Global Peace through the Global University System

(Book Review)

Reviewer:

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Textbook Details:

Global Peace through the Global University System Tapio Varis, Takeshi Utsumi, and William Klemm 2003, GUS and Research Centre for Vocational Education Hameenlinna, Finland ISBN 951-44-5695-5 517 Pages

This book is an interesting collection of writings concerning the development of international partnerships and the pursuit of global peace. The book is divided into four basic parts that describe the international development of global peace by utilizing the concept of Global University. The precept here is to understand that the authors of the various topics believe that peace is obtainable in a number ways but the education of the world and peace must be approached in a global fashion.

Part I: Greetings and Visions: This part of the text deals with such topics as "threats and opportunities" to "elearning" and the various relationships to global peace. Just about every factor possible that could affect peace and the concept of globalization is discussed in the section by many world renowned authors. Some are articles and some are speeches. The coverage is thorough and broad.

Part II: Intercultural Studies and Peace Education: This section discusses topics ranging from "creating the global University System" to "nurturing the peace culture." In this section there is considerable discussion on the establishment of the Global University System (GUS) and the technological requirements for such an organization. The use of internet courses and other means of electronic education are presented in length.

Part III: Global E-Learning and E-Healthcare: This portion of the writings is heavily involved with the electronic and health connections associated with GUS. The title for this section is a little misleading in that the connection to GUS and health is actually more social than health. The health topic is more societal and the evolutionary relationship of man to global corporations. The concept expressed here is that "the increased productivity of an individual person - 'an enterprise of one:' is the driving force for knowledge globally."

Part IV: Global Collaboration: This section of the book is devoted to a broad and in-depth look at all that could or should be involved in the international education community and the relationships that exist in technology worldwide. This is a very interesting portion of the writings because it approaches the "reality" part of learning and everything that is associated with the delivery and acceptance of knowledge. Technological topics such as broadband satellite communication are among the topics discussed.

In summary, this book is an interesting collection of writings and speeches that rise to a very high level of discussion on some very broad topics concerning a Global University System and the potential impact that it may have on the world. As in all collections some of the topics are more interesting than others depending on the reader's interests but one is sure to find many that are intriguing and thought provoking.