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Impact and Innovation through Partnerships in Education

Creating an educated work force for tomorrow is a challenge facing educators and policymakers in governments and schools around the world. As a result of globalization and the diffusion of ICT, learning how to learn is now as important as learning what to learn. Creativity and innovation form the cornerstone of technological development and economic and social progress. Public Private Partnerships can be an innovative way to bring about impactful learning outcomes and advance national development priorities. Microsoft's Unlimited Potential initiative, including Partners in Learning, will be introduced as examples of how Microsoft along with industry partners, governments, educators, and intergovernmental and non-government organizations are setting out to achieve progress on social and economic development goals, including the MDGs, through impactful and innovative partnerships.

Jonathan Kushner is Regional Director for Microsoft's Public Sector business in the Asia Pacific based in Singapore. Jonathan is responsible for business development and strategic project engagement in public private partnerships with international organizations and development banks focusing primarily on Japan, China, Southeast Asia and the Indian Subcontinent.

In September 2004, Jonathan was named by Microsoft as the first business development manager for Asia Pacific to focus exclusively on multilateral and bilateral organizations, including UN agencies, APEC, ASEAN, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, JBIC/JICA and AusAid. Prior to his appointment, Jonathan served in a regional corporate affairs role for Microsoft in which he was involved in outreach to governments, industry associations and multilateral organizations, including APEC, the ADB, and UNESCAP on a variety of IT issues, including e-business, e-government, security and privacy.

Before joining Microsoft in January 2002, Jonathan served as the Director of External Affairs at the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ). Prior to that, Jonathan worked as a financial advisor to industry and government clients in public-private partnerships for large scale infrastructure projects across the Asia Pacific and Latin America. His experience included working with trade insurance agencies and bilateral and multilateral lenders such as the ADB, the IFC, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

Jonathan has a masters degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a B.A. from Tulane University in the United States. He has completed executive coursework on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and has also studied and researched at the University of Madrid in Spain and the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

