

# **The challenges and opportunities for language literacy in science learning**

**Kusalin Musikul, Ph.D.**

Director of Primary Science  
Division

**IPST**

# Overview

- Background
- Current situation
- Recommendation

## Keys to 21st Century Skills



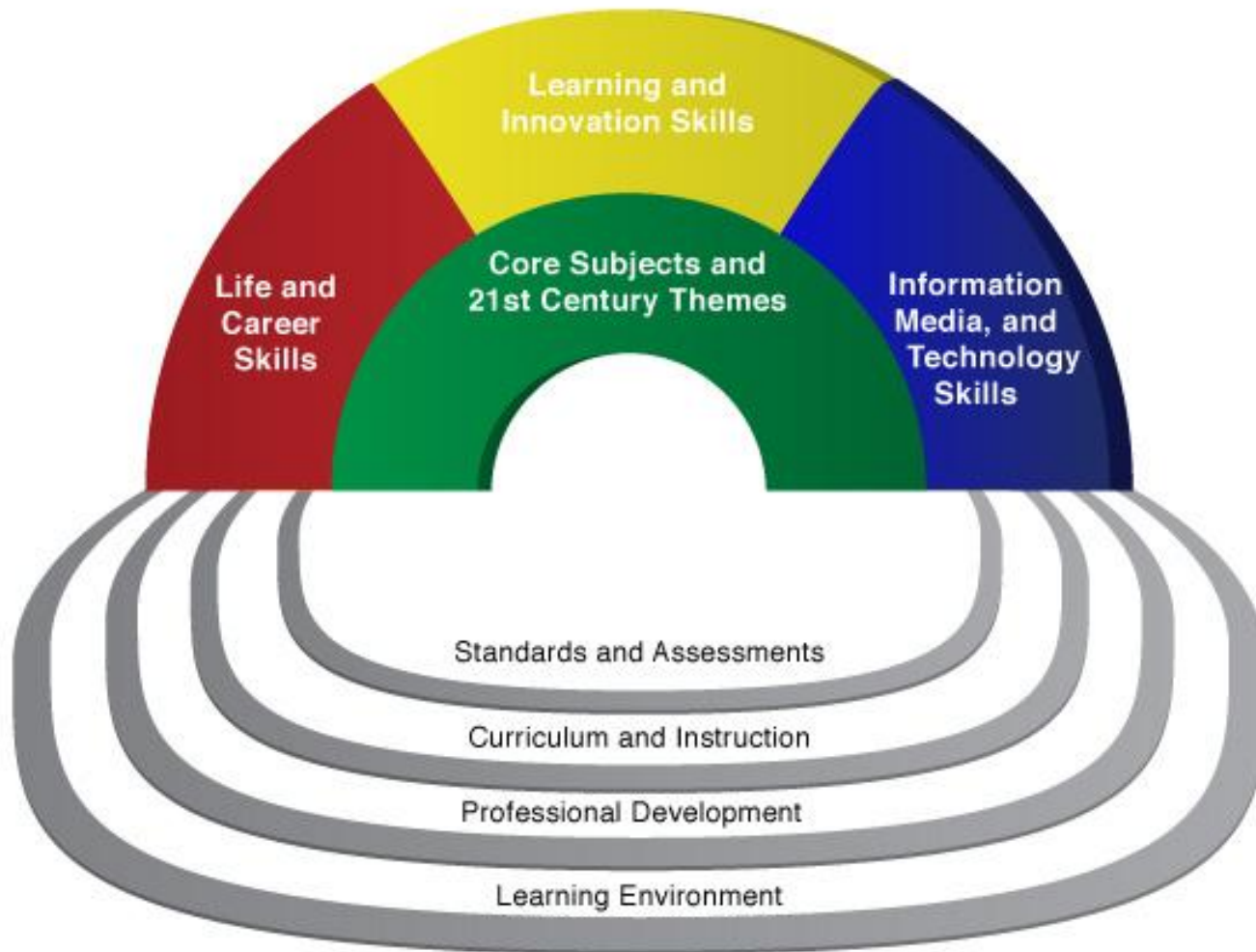
Language literacy is one of the keys success to live in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

# The Seven Cs – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Lifelong Skills



| Seven Cs                        | Component Skills   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Critical Thinking-and-Doing     | Problem-solving, Research, Analysis, Project Management, etc.                  |
| Creativity                      | New Knowledge Creation, "Best Fit" Design Solutions, Artful Storytelling, etc. |
| Collaboration                   | Cooperation, Compromise, Consensus, Community-building, etc.                   |
| Cross-cultural Understanding    | Across Diverse Ethnic, Knowledge and Organizational Cultures                   |
| Communication                   | Crafting Messages and Using Media Effectively                                  |
| Computing / ICT Literacy        | Effective Use of Electronic Information and Knowledge Tools                    |
| Career & Learning Self-reliance | Managing Change, Lifelong Learning and Career Redefinition                     |

# Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning





**Head**

Cognitive Domain



**Hand**

Psychomotor Domain



**Heart**

Affective Domain

Language literacy is a tool to  
learn other core subjects  
including Science

# Reading Proficiency

- **Access and retrieval in both print and digital media**; involve finding selecting, and collecting information.
- **Integrate and interpret**; involve reading to make internal sense of text, understanding the relation between different parts of text, and determining the appropriate connection.
- **Reflect and evaluate**; involve drawing on knowledge, ideas, or values external to the text, relating experiences or knowledge to the text, and making judgment of the text.

# Science Proficiency

- **Understanding scientific questions;** involve identifying distinction of scientific and non-scientific questions
- **Explaining scientific phenomena;** involve making description, explanation and prediction of phenomena
- **Using scientific evidence;** involve handling empiric evidence and scientific reasoning.

 altavista™

 AOL

 Ask Jeeves

 AT&T  
Worldnet

 CompuServe.

 dogpile®

 EarthLink®

 excite.®

 Google™

 infospace®

 LYCOS

 msn.™

 N

 Shopping.com

 YAHOO!®

“The working language of  
ASEAN shall be English”  
(Article 34 in ASEAN Charter)





AEC 2015 will bring a new era of economical cooperation to all 10 countries consenting to use English as the language for business.

# Our students are living in the changing world



**New global economy. (They are living in a**

# Trend of Thai students' performance in Science, Mathematics, and Reading Literacy

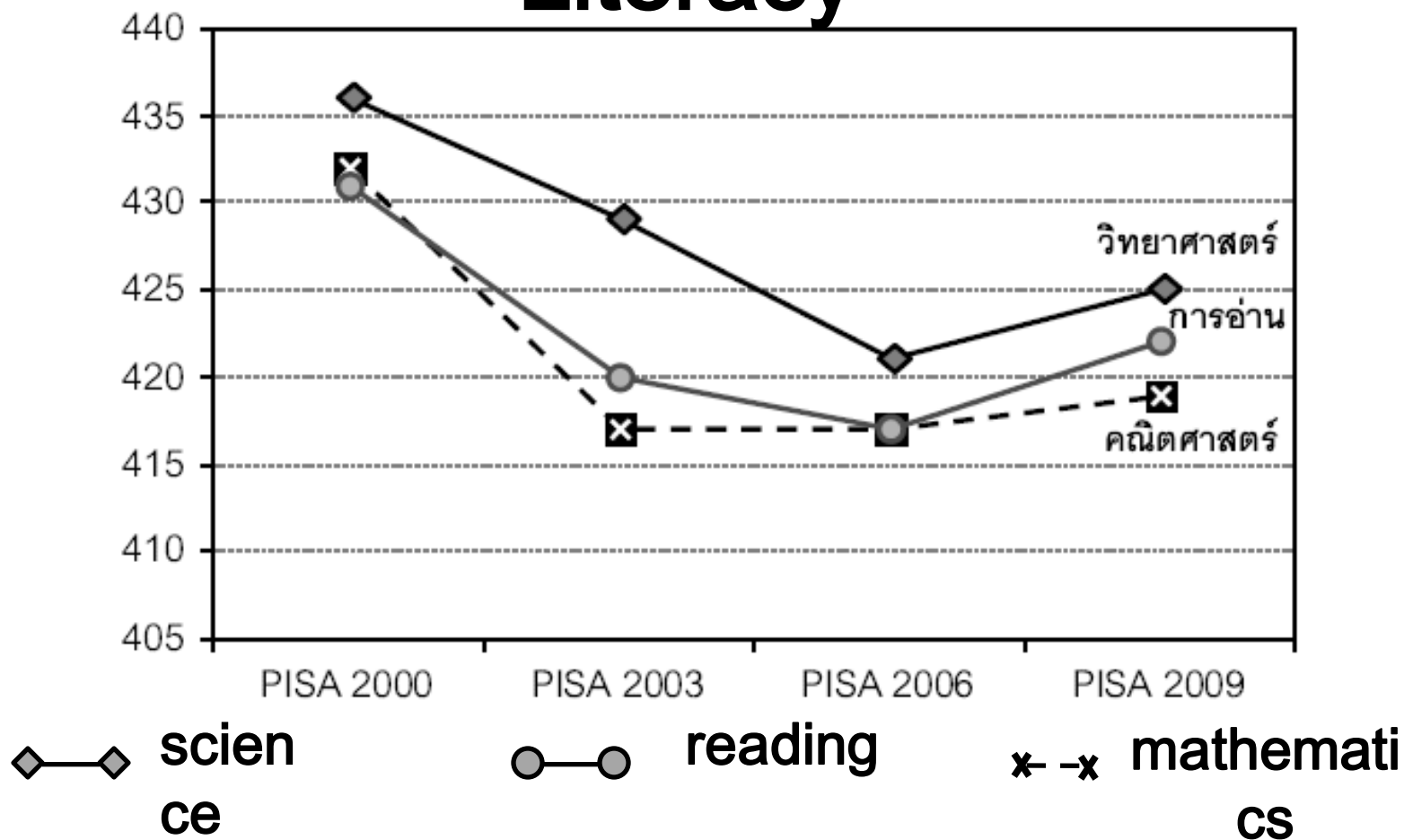



Figure 2 **Student proficiency in science**

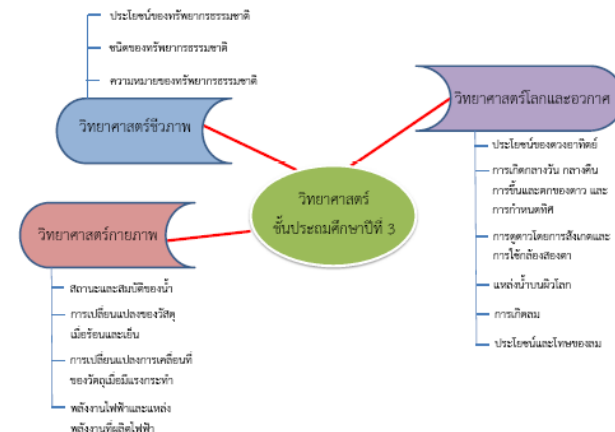
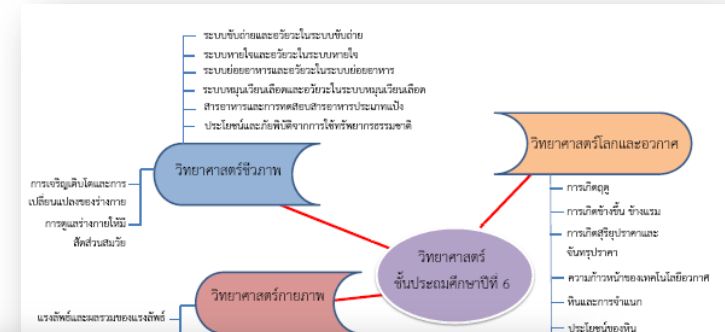
| Level | Lower score limit | Percentage of students able to answer questions at each level or above (OECD average) | What students can typically do at each level on the science scale   |
|-------|-------------------|---|---|
| 6     | 707.9             | 1.3% of students across the OECD can answer questions at Level 6                      | At Level 6, students can consistently identify, explain and apply <u>scientific knowledge and knowledge about science</u> in a variety of <u>complex life situations</u> . They can <u>link different information sources and explanations</u> and use evidence from those sources to justify decisions. They clearly and consistently demonstrate <u>advanced scientific thinking and reasoning</u> , and they demonstrate <u>willingness to use their scientific understanding in support of solutions to unfamiliar scientific and technological situations</u> . Students at this level can use scientific knowledge and develop arguments in support of recommendations and decisions that centre on personal, socio-economic, or global situations. |
| 5     | 633.3             | 9.0% of students across the OECD can answer questions at least at Level 5             | At Level 5, students can identify the scientific components of many complex life situations, apply both scientific concepts and <i>knowledge about science</i> to these situations, and can compare, select and evaluate appropriate scientific evidence for responding to life situations. Students at this level can use well-developed inquiry abilities, link knowledge appropriately and bring critical insights to situations. They can construct explanations based on evidence and arguments based on their critical analysis.  |

|   |                               |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
|  | <div>4</div> <div>558.7</div> | <p>29.3% of students across the OECD can answer questions at least at Level 4</p> | <p>At Level 4, students can work effectively with situations and issues that may involve explicit phenomena requiring them to make inferences about the role of science or technology. They can select and integrate explanations from different disciplines of science or technology and link those explanations directly to aspects of life situations. Students at this level can reflect on their actions and they can communicate decisions using scientific knowledge and evidence.</p> |
|   | <div>3</div> <div>484.1</div> | <p>56.7% of students across the OECD can answer questions at least at Level 3</p> | <p>At Level 3, students can identify clearly described scientific issues in a range of contexts. They can select facts and knowledge to explain phenomena and apply simple models or inquiry strategies. Students at this level can interpret and use scientific concepts from different disciplines and can apply them directly. They can develop short statements using facts and make decisions based on scientific knowledge.</p>   |
|   | <div>2</div> <div>409.5</div> | <p>80.8% of students across the OECD can answer questions at least at Level 2</p> | <p>At Level 2, students have adequate scientific knowledge to provide possible explanations in familiar contexts or draw conclusions based on simple investigations. They are capable of direct reasoning and making literal interpretations of the results of scientific inquiry or technological problem solving.</p>   |
|   | <div>1</div> <div>334.9</div> | <p>94.8% of students across the OECD can answer questions at least at Level 1</p> | <p>At Level 1, students have such a limited scientific knowledge <u>that it can only be applied to a few, familiar situations. They can present scientific explanations that are obvious and follow explicitly from given evidence.</u></p>   |

# What IPST do to help our Children pursuing in the Current and Future World?



- To develop the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standards
- To prepare future teachers through premium and super premium scholarships



- To research and develop the learning material promoting the learning of Science, Thinking skills and Reading literacy (STaR Project).
- To develop PD curriculum for Thai and foreign teachers who teach Science in bilingual classroom.



# Recommendations

- While we are as part of the global community, we cannot deny all those significant trends that are surrounding us.
- we should concern the importance of language literacy not only Thai, but also English as a tool for learning and communication.



# Thank You !