

14 school leaders and I attended the above convention in Toronto.

We have some insights to share that I hope you will also find useful. Remembering what you keep saying about keep it short and that you only read the paragraphs in the 'view' with no time to scroll down, I will split this into two parts; the inspirational/thought-provoking and next week, the helpful directions.

1. Our horizons were stretched as the opening speaker Stephen Lewis showed us what important work we do as educators. As someone who has done extensive work in Africa with the disadvantaged and the literally downtrodden, he told us "What a child needs whether in conflict or coming out of conflict is SCHOOL." They need it for identity and for relationship building. It is what all these children yearn for above all – SCHOOL. We are indeed in a professional community that can re-shape the world. We have a compelling moral purpose.

Veronica Ng shared "To me, Stephen Lewis represented the voices of the deprived in our world. He had the wealth and contacts to reach out to the poor and is now trying to create the awareness among all educators in the world about what is happening in less developed countries where the children, especially the females, yearn for an education and respect from people. Through his sharing, I reflected on what is the message for us back here in Singapore."

Shanti Devi felt Lewis and other speakers brought home the important role we had in ensuring that our students looked beyond themselves as well and were active global citizens

2. Our thinking was deepened by Jennifer James who kept reiterating that in this age of deep broad change, too much information and a diminished understanding, we need to develop new wisdom and change our story. Basically, she challenged us as teachers to be honest brokers of what we teach, recognising the contradictions with our past assumptions that arise with new developments, using them to understand our own rock-bottom beliefs better and hopefully deeper.

You can also view the notes made on the ICP website <<http://www.icponline.org/>>