

Media Release

Overseas Survey Report 2014 (UK and Estonia)

International Foundation for Information Technology (Executive Director: Junichi Sawada) conducted a field survey in two European countries in December 2014 to investigate the efforts for IT education and the development of IT human resources in the developed countries. We visited the United Kingdom, which had introduced a computing subject including programming education, and Estonia, which is one of three Baltic countries and is promoting its shift into an IT nation.

[Major points of survey results]

[UK]

- In September 2014, UK introduced a subject of “computing,” which includes programming education in the national curriculum. Children of 5 years old, the age of starting compulsory education or higher age start learning this subject. At some schools, children as young as 3 years old start to learn programming.
- In the subject of “computing”, they omitted the part of “T” (Technology) from the conventional ICT subject, and brought a change in the direction to develop human resources who understand the concept of computing (such as algorithm) and who are able to solve problems.
- With the severe financial conditions of the Government, the framework of supports by private companies, universities and teachers is developing through private organizations such as Computing At School (CAS), by training and sharing the teaching materials.

[Estonia]

- Estonia, which is a Scandinavian country bordering the Baltic Sea with a population of 1.3 million, has promoted their return to Europe and the integration therein, economic reforms and their shift to an IT nation since its independence in 1991. Under the newly introduced “e-Residency” system, founding a company (registration of corporation) in Estonia is possible from anywhere in the world.
- In 2012, Estonia introduced the programming education, in the elementary education (for 7 year-old children). At some schools, senior students learn even

about cyber security as a part of “National Defense”.

- Tallinn University of Technology in the capital has a master course in cyber security, which is rare in Europe. The university forms a hub of industry-academia collaboration for new business, including cyber security technology.

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⇒ For details, please refer to the report posted on the above URL.