

Chapter XV

International Institute for Knowledge Management

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ABSTRACT

The statements, “Life educates,” and, “Education is life,” are correct in general, but when a formal system of education is organized, society selects from all those cultural experiences to which the child is exposed those aspects of its culture that it regards as most valuable for its own coherence and survival. The power of information technology should be harnessed to plan, design, and execute projects that address the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, especially poverty reduction and the reduction of child mortality, and to promote sustainable development to improve the quality of life in the developing world. The rest of the chapter highlights some of the global problems, issues, and ongoing efforts to solve some of the problems and justify the need for an International Institute for Knowledge Management to specifically focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

INTRODUCTION

The statements, “Life educates,” and “Education is life,” are correct in general, but when a formal system of education is organized, society selects from all those cultural experiences to which the child is exposed those aspects of its culture that it regards as most valuable for its own coherence and survival. The power of information technol-

ogy should be harnessed to plan, design, and execute projects that address the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UN MDGs), especially poverty reduction and the reduction of child mortality, and to promote sustainable development to improve the quality of life in the developing world. The rest of the chapter will highlight some of the global problems, issues, and ongoing efforts to solve some of the problems

and justify the need for an International Institute for Knowledge Management (IIKM; Collison & Parcell, 2004) to specifically focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

BACKGROUND

UN Millennium Development Goals

The eight MDGs, which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV and AIDS and providing universal primary education all by the target date of 2015, form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan

“We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals—worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries—but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance

over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals.”

The millennium goals represent a global partnership for development. The deal makes clear that it is the primary responsibility of poor countries to work toward achieving the first seven goals. They must do their part to ensure greater accountability to citizens and the efficient use of resources. However, for poor countries to achieve the first seven goals, it is absolutely critical that rich countries deliver on their end of the bargain with more and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief, and fairer trade rules well in advance of 2015. Can the IIKM be erected on a solid foundation, perform satisfactorily, and garner the support of the rich countries? Where should the IIKM be located? Time alone will answer these questions.

Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals sets out by the year 2015 to do the following:

1. Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule based, predictable, and nondiscriminatory. It includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally.
2. Address the least developed countries’ special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports, enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, the cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official development as-

Table 1. UN Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	2. Achieve universal primary education	3. Promote gender equality and empower women	4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health	6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases	7. Ensure environmental sustainability	8. Develop a global partnership for development

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