

ISTE news

Don Knezek Keeping an “I” on the World

PHOTO BY BILL CRAMER PHOTOGRAPHY



Reinforcing the “International” in ISTE, CEO Don Knezek is in the midst of two high-profile trips. Touching down first in Costa Rica for the Power Users of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) International Symposium in early August, Knezek was a featured speaker. A longer trip to China is planned for mid-October beginning with the Ed Tech Conference and Expo in Dongguan, China, followed by meetings with ISTE’s China affiliate and others in Beijing.

Participating in such events is vital for ISTE, says Knezek. “We’re deeply involved at the local, state, and national levels in the U.S. But we’re also, by definition, an international society, working with international members and ministries of education from around the globe, sharing best practices, effective policy, research, and planning for technology in schools.”

Costa Rica. The first gathering of the Power Users of ICT included student participation from Costa Rica, Latin America, Australia, Netherlands, Nordic countries, and the Philippines interacting virtually with teams from Africa and Asia. These young Power Users demonstrated their digital skills with the goal of helping focus research on appropriate questions and topics. The Symposium was held August 8–10, 2005, in San José, Costa Rica.



“This Symposium was an exceptional opportunity to capture firsthand student voices addressing technology and their own education,” reported Knezek. “It’s one element of a long-term, research-based global initiative that complements major ISTE efforts of the last several years.”

The Power Users Initiative is a joint effort of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and the Educational Development Center, a Boston-based education nonprofit that focuses on human development.

China. Knezek is serving as conference program chair and a presenter at the 2005 Ed Tech Conference and Expo in Dongguan, China, October 13–16. After the event, he will travel to Beijing to work with government education officials and meet with ISTE’s Affiliate in China, the China Association for Educational Technology. ISTE 100 representatives, ISTE members, and past ISTE presidents are also included in the conference program.

ISTE is collaboratively hosting the expo with the Bureau of Sci-



ence and Technology of the Dongguan City Government and the International Association for Technology Trade (IATT), according to Knezek. One of the benefits of this partnership is discounted exhibitor fees for ISTE 100 members. As of press time, several ISTE 100 companies, including LearningStation, Smart Technologies, and Promethean, had signed up to exhibit.

Knezek says IATT “came to ISTE based on our emerging role of leadership for standards, best practices, and professional development worldwide and because ... the success of ISTE’s NECC clearly demonstrates that we have the grasp on critical issues and quality presenters to make this initial 2005 China Educational Technology Conference a success.” ISTE is helping create the program, arrange presenters, evaluate the sessions, and advertise the conference.

This is Knezek’s fourth trip to China to represent ISTE, and it shows the development of ISTE’s relationship with China since Deputy CEO Leslie Conery and Director of Professional Development Services Lynn Nolan traveled to China in fall 2001.

ISTE’s Other Travels

ISTE will be visible at two education conferences in October. At the San Francisco Marriott, ISTE will be a part of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development’s Conference on Teaching and Learning—Student Achievement: The Broader Picture from the 23rd through the 25th. ISTE’s exhibitor booth at ASCD is 200/202.

From the 26th through the 28th, ISTE is a co-sponsor of T+L²: Leading Learning to a Higher Level with the National School Board Association at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. ISTE’s booth at T+L² is 204/206.