The 3rd Becoming a Compass School Workshop a Success!

The Compass is spreading! From November 5 - 7, 2010, the third “Becoming a Compass School” workshop was held on the campus of the New International School of Thailand (NIST), Bangkok, Thailand, one of our flagship “Compass Schools”. A diverse group of 14 international school educators, administrators, and NGO initiatives from 5 countries - China, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Kyrgyzstan participated in our engaging learning experience.

The primary aim of the workshop was to engage the participants in ‘Compass Education’; i.e. hands-on learning with the Compass and ISIS Accelerator tools in order to give them additional ideas and tools with which to effectively integrate sustainable development into their respective educational curriculum, schools, and institutions. The secondary aim was to attract more schools and individuals to our growing Compass Schools Network.

We would like to thank the teacher, administrators and students of NIST who laid out the red carpet in so many ways in graciously hosting the workshop. It was amazing what they provided and did for us. Especially we want to thank Kate Grant, Doug Edwards and Adrian Watts for their leadership and generosity in providing everything that we need for the workshop to run.
Books covering sustainability topics for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) are not that common, so when Oxford University Press and the IB put their heads together and created a set of 5 books, one for each of the MYP years, PTIS, our first Compass School, bought a set straight away. Each book contains 6 units, each of the units are drawn from one of the UN Millennium Development Goals and structured around a unit question. These Global Issues Project Organizers bring together 2 or 3 different subjects in each unit to structure and facilitate interdisciplinary study. [http://www.oup.com/oxed/international/myp/](http://www.oup.com/oxed/international/myp/)

If you are looking for information on, and connections between, Nature & Natural Resources, Human Health & Wellbeing, Impacts on the planet, or Government & Economy, and would like your students to be able to quickly access subjects such as Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Energy and/or Food & Water Security, then Facing The Future has some great free information, PD opportunities, and fantastic curriculum resources to buy and some for free download (highly recommended!)
[http://www.facingthefuture.org/default.aspx](http://www.facingthefuture.org/default.aspx)

Finally, IBO as an interesting website for those teachers, students and just about anyone, looking for engaging lessons, opinions and other information resources about the world we live in. The site is called “Global Engage” and can be found at: [http://globalengage.ibo.org/](http://globalengage.ibo.org/)

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**2011 - United Nation (UN) Year of the Forest**

From Sarah again … here at PTIS & Traidhos Three-Generation Community for Learning, we have adopted the UN’s ‘Year of the Forest’ theme for our year too. The Barge Program, Visiting Schools and the School itself are busily making plans to implement aspects to our respective programs, including PTIS’ Days Out and Book Week. It should be a great learning experience for the students & personally, I cannot wait to ‘dress’ up the library as a forest & to show all of the things that a forest might provide. For example; natural medicines, homes, shelter, food, fuel, oxygen which the green forest trees and plants produce in the course of the photosynthesis, recreation, cooler temperatures etc., etc.

A website that I’ve come across, which has some good lesson plans is: [http://www.talkabouttrees.org/index.html](http://www.talkabouttrees.org/index.html)
Currently we have ten schools that are using the Compass and ISIS tools and methods in various ways, though these early adopters are finding the Compass most valuable and accessible as a tool to enhance their teaching and learning in the classroom.

The New International School of Thailand (NIST), a K-12 international school located in Bangkok, Thailand and following the IB curriculum, has embraced using the Compass as a model of and thinking tool for sustainability. Staff trained at the inaugural Becoming a Compass School workshop in March 2010 shared the concept with their colleagues and since then, it has taken off at NIST in a variety of iterations.

**NIST’s Compass Experience**

In May, 2010, the Compass was an essential tool for year six PYP students and teachers in their work for the PYP Exhibition. Students used the Compass to inquire into different perspectives around their inquiries, giving breadth and scope to their understandings. Students also used the Compass to look at connections between the four Compass points, bringing to light issues of cause-and-effect that they may have otherwise missed. Perhaps most significantly, students also used the Compass to plan for their Exhibition action, to ensure that their actions were sustainable and thoroughly considered. As a result, several projects have continued in the 2010-2011 school year, including the development of an organic mushroom farm on school campus in conjunction with Freeland Foundation.

This year the Compass travelled with the students into their MYP programme. There, they have been using it as a thinking tool in their learning. Their new teachers did not have to “re-teach” them the Compass and could use it immediately. For example, students used the Compass to consider the opportunities and constraints afforded to them by their location in Bangkok. Again, the Compass helped the students to consider multiple perspectives and connections that may otherwise have been missed.

Currently in development, the Compass is being integrated into the structure for service learning in the secondary school. Secondary student leaders, administrators, and staff are creating a model that will help existing service groups and potential new service projects work together by using the Compass points to categorize the different groups and find potential cases for collaboration.
Coming Soon… Compass in the Classroom Handbook

Teachers have been asking us since the beginning of the first Compass Schools workshop to focus on ways to introduce and use the Compass as a tool for enhancing the ability of students to see the ‘big picture’ and to understand the complexities and perspectives around our global issues. With the help of these very same teachers we are now in the final stages of developing a handbook for classroom teachers on how to introduce and use the Compass in their teaching practice and classrooms. It will also include ways to use the ISIS Pyramid for student decision-making in relation to project planning for their Community Action Service (CAS) project. The hoped for launch will be sometime in April or May 2011. Look out for this!

Compass assists UNESCO with Teacher Educator ESD Training

Last year, 2010, Robert had the opportunity to develop a series of Teacher Training modules on how to integrate environmental issues into curriculum for UNESCO Bangkok and for UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education (IBE) in Geneva. The Compass as a tool for curriculum integration is strongly highlighted in both documents. The IBE document is for their Worldwide Resource Pack of training modules for Teacher Educators.

Upcoming Events:
The 4th ‘Becoming a Compass School’ Training Workshop
4-6 March 2011 / Phuket, Thailand

From March 4-6 in Phuket, Thailand, AtKisson Group will conduct our 4th “Becoming a Compass School” training workshop hosted by the Phuket International Academy Day School (PIADS).

The AtKisson Group’s ‘Becoming a Compass School’ workshop brings years of sustainability learning and practice into sharp focus, over a fast-paced 3-day period, during which you will experience the Compass School concept, hands-on, and learn how to apply the Compass and ISIS Accelerator tools and methods in helping to integrate sustainability into your classroom teaching, your curriculum and eventually, as a whole school approach.

To find out more about the AtKisson Group, Compass Education, Compass Schools and this workshop’s agenda and details, please visit www.atkisson.com
www.sustainabilityasia.com
A Compass School is a school which actively incorporates the Sustainability Compass and ISIS into any and/or all aspects of school life in order to reorient “education as sustainability” in the school and assist students and teachers in transforming their mental model of how the world works, i.e. the way we think / our “habit of mind”.

The starting point for a Compass School is the metaphor of the compass itself: a tool for assessing our present situation and for setting direction towards living and learning more sustainably.

The Compass of Sustainability uses the four directions of the Compass (N, E, S, W) to reflect four fully interdependent dimensions of life:

- **(N = Nature)** The natural systems on which all life depends.
- **(E = Economy)** The economic systems that provide humanity with goods, services, and meaningful work.
- **(S = Society)** The social and cultural systems that provide cohesion, identity, security and freedom.
- **(W = Wellbeing)** The health, happiness, and quality of life for individual people and their families.

These "Four Compass Points," provide a simple, clear, integrated, and comprehensive structure for sustainability learning. It is also a platform for the sustainable management of schools as institutions that actively model the behaviour that they seek to develop.

The Compass can be used as holistic lens or mental model in classroom lessons, or used to help frame the entire curricula for alignment with education for sustainable development (ESD). The Compass can also be a frame and guide for setting school policy in line with sustainability principles, help manage school operations for more effective embodiment of the sustainability ideal and help develop measurable indicators of progress. It also easily provides a common symbol, a metaphorical "centre of gravity," around which everyone in the school community can gather and feel part of this great civilisational journey toward a sustainable society.

The Compass Schools approach and methodology translates these general dimensions into the more specific working areas of school life, which we call Compass School Portals. They are five key areas that new ideas and action can be done within and outside of the school and they encompass the following areas:

1) **School Governance**;
2) **Teaching and Learning**;
3) **Management, Operations and Support**;
4) **Buildings and Grounds and**
5) **Networking and Partnerships**.

What’s a Compass School
Compass School Network

Let Us Know How You Are Using Compass

Please let us know how you are using the Compass and ISIS Accelerator tools in your classroom, in other areas of teaching and learning and in your school’s management and strategic planning as you integrate and incorporate sustainable development into education.

Send your stories and ideas to us at: watkana@atkisson.com

Compass School Network is Growing!

As of now, we have successfully introduced the Compass concept, tools and methods to over 60 teachers administrators and educator-practitioners from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Laos, and currently have 10 schools actively using the Compass in their classrooms, and some having started to integrated the Compass into their governance and management structure.

Schools and Universities currently using the Compass in the classroom or as a management tool include the following:

- PTIS International School – Chiang Mai, Thailand
- New International School of Thailand (NIST) – Bangkok, Thailand
- KIS International School, Bangkok, Thailand
- International School of Bangkok (ISB), Bangkok, Thailand
- Concordia International School, Shanghai, China
- Western Academy Beijing (WAB), Beijing, China
- Phuket International Academy Day School, Phuket, Thailand
- UN International School, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Ban Wa School, Khon Kaen, Thailand
- Dara Wittiyalai School, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Xavier University, Mindanao, Philippines

To find out more about the Compass Schools Network please find us at our Facebook page:
Compass Education Network