THIRD MILLENNIUM SCHOOLS
THIRD MILLENNIUM SCHOOLS:
A World of Difference in Effectiveness and Improvement

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This book has its origins in conversations that we had during our planning for the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI) 1998 Conference in Manchester, an event which involved the three editors personally in planning sessions and in establishing links with colleagues from around the world to ensure a variety of input and thought-provoking debate. We felt that it was a timely thing to do to gather together a perspective on the state of the world within the disciplines of effectiveness and improvement, and with that in mind we suggested to Swets and Zeitlinger that it might be appropriate to produce a documented version of the country reports. The editors would like to acknowledge the support of Martin Scrivener from Swets, for without his support, this book could not have been published.

The Manchester ICSEI 98 conference was a good example of ICSEI at its best. It was a diverse group of people with a common interest and as such it reflected the unique character of ICSEI. ICSEI has developed over the years from a small group of interested researchers to an international grouping of academics, practitioners and policy makers, many of whom take the lead in national developments, equally, many play a quieter but significant role in supporting, nurturing and helping people to learn across the globe.

We dedicate this book to all the people within the community of ICSEI for their sustained commitment to the cause and their willingness to challenge the present viewpoints. You are the making of third millennium schools.
Preface


*The initiative for ICES was taken by Dale Mann, former Chairperson (1976-85) of the Department of Educational Administration, Teachers' College, Columbia University, who served as the first Chairperson (1984-85) for the National Council for Effective Schools in the United States...[who] felt it timely to bring policy-makers, researchers and planners together.*

By mid-1987 eight countries, the USA, England, Wales, Scotland, Australia, Sweden, Canada and South Africa had shown sufficient interest for an international congress to be conducted in late 1987 or early 1988. 'The planning group at Columbia was interested in a Congress in two parts: (1) a conference on school effectiveness open to all with an interest and with papers presented in the normal fashion for such events, and (2) a decision-making meeting at which the organisation would be formally constituted and decisions made.' (Chapman, 1989:1)

In January 1988, the first Congress was held at the University of London. Policy makers, practitioners and scholars from fourteen countries, including the initial eight, together with Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands and Norway, attended the Congress and adopted the name 'International Congress for School Effectiveness' (which later became International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement, when formally constituted in Israel in 1990).

Since that time conferences have been held all around the world, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands (1989); Jerusalem, Israel (1990); Cardiff, Wales (1991); Victoria, Canada (1992); Norrkoping, Sweden (1993); Melbourne, Australia (1994); Leeuwarden, the Netherlands (1995); Minsk, Belarus (1996); Memphis, USA (1997) and Manchester, UK (1998). In that ten year period in excess of 3000 people have attended, with perhaps 100 or so having attended most of them.