



Look to Your Global Neighbor for Education Ideas

by Nicole Adrian

It seems as though everywhere you look these days, companies, organizations and professionals are “going global.” Companies are finding ways to satisfy the needs of their worldwide customers, organizations are figuring out ways to engage their global members and professionals are learning more about how to communicate with people who have different customs and speak other languages.

ASQ’s latest “Future of Quality Dialogue”—created after business, industry and non-governmental thought leaders came together to discuss the future of quality and organizational performance—puts the spotlight on going global. The report coming out of the meeting states, “... the group agreed with the observation that ‘the issue of globalization is to listen and to learn what others are doing, instead of trying to impose the management principles of one culture on another.’”

If industries such as manufacturing and service are looking to their global counterparts to learn more, why shouldn’t educators—particularly those in higher education?

In this issue, educators from higher education institutions around the world share what is happening in their countries and universities, and how they’re applying and adapting to new programs. Some education institutions are developing and working on projects and programs that can be applied anywhere in the world.

For example: Are you looking to develop an online, or e-learning, quality curriculum or college to meet the needs of your students? Then read about what’s happening at Dubai’s Hamdan Bin Mohammed eUniversity (formerly e-TQM College). This school was developed to focus on lifelong learning as opposed to educating for life and to make learning affordable and flexible to incorporate different styles and differing requirements.

Readers will also learn about what’s happening with quality and education in Taiwan, where more and more students have access to higher education, as well as the issues facing engineering graduates in Hong Kong.

While not all of the universities’ issues and information may be applicable to U.S. higher educational institutions—such as the ability to communicate in English,



Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese, as one article mentions—it's certainly interesting to read about the challenges facing education in other countries.

To read more of the “Future of Quality Dialogue,” visit www.asq.org/2009/08/leadership/perspectives-on-the-future-of-quality.pdf.