapio Varis is also Principal Research Associate of UNESCO/UNEVOC. The media literacy competences and ICT skills were key elements in the contributions of the Chair to the COMUNG-project in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and MILID Week in Barcelona where the Chair holder was awarded “for a lifetime dedicated to Media Literacy”.

The Chair's objectives of creating Global University System (GUS) have been actively promoted. Tapio Varis is Acting President of GUS (the UNESCO Chair program initiated with funds from the World Bank and the NSF). GUS is a companion global alliance of major universities that will support GEWS (Global Early Warning System) in finding, collecting, model building, and processing data. The GUS in participating countries will also provide intercultural and peacekeeping courses in addition to community development. The GUS brings technology to the agenda of global education as launching a trans-cultural, global-wide initiative (using modern techniques of communication) to promote the kinds of global education that will advance peace, justice, understanding, and human wisdom.

COLLABORATION: The GEWS projects cooperate with the GLORIAD and Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) ultra high-speed optical fiber submarine cable along the west coast of Africa of Baharicom Development Company. GUS in participating countries will develop simulation models with the guidance from the Millennium Institute (Tapio Varis is a Board Member), a world-renowned think tank specialized on system dynamic modeling. Those models will be interlinked through ACE/GLORIAD with the guidance from the GLOSAS/USA.

COLLABORATORS: Baharicom Development Co., Ltd.; Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (GLORIAD); GLOBal Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A. (GLOSAS/USA); Columbia University/School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA); Millennium Institute; Polytechnic Institute of New York University; Stevens Institute of Technology. Schools participating in GEWS/GUS are numerous.

This is a recent example of the Chair's contributions to these projects:

Agenda of "Public Seminar on African Broadband Internet and Early Warning System Launch," at the Stevens Institute of Technology on April 18th, 2013
<<http://tinyurl.com/cylach6>>

Tapio Varis; Slide presentation, "ICT and the Culture of Peace?"
<<http://tinyurl.com/cfunwyu>>
<<http://tinyurl.com/ccedond>>
<<http://tinyurl.com/d5nfjkg>>
<<http://tinyurl.com/ce3bek5>>