



GPE REPLENISHMENT SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

Session Title: The Role of Business in Transforming Global Education

Length: 70 minutes

Venue: Restaurant, The Egg

Summary:

In a 2013 study conducted by the UN Global Compact and Accenture, 40 percent of more than 1,000 chief executives surveyed identified education as one of the top sustainability challenges affecting their core business. A similar study by The Conference Board found that 90 percent of CEOs cite education as a 'very' or 'most' important precondition for a competitive national economy.

More multinational companies than ever before are lining up to support global education. They are partnering with one another, civil society and with governments to co-create new solutions for improving learning and data collection, collaborating with schools to align curricula with workplace needs; and engaging in multi-stakeholder platforms such as the United Nations Global Education First Initiative, the Global Partnership for Education and the Global Business Coalition for Education – all with the promise of working collectively to address the barriers that prevent children from getting to school and learning.

And yet, a recent paper by UNESCO argues that private sector contributions to education are only \$683 million per year, and that business should be making a much larger contribution to financing education worldwide. So where's the disconnect? How can we reconcile the need for more action on education, the reality that companies are more engaged than ever before, and the pleas of the international community for business to do even more?

The contribution of business cannot be measured in dollars alone. Building off the GBC-Education policy brief on business engagement to realize the Global Partnership for Education's call to action, this session will explore how companies are making core business investments that go beyond philanthropy to leverage assets, capabilities, and voice to accelerate progress on shared education goals and align business interests with social needs.

Objectives:

Engage panelists and participants in a thoughtful discussion on how the private sector can work collaboratively with governments, civil society and GPE partners to address the world's biggest unmet education needs and drive innovative learning solutions.

Expected outcomes:

Enhanced understanding by participants of:

- Ways in which the private sector is contributing to strengthening education systems and innovating on new education delivery models.
- Why results based partnerships at a systems level make business investment in education more effective
- How to move from a 'desire to partner' to actual 'partnership' with companies – what is the enabling environment required for partnerships to develop?
- Opportunities for collaboration of this nature to take place under the GPE umbrella and align with GPE goals.

Speakers/ key interested organizations:

- Alex Palacios, Director of Special Projects, GPE (Moderator)
- Tamela Noboa, Managing Director, Discovery Learning Alliance
- Hon. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, Minister of Education, Republic of Ghana
- Amanda Gardiner, Director of Partnerships, Pearson (GPE Board Member)
- Sally Gear, Senior Education Adviser, DFID
- James Bernard, Global Director, Strategic Partnerships, Microsoft Education
- Kolleen Bouchane, Director of Policy and Research, Global Business Coalition for Education

Organizing partner(s) & contacts:

GBC-Education – Justin van Fleet, justin@educationenvoy.org

GBC-Education – Kevin Kalra, kevin@gbc-education.org

Pearson – Amanda Gardiner, Amanda.gardiner@pearson.com

Microsoft – James Bernard, JBernard@microsoft.com

Discovery – Tamela Noboa, Tamela_Noboa@discovery.com

Format & number of people:

Panel with 7 panelists (6 panelists + 1 moderator)

Audio visual/ technical requirements: yes

Translation requirements: yes

Materials requirements: no

Background reading / documents on the table:

- The Smartest Investment – A Framework for Business Engagement in Education (<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/resources/391>)
- The New Role of Business in Global Education (<http://sharedvalue.org/resources/new-role-business-global-education>)
- Investment in Global Education – A Strategic Imperative for Business (<http://tinyurl.com/l5ltsd3>)
- Forthcoming publication by the Global Business Coalition for Education on business engagement with multilaterals

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS



Tamela Noboa

Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, Discovery Communications
Managing Director, Discovery Learning Alliance

As Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, Tamela Noboa creates and leads innovative partnerships to further Discovery Communications' positive social impact in emerging markets. Noboa also serves as Managing Director of Discovery Learning Alliance, a nonprofit organization spearheaded by Discovery to extend the power of media to transform education and improve lives in underserved communities around the world. By bringing together Discovery's content, resources and expertise with those of other public and private sector partners, Noboa is responsible for driving the Alliance's strategic direction in alignment with global education priorities, and leading efforts to take successful initiatives to scale. Noboa created and is currently leading a unique public-private partnership between Discovery and the UK Department for International Development to improve learning outcomes for marginalized girls in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria. She also serves on the board of directors of Pact International, a leading global development organization.



James Bernard

Global Director of Strategic Partnerships, Microsoft

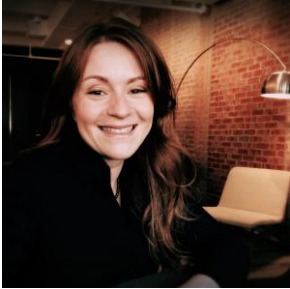
James Bernard is the Global Director of Strategic Partnerships on Microsoft's education team. He leads a team that builds global multi-lateral partnerships between public, private and social sector organizations to drive holistic education reform around the world. Between 2006 and 2008 Bernard served as Vice President of Marketing and Communications for World Learning, an international NGO focused on educational exchange and international development. Bernard held a number of globally focused consumer marketing and communications positions at Microsoft between 1999 and 2006, working on consumer technology products and projects designed to bring technology to people in developing countries, specifically through the distribution of low-cost PCs. Prior to that, Bernard spent eight years working in consumer marketing and PR in Chicago. Bernard is a frequent speaker on issues related to public-private partnerships in education, and serves on the board of directors of Pact, a global NGO focused on building local capacity. He lives in Seattle with his wife and daughter.



Kolleen Bouchane

Director of Policy and Research, Global Business Coalition for Education

Kolleen Bouchane is the Director of Policy and Research for the Global Business Coalition for Education and Director of Policy and Advocacy for A World At School. Ms. Bouchane has been working for more than a decade with advocates in the U.S. and around the world coordinating legislative actions and campaigns at the national and international level to achieve universal access to education, essential medicine, water, sanitation and other services necessary for the realization of economic and human rights. Ms. Bouchane served with the U.S. Army from 1993-1997 in Somalia and South Korea. She has a BA in International Studies from the Jackson School at the University of Washington and an MA in War Studies with a focus on Conflict, Security and Development from Kings College London.



Amanda Gardiner
Director of Partnerships, Pearson

Amanda is the Director of Partnerships at Pearson. Based in NY, she develops global strategies and partnerships to extend Pearson's social impact in underserved communities, and leads Pearson's engagement in the global education agenda. She represents the company in the Global Business Coalition for Education, the Learning Metrics Task Force, the World Economic Forum, and on the Board of the Global Partnership for Education.

Before joining Pearson, Amanda worked at the United Nations Development Program leading the 'Business Call to Action', an initiative encouraging multinational companies to develop innovative business models that support the UN Millennium Development Goals. She was previously Program Director at the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) in London, where she advised corporate executives on how to implement sustainable, inclusive business practices in developing countries and countries affected by conflict. At IBLF she also ran the Secretariat for the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, which brings together governments, NGOs, and oil/gas/mining companies to jointly address extractive industry-related challenges in countries such as Nigeria, Colombia, Indonesia, and the DRC. Amanda has been a consultant for UNESCO, the European Cultural Foundation and the City Literary Institute, focusing on the role of culture and the arts in development. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for The Partnering Initiative, an organization driving collaboration between and across sectors for a sustainable future, and as a program advisor for the Clinton Global Initiative. She has a Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College, and an MA from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

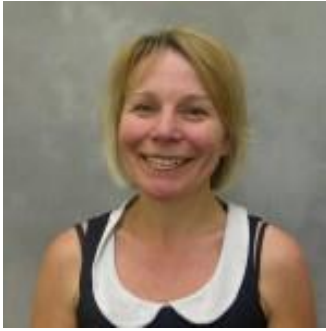


Honorable Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman
Minister of Education, Ghana

Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman, nominated as Minister of Education, was born on November 22, 1951 at Cape Coast in the Central Region but hails from Komenda. Prof. Opoku-Agyeman has a Diplome Superiere D'Etudes Francaises from the University of Dakar, Senegal in 1976 and B. A.(Hons) with a Diploma in Education at the University of Cape Coast in 1977 and obtained her Masters and Doctorate degrees from York University in Toronto, Canada in 1980 and 1986 respectively.

She taught and worked at the University of Cape Coast from 1986 and held various academic positions. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of quality education in Ghana, the Ghana Women of Excellence Award was conferred her. Prof. Opoku-Agyemang, is the former Vice-Chancellor of University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and became the first female Vice-Chancellor of a state University in Ghana. She has been a member of the Governing Board of UNESCO and Selection Committee of the African Humanities Project of Carnegie Corporation, USA.

She was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study and Research into the African Humanities, North Western University, USA (1994). She was twice honored for outstanding performance in advancing international education by the School for International Training/World Learning, USA in 2003 and 2007. Prof. Opoku-Agyeman was honored with honorary degrees from the University of West Indies and Winston Salem University. She also received an award for Global leadership from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She researched and published extensively in areas including Literature by women from Africa, Oral Literature in Ghana and on issues relating to Higher Education in Ghana and Africa as well as on the Trade in Enslaved Africans.



Sally Gear

Senior Education Adviser, UK's Department of International Development

Sally Gear is a Senior Education Adviser at the UK's Department of International Development. She currently leads the UK's £355mn Girls Education Challenge program and has worked on girls' education for over fifteen years. Prior to joining DFID, she lectured in Social Development and Gender and Development at Manchester University, worked for the British Council as Regional Education Adviser in Africa and Education and Gender Adviser at the VSO HQ. Sally is a member of the UNGEI Global Advisory Committee.



Jamira Burley

Executive Director for the City of Philadelphia Youth Commission

Jamira is an advocate for authentic youth engagement, comprehensive education reform, civic participation and violence prevention. Currently, she works as the Executive Director for the City of Philadelphia Youth Commission and she holds a number of leadership positions both locally and internationally. She is a member of the Global Education First Initiative, where she has worked on education advocacy issues on a global-level to ensure that youth are part of the decision-making processes.



Alejandro J. (Alex) Palacios

Director, Special Projects, Global Partnership for Education

Alex Palacios was appointed Director, Special Projects, at the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in July, 2013. His role will be to help GPE strengthen and build key relationships in the United States and Canada, as well as enhance the reach and understanding of GPE within the business community, the foundation sector, and civil society/NGOs.

Palacios previously served as Special Representative for the GAVI Alliance, a public-private global health partnership whose mission is to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunization in developing countries. Palacios' previous work included coordination of GAVI's partnership with the governments of the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Nations system, foundations and civil society organizations. He previously served as GAVI's Managing Director for External Relations. Prior to joining the GAVI Alliance, he served in senior positions at UNICEF.

Palacios has also held several posts within the U.S. Government, including Deputy Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Assistant General Counsel at the Peace Corps and at the Inter-American Foundation. In 1992-1993, he served on the Clinton-Gore Transition Team. From 1986 to 1993 he was the U. S. Representative for UNICEF in Washington, DC. In this capacity he worked closely with the U.S. Congress and various administrations in relation to UNICEF's child survival and humanitarian response programs. An attorney, Palacios is a member of the District of Columbia Bar. He holds a BA in English and Anthropology from Amherst College and a JD from the Washington College of Law at American University.