Developing leaders for a global educational landscape

The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers four educational programmes and associated professional development opportunities to more than 4300 schools in over 140 countries worldwide. The programmes, founded upon a strong mission and philosophy that promotes multilingualism, intercultural understanding and global engagement, advocate an inquiry based approach to learning.

Over the past three years a small team at the IB has been working on developing a coherent approach to IB leadership that has relevance to the different cultural and national contexts in which IB schools operate. In addition, the team’s remit has been to create leadership training and development resources that are aligned to this emerging approach to leadership. The diversity of cultures and perspectives has led to the team reflecting upon what leadership means in different cultural contexts and whether there are common themes, ideas, approaches that resonate, irrespective of where schools locate and who they provide education to or employ.

In addition to creating greater cultural diversity as people and capital becomes more mobile, the forces of globalization also lead to greater political, economic, and organizational complexity. The global educational landscape in which IB schools and their leaders are now expected to navigate through presents many different challenges. The approach to IB leadership aims to prepare new and aspiring leaders to face such challenges.

This session, delivered by two members of the development team will share some of the outcomes of the work to date, and the thinking and ideas that has helped inform it. It is hoped that the resultant discussion will explore some of the complex and contentious issues involved.