

IFIP IP3 – proposal for a symposium at SaITE 2016 conference

Symposium on the role of educators in preparing ICT professionals

1. Introduction

IFIP IP3 calls for abstracts for a Symposium on “The role of educators in preparing ICT professionals, and encouraging lifelong learning”, held as part of IFIP TC3 Joint Open Conference, Stakeholders and Information Technology in Education, SaITE 2016, to be held in Guimaraes (PT) on July 6-8, 2016.

Sessions proposed by IP3 are described in section 3 of this document. Papers that compliment or expand these topics will be carefully considered.

Specifically, a perspective from educators on how they prepare students for the world of work. Case studies on initiatives that provide learning to support professionals as they develop their careers, would be more than welcome.

2. IP3 Strategy

Strategy Overview

IFIP IP3, the International Professional Practice Partnership is leading the development of the global ICT profession. Our purpose is to deliver the IFIP Strategic Aim “Advance Professionalism in ICT”.

IP3’s core strategy is to develop the “partnership”. To this end, we engage with governments, corporations, organisations with whom we have synergy, in addition to national IT Societies and other IFIP members. Our mission is to establish a global partnership that will strengthen the ICT profession and contribute to the development of strong international economies, diversity, trustworthiness, security, job empowerment for all by creating an infrastructure that will:

- encourage and support the development of both ICT practitioners and employer organizations,
- give recognition to those who meet and maintain the required standards for knowledge, experience, competence and integrity; and
- define international standards of professionalism in ICT.

Implementing the Strategy

IP3 engages with various global organisations, such as the UN, ITU and UNESCO. We have delivered Thematic Workshops at the past five WSIS Forums in Geneva and Paris, and have used this event to develop strategic partnerships with a variety of organisations.

Our membership includes Societies who have already achieved accreditation, as well as those that are on the path to accreditation. ISACA, who are not a traditional IFIP Member Society are a very welcome member of the partnership, because they have wide global reach and are also committed to skills development and accreditation.

The Standards and Accreditation Council accredits member societies, which are required to demonstrate that they meet IP3 requirements in respect of:

- Skills and competence

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- Body of knowledge
- Continuing professional development
- Codes of conduct and ethics
- Organizational capability and maturity

The IP3 accreditation process was built on the ISO standards 17024 and 24773, and the SFIA framework is used as the benchmark. Currently our accreditations include IT professional, aligned to SFIA level 5, and IT Technologist which is at SFIA level 3.

Accredited societies include: ACS (Australia: Professional and Technologist schemes), and IITPSA (South Africa: Professional scheme). CIPS have been accredited (Professional scheme), and are currently planning reaccreditation. IPSJ (Japan), NGI/VRI (Netherlands) and SI (Switzerland) are all preparing to be accredited in the next 12 to 18 months.

The support of the international employer community and academia is critical to IP3's goal of building ICT professionalism globally. Recognizing this criticality, IP3 has established the [Global Industry Council \(GIC\)](#) as the principal forum within which ICT employers and educators can engage with IP3 and influence the development of the global profession. GIC members collaborated to write the [Skills 2020 Assessment report](#), which examines future ICT Skill needs. This report has been well received by business and academia.

Our Vice-chair, Strategic Relations, has keynoted at three conferences at the World Computer Congress including on Megatrends (Professionalism identified as one), World CIO Forums (with acknowledgement of the necessity of professionalism), presented at several UN GA events and ITU in New York meetings (addressing professionalism) which were convened to examine the WSIS Sustainable Development Goals. The impact of, and requirement for, Professionalism in IT, has been acknowledged both in Q&A sessions following presentations, as well as in concluding remarks by the session chair and GA (General Assembly) President.

Processes to review strategy implementation

IP3 is governed by a board, with directors drawn from the member societies. The board meets every six to eight weeks using the WebEx virtual meeting platform. In addition, we hold a face to face meeting annually. At this meeting we set strategy for the coming year, implementation of which is considered at every board meeting.

We will continue to be present at WSIS Forums, delivering Thematic Workshops as well as policy statements at High-Level events. We will participate in UN Sessions, when invited to do so, and are available to take advisory roles as necessary.

3. Proposal to SaITE

Although IP3's work in developing and professionalising IT workers, achieved through our member societies, is aimed at people already in a career, it is essential that there are sufficient well educated entrants into the market. For this reason, we acknowledge that it is essential that we work with the Education sector to ensure that there are ample skilled entrants into ICT. Students should be encouraged to join member societies, as these bodies will assist them with developing their ICT careers, and certifying them when they achieve certain levels. We need educators to help us spread the message – indeed the Education sector is an essential aspect of the partnership.

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We propose that IP3 host a symposium that will fit in with theme 3 “**Stakeholders in information technology in education: *preparing a new generation of computer professionals***”

Specifically, we will address the following topics:

- *Why online learning, rapidly anticipating and adapting to computational trends, is an essential component of developing computer professionals* – Information Systems and Computer Science graduates will have a Core Body of Knowledge, which is a pre-requisite for an IT Professional. However, as they develop their careers they will need access to online learning once they are in work. Individuals cannot receive accreditation at Technologist or Professional level, if they do not have work experience. Students need to be made aware that graduating is the first step on the career ladder, and that career development means that they must continue their learning journey and embrace lifelong learning. This is only feasible with online platforms that allow for anywhere, any time learning.
- *What can Educators do to produce students who embrace professionalism even before they enter the workplace?* - The **IT Professional** must be committed to a code of ethics, be trustworthy, be highly skilled and knowledgeable, and be dedicated to improving and updating his or her knowledge continually. The pay-off for the Professional is more recognition and better rewards. Educators can ensure that students understand and embrace these requirements.

IP3 would be delighted to add to the programme with additional authors/presenters who can add value, as indicated in the Introduction.