

# Foreword

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The cane and the blackboard, the maths formulae and the exam schedule – all have long been part and parcel of the formal education system all over the world. Replace the cane with fun, the blackboard with computer multi-media, the maths formulae with hands-on exhibits, the exam schedule with a programme schedule – and you have a science centre! Teaching-learning processes in a science centre develop mental imagery through perceptual experience, and cognition through logical thought processes. Hands-on exhibits lead to minds-on experiences. In a science centre, imagination soars high and ‘learn-through-fun’ becomes the motto.

This publication is a global reflection of efforts made to utilise science centres, museums and other cultural institutions as a rich resource for public science and technology education. Exhibits and activities, new information technologies (both off-line and on-line) attractive presentation – all of these help in enhancing the creative faculties of the mind. No doubt, the learning process is informal but it supplements the formal curricular programme in such a way to break down the artificial barrier between informal and formal education.

The usefulness of this publication will depend on how much it will stimulate curators and programme designers in centres and museums to create experiences relevant to formal school programmes, and how much it will stimulate teachers to make use of the experiences available in these institutions. I am confident that this publication will do both.

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