

Authentic Assessment for Meaningful Learning

Sultanate of Oman Workshop

Muscat

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www.EducationalRC.org

International Surveys

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1. Nations at risk!
2. International comparative surveys
3. Hails & Blames
4. Impact
5. So what?
6. SPA



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Nations at risk!

➤ The Sputnik Syndrome

➤ USA: *A Nation At Risk*

NAEP: G4, 8, 12 (Rdg, Math, Science)

➤ Science & Engineering Indicators: G6

➤ The Japanese / Far East Industry Syndrome

➤ SEI-like Worldwide

International comparative surveys

IEA

- TIMSS
M&S *Achievement* / Content oriented (fields)
1995, every 4 years; G4, 8
- PIRLS
2001, every 5 years; G4

OECD

- PISA
M, S & Rdg *Literacy* / Theme oriented
2000, once every 3 years; 15-year olds

- **Drive for policy/curriculum reform**
- **Student-centered curricula**
- **School authority**
- **Teacher authority**
- **School environment**
- **Parents involvement / tutoring**
- ...

Blames

- **Curricula not suitable**
- **Content not familiar**
- **Context not familiar: negative impact on skills-outcomes**
- **Validity issues (outcomes, specs...)**
- **Continuous changes**
- **Culture bias**
- **Sampling problems**

TIMSS

...

Impacts

- **Governments as targets**
Students not motivated
- **Competition among countries**
Outcomes: an end *rather than* means for an end
Studying for the test / cheating
- **Accountability**
Fire the school principal

So what?

- **Focus on students as well**
- **Cooperation not competition**
- **Comprehensive rather than discipline specific**
- **Curriculum independent**
- **Cross-disciplinary Habits of Mind**
- **Acultural**



Student Profile Assessment

SPA

*For insightful student judgment
&
Informed educational policy*

THANK YOU

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