

Paris, 7th December 1994

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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**LEARNING BEYOND SCHOOLING:**  
**NEW FORMS OF SUPPLY AND NEW DEMANDS**

**Paris, 14th-16th December 1994**

All over the world, learning is moving out of the classroom and into people's workplaces and homes. Increasingly, a basic education is proving inadequate to cope with individuals' learning needs once their schooling has finished, especially in the context of fast-moving technological societies, a fluctuating job-market, and working lives which may include several changes of career.

The 25 OECD countries have embraced the notion of lifelong learning, and this major conference on **Learning Beyond Schooling**, which has attracted over 100 participants from 30 countries, will examine the current state of play -- looking in particular at the new demands for learning which are emerging in many countries, and new ways of meeting those demands. The conference brings together the findings from three key OECD studies: on lifelong learning, on the increasing internationalisation of education, and on the impact of new technologies on higher education.

Multimedia technology and the new information highways have the capacity to revolutionise the way in which post-school education and training can meet the needs of individuals, companies, and national economies -- and to transform the traditional relationship between teachers and learners. In the future, there will be less need for conventional face-to-face teaching in big institutions, since education and training will be accessible in homes, workplaces and community centres at times of day which are convenient for learners, who will have much more control over their own development.

But most of this potential, as yet, remains unexplored -- and this ground-breaking conference aims to stimulate such exploration. As well as contributions from politicians, high-level government policy-makers, representatives from the private sector and prominent researchers, it will include a pioneering "point-to-multipoint" videoconference, linking the OECD

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headquarters in Paris with Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan and Sweden. This will be accomplished by sending "compressed" data down telephone lines -- a technique which, because it costs no more than a conventional phone call, is much cheaper than traditional full-motion video and therefore has tremendous potential for education in the future.

All three days of the conference are open to members of the press; further information is available from:

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