



**ASIA LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**

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Leadership and Learning in Asia Pacific: Challenges for Research and Practice

Promoting Principal Curriculum Leadership: A New Policy Emphasis in Shanghai

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In April 2010, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission issued a new policy directive entitled *Three-Year (2010-2012) Action Plan for Promoting Curriculum Leadership of School (Kindergarten) Principals*. The document made it clear that upgrading principal curriculum leadership was to be the main priority of government from 2010 until 2012 in Shanghai. As it is coming towards the end of the implementation of the *Action Plan*, the paper attempts to trace the policy trajectory and to explore how *Action Plan* was initiated, implemented and its impact on schools. Specifically, the paper attempts to answer these questions: Under what circumstances the principal curriculum leadership became a policy priority? How did policy-makers legitimize the policy emphasis? What strategies were promoted to implement the policy? And how was it received by schools and school principals? Answering these questions helps to build up cultural and contextual understanding of concepts such as change, curriculum leadership and policy implementation.



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