



**ASIA LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**

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

School Ecology in an Era of Educational Change in Taiwan: Implications for School Leadership

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“Houston, we have a problem.” The problem is not only in central cities in the U.S. like Houston or Atlanta, but also in large suburban and medium sized districts across the country: Districts – local education authorities – often do not function effectively to support principals and teachers in improvement. The focus of this paper will be to suggest that we need to use Elmore’s “backward mapping” perspective to consider research approaches – both theoretical and methodological – that might be productive in addressing this problem with an eye to providing information that might improve this situation (Elmore, 1979). To that end, this paper will focus on the importance of context and leader behaviors as factors that affect the ability of schools and districts to become more effective. Although this paper is based on U.S. data and uses U.S. references, my work in other countries leads me to believe that the issues that are encountered here have parallels elsewhere.



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