Reflecting on Discussion – Day 1

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Some Key Words

- **Berliner** - High Stake Tests as a policy instrument ineffective in producing higher performances
- **Valijarvi** - Declining achievement among low achievers in Japan; comprehensive schools and professional teachers in Finland.
- **Sato** – Reform creating crisis; Decline in trust in teachers; escape from learning
- **Kim** – Research/Policy towards key competences; new curriculum; active policies to shift to key competences
Issues (1) – Definition/Measurement

• What is PISA measuring?
  – Difference from TIMMS
  – Any bias?

• Implications of Distribution/Variance
  – Is basic competence more difficult to enhance among low achievers?
Issues (2) – School/Teachers

• Differentiated/Track system vs. comprehensive schools – Social contexts and internal mechanisms
• Effects of involving both low and high achievers in a single class; implications of ability
• The effects of Teacher training, authority/incentives/ constraints given to teachers
Issues (3) – Policies/Politics

• Policies to enhance key academic competences are failing – why? Alternatives?

• Pressure for enforcing accountability measures - decline in motivation among teachers – low performances

• School/teacher autonomy – responsibility/accountability
• Problems in Japan – Declining effectiveness of a Japan mode – Failure in finding a new mechanism

• Differences in East Asia

• More excitement for tomorrow !!