

Latin-American Forum on Knowledge Based Development

TABLE 11

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2

Session I. Knowledge Cities: Lessons Learnt and New Utopias

First round: What are the main lessons learnt in
Knowledge Cities design and implementation?

Contributions

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Knowledge cities identified:

- Empire centres-knowledge centres
- Rome-Roman Empire, decline because it didn't pursue new knowledge
- London-British Empire
- Alexandria-Gatherer of knowledge of the time, library

- Paris-circles of knowledge, café's as knowledge sharing-space, enlightenment period

- Birmingham? Not sure because it has many characteristics but still the question remains
- Singapore-focus in entrepreneurship not so much in academy
- Oxford-location of distinct universities and links to the center of power
- Barcelona-strategic decision and took it seriously to become a knowledge city
- Boston-interaction research-industry and lots of financial capital
- Mayan cities (towns)-they lost the knowledge of how to manage the environment to survive

Insights and questions

- Different patterns for knowledge cities, different ways to become a knowledge city
- Does size matter? Is there a need for critical mass?
- Knowledge city is about sharing not only concentrate knowledge
- Rich history culture and context to become a knowledge city [but Silicon Valley doesn't have it]
- The decision to be a Knowledge city has evolve from the people, not imposed, it can go from down up or from the top down, there has to be multiple involvement
- Life cycle of knowledge cities, in every period another city become a knowledge centre. The challenge is how to evolve, to sustain being a knowledge city.
- University necessary but not sufficient
- Kibutz as a knowledge town
- Knowledge citizen?

Second round: What is the most distinctive characteristic of virtual city?

Contributions

Session b virtual knowledge city of Monterrey

The virtual city portal-home page will include-

- Library (like in old Alexandria knowledge city)
- Sharing space, a café p like in old paris
- Links to other knowledge cities
- Direct solutions for the day-to-day and practical needs
- Market place for ideas
- Market place for knowledge
- Networks of experts
- Challenge place – where the challenges of city are posted and citizens can suggest solutions
- Messaging between peer to peer
- Innovation place
- Decision making place (including voting)
- Governanace – the place of the leader (is this needed?)
- in 1

Considerations

- Problem – currently not enough citizens have access to internet
- Carefull of information overload
- Need to be customised to needs of each citizen – 12 years old child or 70 years old lady
- Use familiar metaphors, for example “market place”

Third round: how could future Knowledge Cities be like and what would it take to make them happen?

Contributions

Session c – how could a knowledge city look like?

One vision

- In the sky there is the sun = small set of shared values which provides coherence
- There is a future outlook tower – to which citizens climb to look far ahead, on the roof of the outlook tower there is a radar to screen threats and opportunities
- In the center there is a meeting place – perhaps a plaza or swimming pool
- There are work places – but these are happy work places where people do the jobs they like to do
- There is a good physical infrastructure (transportation) and information infrastructure. – everything is connected.
- The city is not an island – there is a bridge to connect it to the rest of the world.
- Schools are also in the center.

Another vision

- The knowledge town is about people related to each other, with some shared values – and that is all. The idea is to go back to paradise, and have the tree of knowledge providing knowledge apples to eat – but use the notion of “BEING MORE, NOT HAVING MORE”

Some principles

- Principle of fractals – same principles of the knowledge city apply also to the knowledge neighbourhood, knowledge street and knowledge town
- It is friendly, easy to live in
- Everything in harmony, equilibrium between life, work, social life, education etc,
- Diversity is

- Diversity is enriching source of knowledge
- Should have a clear and simple vision

MONDAY NOVEMBER 3

Session II. Knowledge Regions: The Knowledge Divide and Policy Options

First round: Is globalization propiciating or preventing an equitable knowledge distribution?

Contributions

- The answer to the question is YES. It does both. The real question is which does it favour.
- The real force is not Globalization – the real force is NETWORKS
- Networks TV, Internet, social, etc..
- Need to examine globalization – theory versus practice
- Democratization
- Lost knowledge – e.g. indigenous knowledge
- Knowledge divide – haves and have nots – ties to income distribution
- Commerce and economic interests filters knowledge – what knowledge carries forward
- Impact of English as the language of the world creates wider gaps

- Globalization is not propiciating equitable knowgledge distribution
- There is no an initial balance
- Language is an example

- There is from the beginning some inequity that prevents the transfer of knowledge and
- Must be a way to balance this situation
- China is doing good because of the combination of the best Socialism and the best of Capitalism
- We have to create hungry for learning,

Second round: Who will dream and lead the generation of future knowledge regions?

Contributions

- Professional organizations could lead this effort. IEEE is an example
- Networking these professional organizations with schools, enterprises, government and
- other organizations
- Professional organizations are looking for meaning. That is the reason why professionals associate.
- We have to encourage the professional associations
- Every person in the companies must be members of professional associations

Third round: Are there limits to Knowledge-based Development? How far can we foresee?

Contributions

- We see a lot of potential in KBD but we see some limitation in sharing or transferring it as:

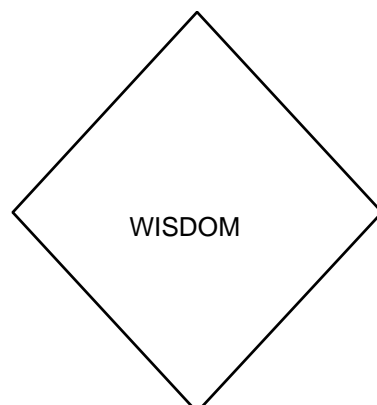
- The first limitation is the language. Most of the knowledge is in English
- Knowledge shows in isolated clusters who are not well connected
- Lack of awareness about the knowledge is an advantage
- Not very good change management
- Regarding how far we can foresee, We can not foresee to clear because of the continuous changes We just could predict....based on trends or experiences.

Session III. Knowledge World: Futures and Responsibilities

First round: What are the most compelling visions of a Knowledge World?

Contributions

- Wisdom as the main goal
- The Star Trek Utopia VS the Ancient Culture capitalization
- Elements of Wisdom:
 1. Pain – Empathy – Passion
 2. Old and new – Community - Integrated
 3. Individual Motivation – Share - Freedom



Second round: What critical events are actually determining the emergence of a (non-)Knowledge World?

Contributions

- Text
- Text

Third round: What can we do to create a Knowledge World?

Contributions

- The critical mass of new generations has to be bi-lingual
- Common welfare
- Benchmarking the successfully models as Norway to replicate them.
- Systemic connectivity, between value peers of meaningful knowledge
- A benefit is growing in capacities
- K Bay. Barter of Knowledge