Advanced International Colloquium on Building the Scientific Mind

The Hague, The Netherlands, May 17-20, 2005

Learning Development Institute in collaboration with Institute of Social Studies under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
INTRO TO THE COLLOQUIUM

- Why we do this (objectives; expected outcomes)
- Some of the assumptions behind BtSM
- Who we are
- How we will operate and why
Why we do this

- Objectives
  - Establish TSM as a valid and relevant construct for thinking about human learning
  - Study the implications of the construct in specific areas of intervention
  - Community building around TSM

- Expected outcomes
  - Proceedings that reflect the state of the dialogue
  - Maps of TSM and of the conditions of its growth
  - Collaborative networks across disciplines committed to defined goals
Assumptions behind BtSM

- TSM is a mindset not only present in professional scientists but worth developing in any human being.
- TSM is a definable (multifaceted) emphasis in how humans approach the world.
- TSM is something people can acquire.
- The conditions for developing TSM can be identified.
Who we are

Diverse group of some 50 people

- From widely different disciplines
- Different ages
- Some 35% female / 65% male
- 43 % EU; 35 % US&CA; 4 % Eastern Europe; 18 % developing nations
- Two last-minute key drop-outs participate intervening via teleconference.
How we will operate and why

Six mutually interacting strands:

- General/Relating to overall organization of the colloquium
- Knowledge Café and informal purposeful interaction
- Concensus building around key conceptual issues
- Plenary sessions providing food for thought
- The scientific mind in action: Work by special interest groups
- Building vision and commitment regarding what to do next
Need to be punctual

- Interventions no longer than allotted time
- Arrival in time for start of sessions (some involve a transatlantic teleconferencing link)
BtSM2005