



World Academy of Art & Science
*World Academy Forum on the
Future of Global Higher Education*

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Education

- ▶ Education is a social technology for human development.
- ▶ Education is the means by which society passes on to future generations the essential knowledge and skill accumulated in the past in a concentrated and abridged form, so that today's youth can start off at the highest point attained by their forefathers.
- ▶ Education is the technology of civilization and conscious social evolution.

Dawning Revolution in Education

- ▶ **Demography** – huge capacity deficit to meet the needs of growing populations, rising expectations and higher incomes in developing countries
- ▶ **Social** – rapid social change necessitates new and different types of knowledge and skills
- ▶ **Technology** – unprecedented capacity to extend the reach, specificity, quality & efficiency
- ▶ **Employment** – growing mismatch between skills of the labor force & needs of society
- ▶ **Finance** – budgetary pressures on public spending and rising cost of private investment in education
- ▶ **Globalization** – educational markets are expanding from local to global

Conference Objectives

- ▶ Identify the social needs to be met
- ▶ Catalog the challenges to be addressed
- ▶ Focus on emerging opportunities
- ▶ Formulate the questions to be answered
- ▶ Explore complementary & alternative approaches
- ▶ Identify potential contributors & collaborators
- ▶ Propose next steps

Ask the Big Question

- ▶ If you were asked to design a system of education to provide accessible, affordable, relevant world-class education to all humanity, how would you do it?