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## The Importance of Innovation in Education

Written by Geoff Thompson



On Thursday after work, ETK asbl, in partnership with SAKURA Initiative asbl, held an evening seminar at the BGL BNP Paribas on the importance of innovation in education.

Luc Schaack, the President of ETK, opened the event and Xavier Heude introduced Sakura and explained its philosophy. He also introduced Meso Impact Finance, an organisation that invests in SMEs that have an environmental performance and social impact.

Gaston Ternes of the University of Luxembourg addressed the audience, using the example of the tools schoolchildren in the Western world use nowadays are more powerful than that used in 1969 in the lunar missions. He also explained that every 10 minutes, 1.5 billion email messages are sent, 3.5 million operations are performed by search engines, 200,000 apps are downloaded to mobile devices, etc. Schools were established to deliver education, yet today one can learn from other sources, one just has to be motivated. With (school-)children being online for 35 hours/week, that is more time that they are in school. So technology has a large part to play in the future of education.

Srinivas Venkatram talked about adaptive capacity in an educational context; challenges come and go but we come out stronger and more capable of facing future challenges. He presented his concept of the new educational paradigm, linking comprehension and assimilation. He talked about behavioral changes which could lead to sustainable living in our society. He presented the concept of behavioral changes linked with the assimilation of new response models. Giving pupils self-esteem and helping them to create their own identity is very important indeed.

His presentation touched on his ILLUMINE concept where people must be equipped to deal with change in terms of capacity to respond and to deliver rather than only rules for action. Students who adopt and develop the right mindsets early in their professional career are able to bring about a positive and sustainable change in their overall personality. They become more responsible to society at large, and capable of helping companies to redesign their business around lifestyles, human goals and societal purposes. The ILLUMINE research lab was founded in 1998 in Mumbai as an independent and private entity staffed with 30 engineers, mathematicians, education scientists, anthropologists and architects.

The Indian Consul-General to Luxembourg, Ambi Venkataraman, informed the audience that he launched an initiative to share educational opportunities between Luxembourg and India. He described the background to six girls from Mamer visiting India, as well as their experience there and sharing their experience with the commune upon their return.

The event concluded with a cocktail reception over which the attendees could discuss various issues with the speakers and organisers.

*Photos by Geoff Thompson*



**Gaston Ternes**



**(L-R) : Xavier Heude, Srinivas Venkatram, Ambi Venkataraman, Luc Schaack**

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